

**Koç University**  
**UN Global Compact**  
**Progress Report 2020-2022**



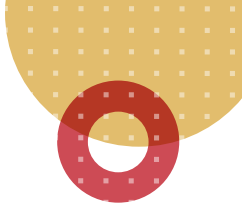
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## STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR THE GLOBAL COMPACT



It has been more than two years since 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. All of this was done in a matter of two weeks in March 2020 when COVID-19 hit Türkiye. What a transformational period that was for us all, for humanity across the entire planet and for each individual. Hopefully, COVID-19 will be a thing of the past; however, it has had a profound impact on education worldwide.

Even though Koç University completed this transition with great success and achieved excellent results, the in-class experience of our students, undergraduate and graduate alike, weakened substantially during COVID-19 with the online/hybrid teaching format. As such, now in the fall of 2022, we are happy to see the classrooms of our beautiful campus full once again and face-to-face university education continuing in its tradition as an 'appointment between generations'. However, we also have to recognize that hybrid education is here to stay as there is no guarantee that pandemics like COVID-19 will not happen again. While there is no argument that this difficult and challenging period has taken away so much from us, the hybrid model brought a new level of equality to education, allowing graduate students in the workforce to continue their education. As such, eliminating obstacles to education accessibility is another opportunity for wider participation; and now, those who once did not have access to higher education do, thanks to these new hybrid models.

The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact continue to provide guidance and a framework for us, as seen in many examples in this report. A few of our initiatives include a newly formed Gender Equality Office (GEO) as a hub to coordinate, develop and promote the gender equality efforts of Koç University, and the ever-increasing efforts of our Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit under the Dean of Students, which helps students receive frequent and personal guidance on a variety of categories, and the Social Entrepreneurship Network in

Türkiye formed under the leadership of Vehbi Koç Foundation and the collaboration of KUSIF (Koç University Social Impact Forum) and other partner organizations.

Contributing to a sustainable future is a key topic of our agenda as we want to continue our achievements, operations, and finances, which will be possible only if our students, faculty, and staff are happy and able to generate and

implement more ideas to drive the university forward and raise visionary and responsible leaders for the 21st century. Therefore, ensuring financial and social continuity at our university will always be a top priority. This, in return, will allow our institution to continue to play a leading role in creating new knowledge and fostering 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 fifteenth year of the agreement, Koç University continues its support for the United Nations Global Compact and its ten principles.

As such, this Communication on Engagement Report provides an overview of the manner by which Koç University puts these principles into practice, focusing on our activities and initiatives between the 2020 and 2022 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 the local and global level.

**Prof. Zeynep Gürhan Canlı, Koç University  
Acting President  
Vice-President for Academic Affairs**



The Ten Principles of the UN Global Compact continue to provide guidance and a framework for us, as seen in many examples in this report. A few of our initiatives include a newly formed Gender Equality Office (GEO), our Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit and the Social Entrepreneurship Network in Türkiye.





## KOÇ UNIVERSITY AT A GLANCE

Koç University was founded in 1993 as a non-profit research university in İstanbul, Türkiye. In the twenty-eight 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 Türkiye 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

- 599 fulltime faculty
- 9,352 students
- 19,263 alumni
- 7 colleges, 4 graduate schools
- 24 research centers, 4 research and education forums, 1 support center
- 22 undergraduate, 43 master's, and 30 doctoral programs
- More than 300 international student exchange partners
- 223 research laboratories
- 47% of admitted students receiving scholarship support



Koç University has also participated in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since its inception in 2019. As of 2022, THE rankings included 1,406 universities, with Koç University holding high positions in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (201-300, 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 (101-200, due to employment practices), Gender Equality (201-300, 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). It is worth mentioning that the university's higher rank in these categories is partially due to the increase in the number of overall participants. Regardless, if we evaluate our results along ranking percentile, we can still see an enhanced performance by our university.

# 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, our 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, 24 research centers, four 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 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.

## 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.



# HUMAN RIGHTS

## PRINCIPLE 1

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

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## PRINCIPLE 2

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

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# HUMAN RIGHTS

The UN Global Compact's first principle emphasizes definitive commitment to human rights from 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 the 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 levels.

## 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 2011 Koç University launched the Anatolian Scholarship Program with a mission to tackle inequality in access to high-quality education in Türkiye at the university level. This inspirational program brings bright yet financially disadvantaged students to the nation's top institution of higher learning and helps them discover their true potential to make substantial contributions to our future.

Designed to meet number 10 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, namely "Reduced Inequalities", the Anatolian Scholarship Program provides greater and more affordable access to high-quality education for talented students from low-income families by introducing both need and merit-based mechanisms for granting financial aid. With the support of individuals and corporations, this program has so far impacted the lives of over 1,200 students from all 81 provinces of Türkiye. As of today, over 350 Anatolian Scholarship students have graduated, remarkable examples of how this inspiring social responsibility initiative makes such a valuable impact on the lives of young people and hence the future of our world.

As the Anatolian Scholarship Program has welcomed more students and become more widely known across the country, the number of applications has increased significantly. In 2022, the program received over 6,000 applications which were evaluated across multiple dimensions on a weighted-scoring basis.



Students' academic records, rankings in the national university placement exam, extracurricular activities, reference letters, application essays, and household demographics constitute the basis of evaluation, with short-listed candidates further evaluate in face-to-face interviews. Students benefiting from the Anatolian Scholarship Program are supported throughout the regular course of their undergraduate study at Koç University.

## OFFICE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

The Office of Scholarships supports students who need financial assistance by providing part-time work and summer programs, sports and needs-based scholarships, and Koç University Support Funds (KUDEB), which cover dormitory scholarships, stipends, and textbook scholarships. Koç University students on full scholarship are free to apply to the KUDEB program and all applications are evaluated by the KUDEB committee based on the financial needs of the applicant. The number of KUDEB program beneficiaries has increased from nearly 70 in 2014 to more than 200 in 2022. The program has already supported nearly 1,000 students since its inception, with more students expected to benefit in the future. Using the newly

developed web-based application and evaluation procedure, undergraduate students are informed beforehand (within two days) about their scholarship status, so they can apply and register to study at Koç University with confidence.

Part-time work and study programs are important tools for affordable education and social inclusion on campus. Students who work part-time assisting faculty or in administrative departments can receive monthly payment from the University. Approximately 800 students have been working under this program during the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters with regular payments.

Full scholarships may be awarded to national athletes participating in official international contests under an agreement signed with the Turkish Ministry of Sports in 2020. Through the Turkish Ministry of Sports Scholarship program, 50 students started their education in 2020 and 2022 at Koç University. A sports scholarship program was established at Koç University and has supported 70 students since 2013, with 12 of those scholarship granted in the Fall 2021 and Spring 2022 semesters.

The scholarships office also provides interdepartmental services. For the Fall 2021 semester, the Scholarships Office conducted an examination and prepared a report on the financial status of 66 applicants for the Global Exchange Scholarship of the International Relations Office. In addition, a conference abroad support fund was established at Koç University in 2016 and has so far supported 80 students in their participation in international conferences.

## **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:

- 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.
- Fee-based consultancy to Zorlu Holding's YetGen Scholarship Program on social impact measurement.
- Consultancy based on "Social Impact Management Model: Institutional Development of Social Impact Analysis Culture" with Yeşilay.
- Continuation of KUSIF's "Social Impact Measurement and Management Training" series. The second, third, and fourth sessions training were held on Zoom during 4-8 May, 19-23 October. and 16-20 November 2020, with the participation of non-governmental organizations, the private sector, public institutions, funding institutions, social enterprises, and interested individuals.
- Training on "Data and Social Impact Management" for the Education Reform Initiative's "Education Data Literacy Summer School".
- Training on Social Impact Measurement and Management for the Business World and Sustainable Development Association (SKD Türkiye).
- Training on "Theory of Change and Social Impact" with the British Council Ukraine's Participation in the Digital Lab: Social Enterprise Trainers under the EU-funded House of Europe program.
- Pro-Bono training on social impact management for the Online Volunteer School, established within the Volunteer Services Association.
- Training on sustainability and social impact for Turquality program participants with the Graduate School of Business (GSB).
- Training on Social Impact Measurement and Management for the Ministry of Family, Labour, and Social Services Directorate of European Union and Financial Assistance.
- Training on Social Impact Measurement and Management for Kızılay.
- Training on Social Impact Measurement and Management for EnerjiSA Mining.
- Training on "Social Impact Management and Maximization" with British Council Ukraine's Participation in the Digital Lab: Social Enterprise Trainers under the EU-funded House of Europe program.
- Training on Social Impact Measurement and Management for Ferrero.



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KUSIF completed the "Social Impact Management Model: Institutional Development of Social Impact Analysis Culture" consultancy with the Village Schools Exchange Network (KODA) from June 2021 until September 2022.

Two Social Entrepreneurship Mappings were conducted with The Nonprofit Enterprise and Self-sustainability Team (NEEsT) for Ikea Social Entrepreneurship (SE) and Ikea Range & Supply, which included mapping of the social enterprise sector overall and identification of potential business partners in Türkiye for the Ikea Range & Supply.

## Contributions by the KUSIF Team to the Social Impact Community included:

- Social Value Matters 2020: People, Planet & Power summit was held online on September 28 and October 2 by Social Value Canada on behalf of Social Value International, of which we are a member as the Koç University Social Impact Forum. Dr. Gonca Ongan from the KUSIF team, Dr. Duygu Güner and Agata Fortuna conducted two panels in the Social Value Matters 2020 People, Planet, Power event.
- The "Impact on the Future Summit" was held by İmece, hosted by Zorlu Holding, on March 18-19. KUSIF conducted a panel at the summit with the "Social Impact Management-Practice Cases from Türkiye" session.
- Research & consultancy work for Youth Business International led by Social Enterprise UK was completed in cooperation with the consortium (Impact Hub İstanbul, TED University, and KUSIF) on behalf of Türkiye Social Entrepreneurship Network (TSEN). Ecosystem and landscape analysis for social and green initiatives globally were provided. All the main themes, issues, and challenges that are currently most relevant to supporting this area were explored.
- The Accredited Social Value and SROI Training at Efiko Academy was developed by Social Value International Director Dr. Adam Richards, with Agata Fortuna from the KUSIF team participating as a facilitator (meetings were held on January 18, 26; February 2, 16, 23; Mar 9, 2022).
- The Euclid Impact Summit was held online on March 24 and 25, 2022. Dr. Gonca Ongan from the KUSIF team and İstasyonTEDU Project Coordinator Sinem Güravşar Gökçe took part as speakers at the roundtable titled, "Fundraising in your National Ecosystem".
- Since May 2021, KUSIF has been an active member of the Advisory Board of İYİGE Sustainability Platform of Arçelik, the leader of durable goods in Türkiye. KUSIF, with other advisory board members from different stakeholders, supports Arçelik in developing new projects, products, and services aligned with SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production.

## Publications:

- KUSIF published the "Social Impact and Social Entrepreneurship Guidebook" in 2021 for universities in Türkiye that are interested in offering social impact and social entrepreneurship courses. In this guidebook, the KUSIF Team shared their experience and knowledge on how to do develop and implement an impact-focused and practice-based social entrepreneurship course for university students.

## GENDER EQUALITY OFFICE AND KOÇ UNIVERSITY GENDER EQUALITY PLAN

The Gender Equality Office (GEO) was established in 2022 as a hub to coordinate, develop, and promote the gender equality efforts of Koç University. As a central unit of Koç University dedicated to advancing women's empowerment and promoting gender equality through the development of programs and policies, the GEO aims to prevent all forms of discrimination for a more inclusive, welcoming, and respectful campus environment.

The GEO strives for the sustainable institutionalization of gender equality in all aspects of the university and works towards this goal with tailored guidelines, training, and awareness-raising programs. In close partnership and



collaboration with each academic and administrative unit, the GEO is dedicated to strategic innovation for advancing gender equality in Koç University's institutions while harnessing the energy created through various gender equality initiatives across institutions towards further progress in all aspects of equality.

The office is open to all Koç University members as well as external parties seeking information, advice, or collaboration opportunities on gender equality in higher education and beyond.

The GEO is also the main sponsor of the Koç University Gender Equality Plan (KUGEP) and the primary contact unit for all Koç University members and stakeholders such as students, staff, and alumni regarding gender equality issues.

The KUGEP presents an overview of the current state of gender equality across the institution and detailed action plans to achieve further advancement. Written in detail with corresponding responsible units and timelines, the action items of the KUGEP aim to build and strengthen institutional mechanisms working towards enhanced gender inclusivity via capacity building, training, awareness-raising, monitoring, and reporting. It also documents Koç University's commitment to and alignment with the European Commission's Gender Equality Strategy 2020-2025.

The KUGEP is developed by the Gender Equality Plan Committee, which is composed of a diverse group of academic and administrative employees. An institution-wide gender assessment conducted by this committee through 2021 and 2022 formed the basis for the comprehensive, data-informed, and deliberative process that led to the development of the KUGEP.

The GEO is the primary contact point for the sustainable implementation of KUGEP action items. The GEO supports and advises all units and relative stakeholders on the performance of the KUGEP; develops and launches collaborative initiatives for further innovative inclusiveness; and constantly monitors and reports progress achieved.

The KUGEP consists of 7 main sections:

1. Organizational excellence for gender equality
2. Work-life balance and organizational culture
3. Gender balance in leadership and decision-making
4. Gender equality in recruitment and career progression
5. Research
6. Teaching
7. Measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

Under these sections, 70 Action items are addressed, each within units responsible for developing and implementing these action items and with a carefully designed and concrete three-year timeline.

The GEO, in fulfilling the objectives stated in the KUGEP, strives to address critical connections and interlinkages between gender equality and other environmental, social, and economic sustainable development goals of the UN Sustainable Development 2030 Agenda. Some of the activities covered by the GEO to advance women's empowerment and to build the necessary foundation for the fulfillment of the remaining goals toward a sustainable world are:

- Efficient data and reporting structure for gender equality monitoring
- Gender-sensitive budgeting
- Promoting work-life balance and family-friendly workplace
- Equal distribution of non-promotable tasks and acknowledgment of care labour
- Gender balance in recruitment and promotion structures
- Achieving gender balance in STEM fields and research teams
- Building a more inclusive and diverse innovation & entrepreneurship ecosystem
- Building inclusive and gender-sensitive curriculum
- More efficient and effective support mechanisms for preventing gender-based violence

## 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 and continues in the 2021-2022 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 the complaint and legal processes, and ethical principles.

## GUIDANCE AND PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELLING SERVICE (KURES)

KURES aims to support students in personal, social, and academic areas. It provides professional support to increase self-awareness, create a better understanding of self and experiences, and to acquire the necessary skills to cope with possible difficulties. KURES provides individual counseling services, organizes group sessions, workshops, and seminars, and prepares psycho-educational sources (brochures, videos, and newsletters) on various areas such as adaptation to university and dormitory life, coping with stress, academic difficulties, relationship problems, decision making steps, and dilemmas.

### Psychological counseling

KURES continues to provide online counseling through different online platforms such as Zoom, Skype, and Teams to support students. It is worth mentioning that there is a high demand for KURES services. Thus, KURES prioritize applicants based on their needs with a specific application form in which the team assesses and understands the current state of the student and prioritizes if immediate action should be taken.

### Works accomplished by the KURES team

Currently, KURES attaches great importance to topics related to addiction and sexual violence. The activities related to these topics are organized under preventive actions. KURES tries to provide students with a selection of resources on the above-mentioned topics to increase awareness. To do so, KURES also organizes awareness-raising days. During these events, KURES focuses on the most demanding topics and needs of students and tries to accentuate those issues, such as, well-being, mindfulness, coping with stressful situations, and increasing abilities in relationships. In recent years, KURES has also organized events related to sexual harassment to underline topics such as the psychological side-effects of sexual harassment, dating abuse, sexual assaults, etc. In order to better provide students with important information about their personal rights, the formal complaints system, and psychological support related to sexual harassment, a training session was uploaded to the Blackboard system, allowing for access at all times.

For KURES, preventing addiction and raising awareness is one of its most important targets. In this regard, KURES has organized multiple seminars and trainings in recent years, in which speakers and professionals have been invited to raise awareness of addiction and abuse among students. Online conferences were held to increase familiarity with the topic and deliver insight into alcohol consumption, its consequences, and on sobriety. KURES not only focuses on alcohol or drug addiction but also on behavioral addictions caused by other sources, such as gambling, computer games, shopping, eating, etc.

## DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND DISABLED STUDENT COORDINATION UNIT

The Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit is one of the most important units of the Dean of Students at Koç University, as it enables any student with differences of religion, gender, language, disability, or cultural characteristics to participate in equal university life at Koç University. This unit is responsible for receiving, reporting, and monitoring student applications regarding unequal or discriminatory practices, attitudes, and situations. In addition, the unit provides coordination with all other units in the University for the development of solutions to unequal or discriminatory practices and situations that students may encounter during their education, while also providing necessary information for faculty and administrative staff. The Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit also

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assists students with disabilities and closely supports their social and academic experiences.

Students with disabilities receive frequent and personal guidance so that they can adapt and integrate better into the university environment. The Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit also provides advice and guidance to students with permanent or temporary disabilities throughout their accommodation requests and placement processes. The general categories of concern for this unit are as follows:

- Intellectual disabilities
- Hearing impairments (including deafness)
- Speech or language impairments
- Visual impairments (including blindness)
- Orthopedic impairments
- Autism
- Traumatic brain injury
- Other health impairments
- Specific learning disabilities (dyslexia, ADHD, etc.)

In the current reporting period, the unit supported 35 students with disabilities; of these, five had visual impairments, three had hearing impairments, six had mobility impairments, eighteen lived with chronic illnesses, and three had learning disorders. Below are some of the recent activities of the unit.

- Coordinated 11 work-study students who provided services for students with disabilities. Services included scanning textbooks and converting PDFs to readable Word documents using ABBYY FineReader, creating audio recordings of books, helping visually impaired students with notetaking 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.
- Worked closely with the Department of Construction to make the campus easily accessible for students with disabilities, identifying areas on campus requiring adjustments and improvements. As such, the number of automatic doors has increased, a special elevator for wheelchair users was constructed, remote controls for certain automatic doors were installed, and Braille maps were placed in each building. Campus sidewalks were also modified to better accommodate wheelchairs. In addition, the Department of Construction provided new classroom desks for students with mobility impairments.
- Supported student requests for captioning services and worked with the IT department to deploy captioning services in buildings and classrooms.
- Purchased equipment and upgraded 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 students with visual impairments.
- Worked closely with faculty members who have students with disabilities in their classes. At the beginning of the academic semester, faculty received guidelines for teaching and supporting their students who have disabilities. If a student suffers a severe accident or undergoes a major medical procedure, the best course of action for the student's education is considered with faculty input.
- 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 2022, Koç University participated in the 'Campus without Barriers Awards', organized by Türkiye's Council of Higher Education (YÖK). Koç University's Rumelifeneri Campus (the main campus) was awarded with a Green Flag in "Accessibility in Education" and Koç University has been selected as a candidate for a Blue Flag in "Accessibility in Socio-cultural activities". The Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit also organized and hosted a seminar with Es Career Counselling (Türkiye's first employment consultant company for people with disabilities), participated in the Duke of Edinburgh

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International Youth Awards program, and contributed to the Barrier-Free Campus Association's 2020 Colorful Campus Program.

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

The Koç University Support Center for Disabled Children and Their Families (EÇADEM) aims to provide care and psychological consultancy services for individuals with disabilities and their families to help them integrate into society, improve their quality of life, and increase their capacity for self-care, such as hygiene and nourishment. The center collaborates with the Koç University School of Nursing, Sarıyer Municipality, and the Republic of Türkiye's Ministry of Development.



EÇADEM activities include regular care services for individuals with disabilities, psychological counseling, 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 to reduce the nursing burden experienced by caregivers while reducing personal stress levels and psychological problems, which in turn positively impacts the siblings of individuals with disabilities. In 2021, the center started accepting new team members to its current team, allowing for the establishment of daily activities and studies, and branch lessons such as sports, step, folk dances, piano, and rhythm.

In 2022, "animal-assisted therapy" was added to its program. For many people with disabilities, animal interaction can initiate changes in metabolism that positively improve health and allow individuals with mental disabilities to overcome their fears and communicate safely. Therapy dog training at EÇADEM accompanied by professional dog trainers, has been shown to increase the communication levels of mentally-disabled individuals while also reducing their fears. The addition of animal-assisted therapy has increased EÇADEM's ability to assist individuals with mental and intellectual disabilities. All of these activities and new experiences will be on display at the center's end of year exhibition.

Earlier in 2022, in addition to physical activities and increasing body awareness, yoga classes were added to disabled students' daily schedule for relaxation and increasing attention span. Educational and instructional documentary-watching sessions were also added with the aim of increasing focus and improving social skills. Moreover, EÇADEM offers internships to undergraduate psychology, occupational therapy, and nursing students from all universities. As such, students studying and training in various therapeutic disciplines were able to assist and interact with individuals with intellectual disabilities, gaining real-world work experience on the one hand, and improving the lives of the EÇADEM's students on the other.

Individual occupational therapy sessions have also started at EÇADEM, leading to improvements in the communication skills, daily-life functionality, and self-care skills of participating individuals. In addition, it was also observed that their leisure time activities diversified.

In the new 2022 school year, EÇADEM plans to prepare a sensory studies room in order to benefit those with severe intellectual disabilities. As EÇADEM aims to holistically support individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families, the center also plans to expand its services by offering social activities and

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art therapies to the families of individuals who benefit from the center. These services will be in addition to the by-appointment psychologist support already available to families.

## HUMAN RIGHTS RESEARCH COMMITMENTS

Koç University is home to three separate research centers that primarily work on gender, migration, and democratization issues. The centers study 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.

## THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES (KOÇ-KAM)

The Center for Gender Studies at Koç University 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 of 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 policymakers.



KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ TOPLUMSAL  
CİNSİYET VE KADIN ÇALIŞMALARI  
ARAŞTIRMA VE UYGULAMA MERKEZİ  
THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES  
AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY

### KOÇ-KAM activities (2021-2022):

#### Gender Studies Certificate Program

Koç University's Gender Studies Certificate Program (GSCP) is geared towards developing an understanding of the issues, debates, and concerns surrounding gendered and in particular, women's experience. It adopts an interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approach that covers all aspects of the human experience in a gendered world. Students are required to take five courses listed under the program (there are GSCP 40 courses) throughout an academic year to be awarded a certificate. The courses of GSCP have continued to attract students' attention for the 2022-2023 academic year. Sample Courses are Gender and Employment, Women and Law, Women and Gender in Literature, Sexual Difference and Psychoanalysis: Irigaray and Kristeva, Feminist Narratives, Women and Leadership. The Program Coordinator is KOÇ-KAM Vice Director Dr. Aslı E. Mert.

#### "Türkiye's Women Leaders Awards Ceremony" and "What kind of an economy do women want?" Panel (1 March 2021)

KOÇ-KAM has been one of the strategic partners and co-organizers of Türkiye's Women Leaders Awards, along with Dünya Newspaper and the Ministry of Commerce. Awards were given in 13 different categories with high-level participation, including the Minister of Trade Ms. Ruhsar Pekcan. Bertil Emrah Oder presented the "Universities Contributing to Gender Equality Awards" to Atılım University's Women's Studies Center, Özyeğin University's Gender Audit Team, and Kadir Has University's Gender Studies Center. Besides the awards ceremony itself, KOÇ-KAM co-hosted two panels, including one titled, "What kind of an economy do women want?", in which Bertil Emrah Oder was a panelist alongside high-level representatives from the private sector and trade organizations.

"KOÇ-KAM International Women's Day Webinar" with Refika Birgül (15 March 2021): KOÇ-KAM Vice Director Aslı E. Mert moderated a discussion with Food Writer, Chef, and Youtube personality Refika Birgül as part of the KOÇ-KAM Society Series. Throughout the conversation, Dr. Mert interviewed Refika Birgül about women's representation and role models in media, social media, and the food sector.

["Global Cooperation in the Aftermath of COVID-19", Online Panel co-organized by Koç University Law School, UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, and Eastwest European Institute \(29 April 2021\)](#)

Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder co-moderated an online panel with Giuseppe Scognamiglio, the Chairperson of Eastwest European Institute titled "Global Cooperation in the Aftermath of COVID-19". The online panel was co-organized by Koç University Law School, the UNESCO Chair for Gender Equality and Sustainable Development, and Eastwest European Institute, with prominent panel speakers Prof. Yakın Ertürk, Prof. Ersin Kalaycıoğlu, Raffaella Marchetti, and Stefano Sannino.

[The International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women Online Panel: Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault, from Domestic Violence to Universities \(24 November 2021\)](#)

KOÇ-KAM organized an online panel for the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women titled "Preventing Sexual Harassment and Assault from Domestic Violence to Universities". Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder, Prof. Nur Centel, and Prof. Gülriz Uygur were speakers at the panel.

[Türkiye's Women Leaders Panel and Award Ceremony co-organized by KOÇ-KAM, Dünya Newsletter, TÜRKONFED, L'Oreal Paris, Shell Türkiye, and Escar \(3 March 2022\)](#)

KOÇ-KAM was a co-organizer for Türkiye's Women Leaders Panel and Award Ceremony along with Dünya Newsletter, TÜRKONFED (Turkish Enterprise and Business Confederation) and prominent private sector actors such as L'Oreal Paris, Shell Türkiye, and Escar. The panels and award ceremony were live streamed on Youtube. Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder was among the speakers at the "Women's Role in Sustainable Development" panel. Prof. Oder presented the "Universities Empowering Women's Future Awards" to the Gender Studies Centers of Eskişehir Technical University and Erzurum Technical University.

["A More Equal World" Panel co-organized by KOÇ-KAM and İş Bankası \(8 March 2021\)](#)

KOÇ-KAM co-organized an online panel with İş Bankası titled "A More Equal World", aiming to discuss sustainable gender equality within society and economy. Prof. Bertil Emrah Oder was the moderator of the panel, and Prof. Zeynep Gürhan Canlı (Acting President of Koç University), Işıl Dadaylı (İş Bankası Department Manager), and Melike Aydın (Co-founder of UP School) were the speakers at this event.

["Women in Economy and the Labour Market" Panel, KOÇ-KAM \(21 March 2022\)](#)

This panel focused on the current employment patterns of women and how they have been affected by the economic crises caused by recent social changes. The panel will be moderated by Dr. Aslı E. Mert, panelists will be Prof. Selva Demiralp, Prof. Umut Beşpınar, and Associate Professor Emel Memiş.

[I-You-They, A Century of Artists Women Exhibition \(October 2021-March 2022\)](#)

The UNESCO Chair on Gender Equality and Sustainable Development was among the supporting partners for the I-You-They, A Century of Artists Women Exhibition curated by Deniz Artun and exhibited at Meşher İstanbul.

[The Launch of İş Portföy - KOÇ-KAM "Women in Business" Stock Fund \(8 March 2021\)](#)

KOÇ-KAM provided extensive consultation for the İş Portföy-KOÇ-KAM "Women in Business" Stock Fund, which is Türkiye's first investment fund based on gender equality, particularly investing in companies that adopt gender equality policies and actively contribute to equal representation of women in the workplace and corporate management in particular. Team members are Bertil Emrah Oder, Aslı E. Mert, and Emek Toraman Çolgar. KOÇ-KAM prepared a criteria list for the selection of egalitarian companies in terms of gender, which will also be used as a Gender Equality Index by the İstanbul Stock Exchange. The criteria list was prepared on an academic basis by taking sociological and legal literature, various up-to-date statistics, examples of best practices, relevant laws, and national and international treaties into account. Therefore, it is a novel source for raising awareness of equality in the labour market that also reinforces the implementation of gender equality actions in the private sector by publicly sharing efforts made for a more egalitarian workplace. On the 8th of March, a gong ceremony took place at Borsa İstanbul with Koç University President Umran İnan and KOÇ-KAM Director Bertil Emrah Oder in attendance, during which the Fund was presented to the public. Collaborations with İş Portföy and İş

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Bankası will continue, particularly based on their provision to provide funding for a research team on gender equality comprised of graduate students, and for a program of training and mentoring on women's leadership. There will also be other research-related outcomes of this consultation process soon.

## KOÇ-KAM Research Projects and Publications (2021-2022)

### KOÇ-KAM Blog

In December 2019, KOÇ-KAM launched a **blog** to publish short articles on all aspects of gender. This is the first gender studies blog in Türkiye, and so far, has published 14 blog posts, with 16 more in preparation. The blog accepts articles from graduate students, academics, and civil society representatives, and the publications have an academic basis, allowing them to be cited in academic work. The blog articles focus on significant issues concerning gender, including health, employment, violence, diplomacy, women in the family, women's rights, women in STEM, and other up-to-date topics. KOÇ-KAM plans to publish a selection of articles from the blog as a two-volume book. The blog editor is Aslı E. Mert.



The banner features a colorful geometric design with green, purple, and yellow triangles. The text reads: "KOÇ-KAM feminizmler ve demokrasi ilişkisine odaklanan 'FIERCE' Ufuk Avrupa projesine başlıyor." Below this, there are logos for FIERCE (Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe), KOÇ KAM (KOÇ ÜNİVERSİTESİ FEMİNİZM VE DEMOKRASİ İLİŞKİSİNE ODAKLANAN ARAŞTIRMA VE UYGULAMA MERKEZİ THE CENTER FOR GENDER STUDIES AT KOÇ UNIVERSITY), and the European Union. On the right, under the heading "Proje Araştırmacıları", there are six circular portraits of the project researchers: Prof. Dr. Beril Emrah Oder, Doç. Dr. Özlem Altan Olcay, Dr. Güneş Ertan, Dr. Aslı E. Mert, and Dr. Ayşe Alınçık. A small text at the bottom right states: "This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe Research and Innovation programme under Grant Agreement No 101061748."

## FIERCE (Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe), Horizon Europe Project, 2023-2026

KOÇ-KAM is a part of the Consortium for the newly awarded "Feminist Movements Revitalizing Democracy in Europe" project under Horizon Europe in collaboration with other partner academic institutions including, Vilabs, Aalborg Universitet, Scuola Normale Superiore, Universidad Complutense De Madrid, Smart Venice, Alternatives Europeennes Association, Uniwersytet Gdanski, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Mirovni Institut, and Univerza V Ljubljani. The FIERCE Project aims to revitalize the relationship between feminism, civil society, and politics in the context of growing social inequality, political discontent, and the strengthening of the populist radical anti-gender right. Due to high evaluation criteria, only two projects have been granted funding in this call, including FIERCE. The project will be conducted between 2023 and 2026 by undertaking various academic research and civic action steps for improving gender equality in an international framework.

## "The Impact of COVID-19 on Women in Academia: Subjective Well-being, Family Responsibilities, and Research Productivity" (Starting date: 01 April 2021)

The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous impact on women in academia, specifically in terms of their research productivity compared to their male counterparts. Many journal editors stated that a majority of articles sent to their journals during the pandemic belonged to male researchers. Taking this emergent phenomenon into consideration, this study aims to investigate the challenges women in academia have been facing during the pandemic by using quantitative methods. The project aims to collect data on female-male researcher ratios in terms of article submission and publication in 162 journals, before and after the pandemic. After this stage, via a multi-stage random sampling method, questionnaires will be implemented with female academics from different fields in Türkiye. This research is a first in many aspects, particularly regarding its detailed analysis of paper submission/publication ratios of women and men, and its versatile approach toward the problems women in academia have been struggling with. There will be many outcomes of the project as well: at least one international publication,



various blog posts, a research report with policy recommendations, conference presentations, seminars and a workshop will be among the tools for dissemination of the results. Furthermore, after the completion of the project, this study will be expanded to an international context by making collaborations with scholars from different parts of the world.

## 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 serves as a hub for the intersection of science and society by promoting gender equality in Türkiye, advancing sustainable development with a focus on human development and human well-being at individual and societal levels, and developing research on gender studies and human capacity development. With this cooperation, KOÇ-KAM aims to promote gender equality through training programs and organize events (conferences, expert meetings, talks, webinars, etc.) to contribute to the chair's role as a bridge-builder between academia, civil society, research, and policy-making communities at local, regional, and international levels. The Chair has recently submitted its midterm report to UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

### Executive Board Membership at the Turkish National Commission for UNESCO

KOÇ-KAM has been elected as a full member of the Executive Board at the National Commission for UNESCO in the General Assembly. Dr. Bertil Emrah Oder will represent the Center in the 28<sup>th</sup> term of the Commission.

## MIGRATION RESEARCH CENTER (MiReKoc)

Migration Research Center at Koç University is 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. Celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year in 2024, the center provides an institutionalized hub for Türkiye-related migration research and the wider surrounding area, including Europe, the Mediterranean Basin, the MENA region, and West Asia. Currently, MiReKoc research projects and programs substantially contribute to research innovation within the field of migration studies by actively developing and participating in research projects with national and international research partners, providing opportunities for researchers at all levels. MiReKoc connects migration in Türkiye to ongoing debates and research in different contexts and settings around the world and fosters collaboration between migration scholars, civil society organizations, and policymakers to stimulate dialogue on new and existing research.

MiReKoc has undertaken stewardship of the International Migration Journal with MiReKoc director Prof. Ahmet İçduygu and vice-director Dr. Ayşen Üstübcü among the editors. Celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> year in 2021, International Migration is a refereed scientific journal on migration issues with contributions from demographers, geographers, economists, sociologists, political scientists, and other social scientists from all parts of the world. Issues related to the entire "migration cycle", from origin, transit, host, destination, return, and reintegration are all relevant to the journal. MiReKoc's stewardship intends to encourage further dialogue between scholarly and policy-relevant cutting-edge research while maintaining the high academic standards that have been a distinguishing feature of International Migration since its inception.

MiReKoc is also a member of acclaimed international research and policy networks, such as Metropolis International and IMISCOE (International Migration Research Network), through which it endeavors to further academic knowledge and exchange. The center is currently involved in 13 projects, with research topics such as, migration policies and governance, international and national migration systems, refugee studies, the migration-development linkage, integration and social cohesion, and transit migration and



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borders. In addition to the basic organizational support provided by Koç University, MiReKoc projects are supported through funding provided by national and international organizations, including the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK), European Commission, International Organization for Migration, World Bank, Research Councils UK, and Research Council of Norway.

### MiReKoc research projects and publications:

While MiReKoc research initially focused exclusively on the Turkish context, its scope has gradually expanded to other countries and regions over the years with theoretical and empirical contributions to the wider migration literature. The Center advocates for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research on various aspects of migration. Past projects have covered a wide array of topics including the causes and consequences of international migration and refugee issues, international migration and transnationalism, immigrant integration, brain drain, forced migration, transit migration—including the mobility of irregular migrants and refugees and human smuggling and trafficking—policies, migration and security, and the migration-citizenship nexus.

### Türkiye, The European Union and The Mediterranean Migration Regimes

MiReKoc research includes EU-Türkiye 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), which investigates the conformity of European migration policy in practice with the basic principles of the United Nations. MiReKoc is also involved in a variety of 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 migration research project. Primary field research took place in ten countries of origin and transit: Afghanistan, Cabo Verde, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guinea, Nigeria, Pakistan, Somalia, Tunisia, and Türkiye. In addition, the project Fluctuations in Migration Flows along the Balkan Route focuses on migration from (or through Türkiye) 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 of the route; the decision-making process of migrants; and their overall aspirations and destination choices. Addressing the interplay of these topics, the project discussed how different interventions, including potential future interventions, may impact migration flows.

Funded by the Volkswagen Foundation, the “Do migrants in Europe age well?” project consisted of a mixed methods and intervention study in four countries (MIG-AGE) and asks the question of what it means for different groups of migrants in Europe to be old and age well. The project focused specifically on first-generation retired labour migrants from Italy and Türkiye living in Germany and the Netherlands, and retirement migrants from Germany and the Netherlands living in Italy and Türkiye. By considering these diverse groups of migrants, the project aims to investigate the relationship between individual well-being and personal networks, and the subjective meanings of aging and aging well among older migrants across Europe. With a sequential combination of quantitative and qualitative methods, the main expected outcome of the project is an in-depth understanding and a comparative perspective of the macro-level socio-structural determinants of migrants aging well, micro-level meanings, and associated inequalities in Europe. MiReKoc is partnered with University of Mannheim, University of Groningen, and University of Geneva for MIG-AGE which will take place between 2023-2027.

In 2022, MiReKoc became the coordinator for the Twinning funded Bridging the Migration and Urban Studies Nexus (BROAD-ER) project (2022-2025) with the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Universitat Pompeu Fabra (UPF) as partners. BROAD-ER aims to enhance the scientific, technological, and development-driven management capacities of MiReKoc to advance scholarship and research at the intersection of urban and migration studies.

FAiR: Finding Agreement in Return (Horizon Europe) project, which will start in 2023, aims to generate new insights into the factors and processes that foster or impede the legitimacy and effectiveness of Europe's intergovernmental return and alternatives to return policies. FAiR will contribute to improving the measurement of return policies and enforced return outcomes and will enrich the analysis on the drivers of enforced return. In addition to MiReKoc, the project consortium consists of Erasmus University Rotterdam, Institute of Legal Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences, Migration Policy Group, University for Continuing Education Krems, University of Milan, University of Geneva, Foundation for Access to Rights, Samuel Hall East Africa Limited, International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Platform for International Cooperation on Undocumented Migrants.

## Diversity and Inclusion in Education

In addition to inclusion studies in migration, MiReKoc is part of five key projects related to inclusion and diversity in education, both in K12 and Higher Education. Funded by ERASMUS+ European Universities Programme, Koç University, under MiReKoc coordination, became a partner for the European University of Post-Industrial Cities (UNIC), which 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. UNIC was established to promote mobility, inclusion, and impact. UNIC aims to foster a new generation of students who have knowledge and the skills to generate societal impact not only within their own universities and cities but on a European level. The UNIC alliance reflects a strong European post-industrial identity by shaping a new generation of Europeans able to cooperate and work within different European and global cultures, in different languages, and across borders, sectors and academic disciplines. UNIC has a distinct focus on Engaged Research (UNIC4ER), which builds upon our strategic advantage as an alliance of research-intensive universities and city partners with experience in issues of post-industrial transitions and collaboration with society. Engaged Research is an umbrella term for a wide range of rigorous research approaches and methodologies that share a common interest in collaborative engagement with society. Engaged Research aims to improve, understand, or investigate an issue of public interest or concern, including societal challenges where community partners are or can be potentially active collaborative participants in the research process. In this context, community partners refer to a range of public research stakeholders, including public or professional service and product users, policy makers, civil and civic society organizations (CSOs) and actors.

MiReKoc is highly motivated in its work on the themes of diversity and inclusion as Koç University attracts students from various ethnic, religious, social, cultural, and economic backgrounds, and is preferred by Türkiye's ethnic and religious minorities due to its universal values. Koç University's international student body is 10% of the total student body and represents more than 40 nationalities. The third project includes Key Inclusive Development Strategies for LifeLongLearning (KIDS4ALLL). Funded under Horizon2020, this project aims to foster lifelong learning strategies for K12 students from marginalized communities including ethnic and migrant groups. In 2022 MiReKoc was awarded TÜBİTAK 1001 funding for Foreign Students in Turkish Higher Education Space project (2022-2025), which aims to conduct research on higher education institutes' (HEIs) policy-making processes targeting foreign students' interaction with top-down policy-making processes, influence of foreign students on the Turkish higher education space; quantitative (student numbers) oriented policies interaction with quality (diversity) oriented sustainable policy-making processes.

Finally, the Assessment of Curriculum Development and Implementation in Turkish Higher Education from the Perspective of Internationalization and Inclusivity is also a TÜBİTAK awarded education related project which will take place between 2022 and 2024.

## Syrian Refugees

Since Türkiye has the largest number of refugees in the world, many MiReKoc projects specifically focus on Syrian refugee flow and the protracted nature of the refugee issue on a wider scale, including refugees' access to rights and services, policymaking, decision-making processes, urban-level governance, and integration. In a highly dynamic research atmosphere, MiReKoc has worked with

governmental and non-governmental institutions to conduct research on better integration practices. The Interactive Social Integration Model for Improving Migration Governance in Türkiye is a TÜBİTAK-funded project in which researchers assess the impacts of increasing migration in Türkiye over the medium- and long-term, including the case of Syrian refugees, and migration governance in Türkiye. The study examines central government regulations and their implementation at the local level. Its findings are based on a historical framework that 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.

Starting in 2020, especially due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the research agenda of the center has shifted focus to access to health care, health care infrastructure, mental health, and disability of forced migrant groups. This focus continued throughout 2021 and 2022. These projects include Mobile Health for Mobile People (concluded in 2021); RE-CARE: Assessing the Influence of Health Care Infrastructure on Syrian Refugee Return (ongoing); COVID-19 & Disability: Global Study; Living in the Shadows: Integration and Mental Health of Refugees in Türkiye Syrians, Afghans, and Africans (concluded in 2022).

## 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, including individual researchers, universities, civil society organizations, international organizations, policymakers, media members, 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, policymakers, 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 Activities

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

- IOM World Migration Report: Implications for Türkiye, 24 February 2021
- UNIC Superdiversity and Inclusion in Higher Education: Concepts and Practices, 3 March 2021
- UNIC Conference, Regenerating our Post-Industrial Cities: The Role of Universities, 11 June 2021
- IMISCOE Workshop: Superdiversity Challenging Higher Education a UNIC Approach for Societal Impact, 8 July 2021
- Revisiting the Turkish Migration to Germany: After 60 Years, 27 October 2021
- UNIC Superdiversity School, 3-5 November 2021
- Interdisciplinary Scholarship and Policy Relevance in International Migration, 1 December 2021
- Policies & Politics of Venezuelan Migration in Latin America, 27 January 2022
- Urban Resilience, Policies and Futures, 13 May 2022
- EuroMedMig-Irregular Migration: The position of Türkiye in the Mediterranean Basin, 2 June 2022
- Digitized Migrants Conference, 15-16 September 2022
- **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, increase awareness of MiReKoc projects, give feedback on doctoral dissertations, and learn about ongoing research by MiReKoc affiliated researchers.

- **MiReKoc Courses And Programs**

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

- **MiReKoc International Summer School**

MiReKoc organizes an annual international summer school, which features two weeks of lectures and discussions led by distinguished faculty members, policymakers, and experts. Participants have multiple opportunities to share their research and thoughts in an interactive environment. Summer school is for graduates, 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), Highly-Skilled and Student Mobility in the Age of Selective Migration (2019) and Research Methods and Ethics in Migration Studies (2021).

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



ENTER FOR RESEARCH ON GLOBALIZATION,  
PEACE, AND DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

Initially created in September 2004 by Koç University faculty members as an informal faculty network, The Koç University Center for Research on Globalization, Peace, and Democratic Governance (GLODEM) specializes in academic research and policy-oriented activities and 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 specializing in value-added academic research and policy analysis related to globalization, peace, and democratic governance.

GLODEM is an 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, 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 important analytical input into the G20 process.

### **GLODEM Activities:**

- Dr. Başak Ozan Özparlak, Legal Challenges of AI: An Overview and Current Developments, 16 April 2021
- Dr. Ahmet İçduygu, Koç University, Banu Liman, Koç University, Türkiye's Demographic Transformation in the 21st Century: Fertility, Aging and Migration, 21 April 2021
- Dr. David Carlson, estimating a Counter-Factual with Uncertainty Through Gaussian Process Projection, 5 March 2021
- Dr. Mete Yıldız, Hacettepe University, Emergence & Development of Behavioral Public Policy Units In Government: The Case of Türkiye. 21 October 2021
- Dr. Yixian Sun, Certifying China: The Rise and Limits of Transnational Sustainability Governance in Emerging Economies, 18 March 2022
- Türkay Nefes, Oxford University, Emre Eren Korkmaz, Oxford University, Merih Angin, Koç University, Can Çakır, İngev, Ece Başay, Facebook, Digital Citizenship in Türkiye, 9 November 2021.

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- Gökhan Dikmener, Technical Specialist, UNDP IICPSD, Data Science for SDGs, March 24, 2022
- Dr. Roxana Radu, Blavatnik School of Government of the University of Oxford "Negotiating Internet Governance". April 7, 2022.
- Dr. Yixian Sun, University of Bath, Certifying China (MIT Press), March 8, 2022.
- A joint Hoover Institution, Stanford University-GLODEM, Koç University Conference out of the Working Group on the Foundations of Long Run Prosperity is planned for the summer of 2023.
- GLODEM also initiated a research collaboration with Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and the Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law at Stanford University (in progress). This will include various events including but not limited to rotating research workshops and faculty exchange.
- As a reflection of its international recognition, GLODEM is the co-founder of closed international research workshop series entitled 'Global Policy Dialogue Series: Scholarly Exchanges on Global Public Policy Theory and Practice' (with Hamad Bin Khalifa University Doha, Qatar, and The Education University of Hong Kong).
- GLODEM has engaged in discussions and collaborations with other organizations. For example, GLODEM actively collaborates with other centers and departments at Koç University as well as Think20 National Advisory Board.

## 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 Activities:

- Conference (webinar): The Russia-Ukraine Crisis in Light of the Rules of International Law, 19 May 2022
- Conference (Forthcoming): International Individual Criminal Responsibility Arising from the Russian Military Operations in, and against, Ukraine
- Conference (Forthcoming): Türkiye's Relationship with the European Court of Human Rights
- Seminar (Forthcoming): Prevention of Corruption, Corporate Compliance
- Panel (Forthcoming): Does the UN Genocide Convention Provide States Parties with a Right to Use Force Against Another State for the Purpose of Preventing Genocide
- Discussion of the CGPL UN Impact Report at Humboldt University, Berlin, May 2021. Humboldt University Center for Comparative Research on Democracy and the Integrative Research Institute Law & Society approached CGPL to organize a panel on the center's two-year study on the impact of UN treaties in Türkiye.

### KÜREMER research projects and publications:

- Oder, B.E., "Türkiye's Democratic Erosion: On Backsliding and the Constitution", Social Research: An International Quarterly, vol. 88 no. 2, 2021, pp. 473-500.
- Oder, B.E., "Turkish Constitutional Court and Democratic Breakdown: Judicial Politics under Pressure", in: Constitutional Courts, Judicial Review, and Beyond, Christoph Bezemek and Yaniv Roznai (Eds.), Book Project (University of Graz – Institute of Public Law and Political Science and IDC) (2022), (forthcoming), 20 pages.
- Oder, B.E. (co-author with Bankoglu, A.), "Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitliği ve Parlamento: Kadın-Erkek Fırsat Eşitliği Komisyonunun Etkililiği" [Gender and Equality and Parliament: Efficiency of Committee on Equal

Opportunities], in: *Yüz Yıl, Türkiye Büyük Millet Meclisi [The Centennial: Turkish Grand National Assembly]*, Tekin Yayınevi (2022), (forthcoming) 22 pages.

- Oder, B.E., *Strategies, Survival, and Partnership of the Turkish Constitutional Court*, *Verfassungblog 2022* (forthcoming)
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## SCHOOL OF NURSING (KUSON)

KUSON aims at educating nurses who are leaders in their field and profession. Graduates of the program come away with the skills and training to use evidence-based knowledge, think critically and properly express themselves under legal and ethical principles, be respectful to human rights and values, have the ability for lifelong learning and be open to change, and take charge in improving and preserving human health, treatment, and rehabilitation with an integrated approach.

### KUSON Activities:

- **Koç University Nurses Week Symposium: 17 May 2021 and 13 May 2022**



The annual nurse's week event took place on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May and was organized in cooperation with the Koç University School of Nursing, Semahat Arsel Nursing Education, Practice and Research Center, and Vehbi Koç Foundation Health Organizations, Annette Kennedy, President of the International Council of Nurses (ICN) and Founder of Nurse Evolution Platform. The event, with synchronous bilingual interpretation, received wide participation from different countries, with approximately 500 people from Türkiye, the United States of America, Cyprus, Kuwait, Iran, the People's Republic of China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, and the Netherlands.

In her opening speech, the Dean of Koç University's School of Nursing,

Prof. Ayiſe Karadağ, pointed out that nurses in Türkiye have exhibited an extraordinary performance, working five times more than their western counterparts in their fight against Covid-19. ICN president Ms. Kennedy, in her speech on Covid-19 and the lessons learned, emphasized the important role of the nursing profession at the global level in providing quality healthcare services during the pandemic. In her speech, Ms. Kennedy also highlighted that staff shortages in the nurse workforce, a problem throughout the world, created greater struggle for healthcare workers during the pandemic. For, according to the data collected by the ICN from 60 countries, more than 3,000 nurses died due to Covid-19. She also shared her vision of placing nurses in positions of government leadership in order to better influence public health policies.

Whende M. Caroll, Founder of Nurse Evolution Platform, talked about the essential roles of nurses in digital health applications and the new developments in technology-based nursing practices. Mrs. Caroll, who conducts studies on how nurses can master new technologies such as artificial intelligence, data analytics, and innovative applications, emphasized the important role nurses must play in digitalizing health services. Noting how new technologies have increased the quality of care provided, Mrs. Caroll drew attention to the contribution of nurses towards the increasing technology competence of the health system.

Semahat Arsel, one of the most important supporters of the nursing profession, also greeted participants during the events celebrating Nurses Week.

On May 13, 2022, the "International Nurses Week Symposium" was organized as a hybrid event in collaboration with Koç University School of Nursing, Semahat Arsel Nursing Education and Research Center (SANERC), Vehbi Koç Foundation Healthcare Institutions, and the Turkish Nurses Association. A total of 490 participants attended the event from Türkiye and different countries, including the UK, Azerbaijan, Spain, the United States, and Cyprus.

The main speaker Dr. Denise Chaffer, President of the Royal College of Nursing made a presentation titled "Recommendations for countries regarding empowering nursing and investing in nursing". At the panel session after the conference, discussions continued regarding what can be done to empower the nursing profession based on the experiences, expectations, and suggestions of nurses in the field and from the organizational perspective of the Turkish Nurses Association.

- **Koç University School of Nursing Mentor Nurse Training**

The Koç University School of Nursing organized online 'Mentor Nurse Training' between January 19-21, 2022, for a broader range of participants from state hospitals. The training was originally designed only for nurses from Koç University Hospital who mentor KUSON students in clinical practice to provide more effective clinical education both in terms of quality and patient safety in the previous years. A total of 127 nurses attended the training since 2016.

- **Koç University School of Nursing Student Symposium in 2021 and 2022**

Koç University School of Nursing (KUSON) students have annually organized a symposium, enabling them to organize scientific events and improve their presentation skills. The 12<sup>th</sup> Traditional and 2<sup>nd</sup> International Student Symposium of KUSON took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April 2022, with the theme of 'Current Approaches in Health Care'. This hybrid event hosted a limited number of participants in person with online participation available as well. A total of 274 participants attended the symposium. KUSON encourages its students to broaden the reach of this symposium to an international audience. As such, in 2022, an international student from the Elaine Marieb College of Nursing (USA) attended the symposium as a speaker.

The 11<sup>th</sup> Traditional and 1<sup>st</sup> International Student Symposium of KUSON took place on the 5<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 online with the theme of 'Inclusion'. As part of the internationalization process, the KUSON student event hosted an international student speaker for the first time, from the Royal College of Nursing and will continue to expand its horizon for student engagement with European partners under the UNIC project which is an alliance of eight universities from eight European countries.



## HUMAN RIGHTS

- Koç University School of Nursing Faculty Sexual Health Education for Women with Disabilities

KUSON faculty member Kafiye Erođlu provided online training for Women with Disabilities in cooperation with the Turkish Family Health and Planning Foundation, on May 24, 2022.

- Gazhane Festival, Mental Health Workshop

Within the scope of the Gazhane Festival, a workshop on the basic components of spiritual/mental healing was held on 28 May 2022 at the Gazhane Museum moderated by KUSON faculty member Fahriye Oflaz and one other moderator. The event was organized by the İyi Sosyal Kooperatif with the participation of 16 people. Seminars on volunteering, advocating volunteer rights, and civil rights advocacy were also held.



# LABOUR

## PRINCIPLE 3

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

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## PRINCIPLE 4

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the elimination of all forms of forced and compulsory labour;

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## PRINCIPLE 5

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the effective abolition of child labour; and

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## PRINCIPLE 6

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the elimination of discrimination in respect of employment and occupation.

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# LABOUR

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, Koç University 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, 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**  
**ÜNİVERSİTESİ**  
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 and also strives to contribute to healthier living. Between 2021 and 2022, the department pursued multiple projects to improve workplace safety and improve well-being in the university community, including

compulsory occupational health and safety training for Koç University employees.

- A total of 359 individuals received occupational safety training.
- Online laboratory safety training consisting of 12 modules were completed by 152 individuals.
- Through internal and external audits carried out in 2021, occupational safety activities continued with informative meetings held with relevant units regarding expected actions.
- The "OHS Training Week", with the goal of reinforcing a culture of occupational safety for graduate laboratories users, was completed in 2022.
- Eight separate training sessions were provided for Basic OHS, First Aid, Use of Personal Protective Equipment, Applied Fire Extinguishing, Waste Management, and Emergency Situations. A total of 125 individuals participated in the training.
- Visits to external locations that were interrupted due to the pandemic resumed in 2021, ensuring that equal standards of occupational safety are maintained at all locations.
- Awareness-raising activities continued between 2021-2022.
- Infographics were prepared for all campus users to ensure that the community is informed. First aid, earthquake, OHS training, vehicle and road safety, and the importance of physical exercise were among the infographic topics.
- Laboratory researchers prepared infographics on laboratory safety issues for graduate students, including laboratory accidents, waste processes in laboratory studies, steps for the safe usage of nitrogen tanks, and laboratory occupational safety rules.

## SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

The "Social Entrepreneurship Network (TSEN) in Türkiye" was funded by the European Union and the Republic of Türkiye with a two-year budget of €539,000 (October 2018-December 2020). TSEN is a project of the "Partnerships and Networks Grant Program for Strengthening Cooperation Between Public and NGOs", which was implemented between 2018 and 2020 by the leadership of Vehbi Koç Foundation in collaboration with KUSIF, Ashoka Türkiye, the Association for Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development, the Association of Social Innovation Initiative, TED University, the Mozaik Foundation, and Social Enterprise UK. Through this project, NGOs and active citizens have been able to increase their dialogue with local and national governments and their capacity develop a better social entrepreneurship ecosystem in Türkiye. As a prime example, TSEN established a digital platform that brings together all involved actors, allowing social entrepreneurs from different regions to contact each other, increase their visibility, and better access funding from private and public institutions. As such, TSGA's digital platform has become a reference point for social entrepreneurship in Türkiye.

The network plans to create new partnerships and add more members through education, research, advocacy, and networking activities. Within the project's scope, another online platform, 'sosyalgirisimcilikagi.org', aimed to bring network members together was also created. The platform fosters meeting, interaction, and knowledge and experience sharing amongst the social entrepreneurship ecosystem stakeholders. The project strengthened the capacities of non-governmental organizations, increased dialogue between active citizens and public institutions, and carried out many activities that contributed to developing a better social entrepreneurship ecosystem. Turkish Social Entrepreneurship Network's (TSEN) digital platform became a reference point for social entrepreneurship in Türkiye.

### Activities:

The Türkiye Online Social Entrepreneurship School was launched to the public on December 29, 2020, at [www.sosyalgirisimcilikagi.org](http://www.sosyalgirisimcilikagi.org). On this website, expert project partners have published training videos on various topics from social finance to social impact, including the following:

- System Transformation - Co-Director of Ashoka Türkiye, İstem D. Akalp.
- Social Impact and Social Impact Management - KUSIF Executive Director, Dr. Gonca Ongan.
- Business Model Development - Co-Founder of Impact Hub İstanbul, Ayşe Sabuncu.
- Collective Effect - Ashoka Türkiye Director, Zeynep Meydanoglu.
- Social Entrepreneurship and Social Innovation - IstasyonTEDU Projects Coordinator, Dr. Sinem Güravşar Gökçe.
- Social Finance - Founder of Mikado Sustainable Development Consultancy and Gelecek Daha Net, Serra Titiz.
- Why Should a Social Entrepreneur Podcast? How to Make a Podcast? - KUSIF Project Specialist and Producer of the BiDünya Podcast Series, Yunus Aktaş.
- Social Impact Management, 10 Impact Questions a Social Enterprise is Expected to Answer - KUSIF Executive Director, Dr. Gonca Ongan
- Business Models and Cases - IstasyonTEDU Incubation Program Coordinator, Merve Kavas

TSEN Webinars events were started to increase public awareness regarding the social entrepreneurship ecosystem. (May 2020, February 2022)

- Digital Marketing Success Tips for Social Entrepreneurs - Co-Founder of Multiligo, Barış Yaşbala.
- Ecosystem Creation and Growth Methods for Social Entrepreneurs - Founder of Joon, Duygu Vatan, and Founder of Graph Commons, Ashoka Fellow Burak Arıkan.
- Malaysia, Lebanon, and Portugal Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem and Good Examples from Around the World in the Field of Children, Youth, Education and the Disabled - Founder of Grow the Goose Working for children's financial literacy in Malaysia, Nina Othman - Founder of ProAble working on disability employment in Lebanon, Samer Sfeir - Founder of Mentees Empreendedoras, which supports young people in Portugal to realize their potential, Afonso Mendonça Reis.

- Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem in Bosnia Sharing Experiences - Managing Director of Foundation Mozaik, Vesna Bajšanski, and successful social entrepreneurs Tamara Jovic and Lidija Sejdinović.
- GençBank applications that support young people between the ages of 15 and 25 to generate ideas for the problems or needs they see locally and to implement these ideas with the support of their peers - Managing Director of Foundation Mozaik, Vesna Bajšanski-Agić, Murat Çitilgülü from TOG, who has been implementing the GençBank project in our country since 2011, and Ferdanur Armutlu from Eskişehir Gençbank.
- Social Finance-Managing Director of Foundation Mozaik, Vesna Bajšanski-Agić, Mirjina Sakic from Sparkesse and Amra Omeragic from Finance in Motion GmbH.
- Social Enterprises for the Climate Crisis - Fridays for Future activist Bianca Castro.
- Fridays for Future Activist Selin Gören, Social Entrepreneur Salvatore Barbera, and Social Entrepreneur Teia Cuilacu.
- Social Entrepreneurship Education in Universities - Managing Director at KUSIF, Dr. Gonca Ongan, Project and Training Senior Specialist at KUSIF, Agata Fortuna, Director of the Social Entrepreneurship Program at Ashoka Türkiye, İstem D. Akalp, Assistant Professor at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (VU Amsterdam), Dr. Seda Müftügil Yalçın, Projects Coordinator at Station TEDU, Dr. Sinem Güravşar Gökçe.
- Social Entrepreneurship Ecosystem Developments – Moderated by Merve Kavas, Founder of Yekpare, Head of the Social Development Unit of Ankara Development Agency, Hande Kara, Social Entrepreneurship Program Director at Ashoka, Çiğdem Güler, Communication Coordinator of Türkiye Social Entrepreneurship Network, Çiğdem Toparlak, Factory Program Associate, Selin Yıldız, Member at Youth Deal Cooperative Company, Levent Kahraman, Co-Founder of Impact Hub Ankara Berivan Eliş and other ecosystem actors.
- Impact Entrepreneurship Program Launch - Led by Türkiye İşBank and Vehbi Koç Foundation, in cooperation with Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center (KWORKS) and WORKUP, where Turkish Social Entrepreneurship Network is a supporter of the program.

### Research activities:

- “Legal Status of Social Entrepreneurship in Türkiye: Needs and Recommendations Report” the first legal research on improving the legal status of social entrepreneurs in Türkiye. 1,000 copies were printed and distributed to stakeholders.
- “Managing Social Impact in Practice or Why Asking Questions is So Hard – Experience of Koç University Social Impact Forum in Türkiye.” This article, written by the KUSIF team, became a chapter in the book “Generating Impact” published by Emerald Publications in 2021.
- Turkish Social Entrepreneurship Network (TSEN) became part of the European Social Enterprise Monitor (ESEM) in 2021, represented by KUSIF and the TED University Social Innovation Center. ESEM is the first social enterprise monitor in Türkiye meeting European standards and is supported by the European Commission and many national and European-level stakeholders. The project intends to close the current gap in social enterprise data and inform decision-makers within government, civil society, and the economy.
- The Social Entrepreneurship in Türkiye Research Report, the third such research project in country, was designed in 2021 by a consortium led by KUSIF (Impact Hub İstanbul, Impact Hub Ankara, TED University, and Mikado Sustainable Development Consultancy) on behalf of Turkish Social Entrepreneurship Network (TSEN), and within the Strengthening Economic Opportunities for Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTP) and Turkish Citizens in Selected Localities projects implemented by the World Bank and financed by the European Union. The research was conducted in 2022 and the report will be released in February 2023. The study aims to enhance the social entrepreneurial ecosystem in Türkiye by making it more inclusive and data driven. Thus, this research will produce evidence showing the importance of social entrepreneurship for socio-economic development, including job creation and formal integration for Syrians under Temporary Protection (SuTPs) into the labour market. Data collection methods include desk

research, consultation sessions and mapping workshops in the field, online focus group meetings, comprehensive and inclusive surveys, case studies, and complementary preparatory work.

- Within the scope of the research, workshops were held in different cities in Adana, İzmir, Kayseri, Gaziantep, Bursa, Van, Muğla, Samsun, and Bodrum. A total of 207 people attended nine workshops.
- Shared Measurement Approach for Institutions Working in the Field of Teachers: Impact Oriented Process Design: This study enables institutions working in the field of teachers to create collective impact and a common language regarding social impact measurement methods. Since December 2020, online meetings have been held every month with participating institutions, including Vehbi Koç Foundation, Education Reform Initiative, Sabancı Foundation, Sabancı University, Teacher Network, Bilgi University Sociology and Education Studies Unit, Teacher Academy Foundation, Another School is Possible, and Village Schools Exchange Network.

### SOCIAL ENTERPRISE İSTANBUL PROJECT

The Social Enterprise İstanbul Project was developed in 2021 by the founding members of Türkiye Social Entrepreneurship Network (TSEN), KUSIF, Vehbi Koç Foundation, and Impact Hub İstanbul. Funded by İstanbul Regional Development Agency, the project will be implemented between December 2021 and June 2023 with the overall goal of developing the social entrepreneurship ecosystem in İstanbul in an inclusive, collaborative, and data-based manner with all actors. As a result, social enterprises will produce more innovative solutions and their positive social impact will increase, becoming more measurable and visible.

The first cycle of the program, from April 2022 to September 2022, included 25 cooperation projects between 10 start-ups and 18 corporate companies from different sectors.

#### The project's outputs and activities included:

- Social enterprise private sector collaboration acceleration program – PartnerUp
- Development of social impact measurement and management standards
- Development and implementation of the social impact management certification system
- Kick-off Meeting (3 March 2022):

**Speakers:** Prof. Dr. Zeynep Gürhan Canlı (Koç University), Cihan Özsönmez (Vehbi Koç Foundation), Dr. Gonca Ongan (KUSIF), Semih Boyacı (Impact Hub İstanbul), Dr. Mahmut N. Özdemir (KWORKS - Koç University), Mesut Keskin (Microphone), Atilla Erel (Workinlot), Selda Özçalık (Akbank Academy).

**Participant Institutions:** İstanbul Development Agency, E-Bursum / MicroFon, Impact Hub, İmece, Koç University Entrepreneurship Research Center, Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), Mazars Denge, Mikado Sustainable Development Consultancy, Nilüfer Municipality Innovation Center, Sabancı Foundation, Civil Space Media, Social Innovation Initiative Association, Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development Association, Vehbi Koç Foundation.

- PartnerUp Acceleration Program March Workshops (29-31 March 2022):

**Speakers:** Sedef Oral (Impact Hub İstanbul), Ayşegül Taşıtman Arslan (KUSIF - Koç University), Merve Güney (KUSIF - Koç University).

**Goal:** Establishing corporate collaboration, social impact management, and impact strategy.

- PartnerUp Acceleration Program

Workshops took place in two cycles of five months each and cover different initiatives and corporate companies. After the program, start-ups were provided with coaching support.

### PODCASTING-BASED SOCIAL IMPACT LEARNING ENVIRONMENT PROJECT

The project was funded by the EU's Erasmus Strategic Partnership and will be implemented between 2021 and 2024, and will be led by "Stories for Impact" from Estonia, "Geri Norai" from Lithuania, the Social Entrepreneurship Association of Latvia from Latvia, and Koç University Social Impact Forum from Türkiye. The project supports common values, civic engagement, and participation and aims to inspire and educate

professionals on topics related to social and environmental impact. The learning environment and its individual components (podcasts, accompanying reference materials) will not only help professionals to be more positively impactful in their work but also be more aware citizens (e.g., as consumers, investors, volunteers, and donors). During the project, the KUSIF Social Impact Lab will produce 64 podcasts from the social impact sector, reference materials and the social impact podcast guide while hosting two podcast camps with Turkish podcasters.

## 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 investigates questions relevant to the Turkish economy. ERF events serve to increase Türkiye's international visibility and seek to supplement policy debates with the most current academic research.

#### TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum activities (2021-2022)

- Inflation Dynamics and Policy Recommendations - February 5, 2021
- Economic Costs of Inequitable Vaccine Distribution - March 9, 2021
- Emerging Market Outlook as the FED Tapers - October 22, 2021
- Turkish Economic Outlook in 2022 - January 5, 2022
- A Neo-Fisherian Perspective on Turkish Inflation Outlook - May 30, 2022
- How Do Fed's Policies Affect Emerging Market Economies and Turkey? - October 4, 2022

#### TÜSİAD Economic Research Forum publications (2021-2022)

The ERF Working Paper Series is listed in the RePEc database. It is currently one of Türkiye'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 working papers issued by the ERF in the 2021-2022 period included:

- 2207: On the Past, Present, and Future of the Diebold-Yilmaz Approach to Dynamic Network Connectedness (Francis X. Diebold and Kamil Yılmaz, 2022)
- 2206: Is a Global Recession Imminent? (Justin Damien Guénette, M. Ayhan Kose, and Naotaka Sugawara, 2022)
- 2205 Job Satisfaction, Structure of Working Environment and Firm Size (Aysit Tansel, 2022)
- 2204 Global Stagflation (Jongrim Ha, M. Ayhan Kose, and Franziska Ohnsorge, 2022)
- 2203 Minimum Wage Increases and Vacancies (Marianna Kudlyak, Murat Tasci, and Didem Tuzemen, 2022)
- 2202 From Low to High Inflation: Implications for Emerging Market and Developing Economies (Jongrim Ha, M. Ayhan Kose, and Franziska Ohnsorge, 2022)
- 2201 Effects of Policy Reforms on Firm Innovation (Murat Seker and Mehmet Fatih Ulu, 2022)
- 2124 The Labor Market Integration of Syrian Refugees in Türkiye (Murat Demirci and Murat Guray Kirdar, 2021)
- 2123 Rising Political Populism and Outmigration of Youth as International Students (Murat Demirci, 2021)
- 2122 What Types of Capital Flows Help Improve International Risk Sharing? (Ergys Islamaj and M. Ayhan Kose, 2021)

- 2121 Changing Dynamics of Inflation in Türkiye: Has exchange rate pass-through strengthened? (In Turkish) (Hakan Kara and Cagri Sarikay, 2021)
- 2120 Does Education Really Cause Domestic Violence? Revisiting the Turkish Data (Pelin Akyol and Murat Guray Kirdar, 2021)
- 2119 The Aftermath of Debt Surges (M. Ayhan Kose, Franziska Ohnsorge, Carmen Reinhart, and Kenneth Rogoff, 2021)
- 2118 The Impact of Body Mass Index on Growth, Schooling, Productivity, and Savings: A Cross-Country Study (Aysit Tansel, Ceyhan Ozturk, and Erkan Erdil, 2021)
- 2117 Post-Compulsory Schooling of Youth in Türkiye during the Great Recession: A Case of Pro-cyclical Enrollment (Murat Demirci and Meltem Poyraz, 2021)
- 2116 School Integration of Refugee Children: Evidence from the Largest Refugee Group in any Country (Murat Guray Kirdar, Ismet Koc, and Meltem Dayioglu, 2021)
- 2115 Growing Apart or Moving Together? Synchronization of Informal and Formal Economy Cycles (Ceyhun Elgin, M. Ayhan Kose, Franziska Ohnsorge, and Shu Yu, 2021)
- 2114 Understanding Informality (Ceyhun Elgin, M. Ayhan Kose, Franziska Ohnsorge, and Shu Yu, 2021)
- 2113 The Effect of 3.6 Million Refugees on Crime (Murat G. Kirdar, Ivan Lopez Cruz, and Betul Turkum, 2021)
- 2112 How do exchange rates respond to political rhetoric by populist leaders? (Cem Cakmakli, Selva Demiralp, and Gokhan Sahin Gunes, 2021)
- 2111 Transition to Democracy, Real Wages and Productivity: The Turkish Experience (Erol Taymaz, Ebru Voyvoda, and Kamil Yilmaz, 2021)
- 2110 Economic Value of Modeling the Joint Distribution of Returns and Volatility: Leverage Timing (Cem Cakmakli and Verda Ozturk, 2021)
- 2109 Migrant Networks and Destination Choice: Evidence from Moves across Turkish Provinces (Abdurrahman B. Aydemir and Erkan Duman, 2021)
- 2108 Inflation During the Pandemic: What Happened? What is Next? (Jongrim Ha, M. Ayhan Kose and Franziska Ohnsorge, 2021)
- 2107 One-Stop Source: A Global Database of Inflation (Jongrim Ha, M. Ayhan Kose, and Franziska Ohnsorge, 2021)
- 2106 Keeping refugee children in school and out of work: Evidence from the world's largest humanitarian cash transfer program (Aysun Hiziroglu Aygun, Murat Guray Kirdar, Murat Koyuncu, and Quentin Stoeffler, 2021)
- 2105 The Making of a Lost Generation: Child Labor among Syrian Refugees in Türkiye (Meltem Dayioglu, Murat Guray Kirdar, and Ismet Koc, 2021)
- 2104 The Economic Case for Global Vaccinations: An Epidemiological Model with International Production Networks (Cem Cakmakli, Selva Demiralp, Sebnem Kalemli-Ozcan, Sevcan Yesiltas, and Muhammed A. Yildirim, 2021)
- 2103 The Role of Obedience and the Rule of Law during the Pandemic (Cem Cakmakli, Selva Demiralp, Sevcan Yesiltas, and Muhammed A. Yildirim, 2021)
- 2102 Development Level of Hosting Areas and the Impact of Refugees on Natives' Labor Market Outcomes (Dogu Tan Araci, Murat Demirci, and Murat Guray Kirdar, 2021)
- 2101 Unconventional Monetary Policy and Bond Market Connectedness in the New Normal (Umut Akovali and Kamil Yilmaz, 2021)



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

International and comparative legal research and inter-institutional cooperation have gained considerable prominence given the diversity of resources of international business law, Türkiye's integration with the global system, and the recent developments in information technologies. In this regard, the Center's research focuses on observing the initiatives for the harmonization of private law rules along with the developments in international business law and determining their potential impact on national law. The Center operates accordingly in order to support research in the broad field of international business law, improve cooperation with national and international organizations, organize impactful academic events, and promote research-oriented legal education.

The Center attaches special importance to the relationship between international business law and new technologies, sustainability, and gender equality. Within this framework, the Center's fields of study include the following: European Union law, banking, and financial regulation, maritime law, intellectual property, law and economics, insolvency law, data protection, competition law, insurance law, corporate social responsibility, corporate law, corporate taxation, commercial law and contracts, and commercial litigation and arbitration.

## **GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (GSB)**

As a member of the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME) since 2008, the Graduate School of Business (GSB) emphasizes and functions on local and global societal benefits, social progress, ethics, social inclusion, and democracy. As such, GSB aims for its graduates to be leaders in economic and social progress while also being critical thinkers and creative individuals. GSB is dedicated to the highest ethical standards, social inclusion, and values of participatory democracy.

With the help of its CEMS Social Partners, such as CARE International, Fairtrade, Transparency International, and United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, GSB commits to preparing the next generation of business leaders by developing not only business leaders, but global citizens who take their professional responsibility and accountability to society and the environment seriously. Part of CEMS's vision is to nurture a responsible and ethical approach to management that graduates will then take into the workplace. CEMS students formally commit to a code of ethics and values in respect to global citizenship on the day of their graduation in the framework of the Global Value Statement. Core courses such as "Global Leadership" and "Global Citizenship", with a focus on "comprehensive leadership", aim to teach students how to critically evaluate the dimensions of leadership impact in terms of sustainability and responsibility. Global Citizenship is structured based on the UN Sustainable Development Goals, which aim to address many of the great challenges facing the world today.

As extracurricular activities, CEMS MIM CLUB and Student Board organize social responsibility activities. Koç GSB and CEMS Club hosted the international Marenostrom event, which included seminars on the topic of "Sustainability as a strategy" delivered with the collaboration of KUSIF and corporate partners such as Arçelik, Metro, and BCG, and with the participation of more than 50 CEMS international students. As all seminars were hosted online, the Marenostrom event had a low carbon-footprint, suiting its focus on sustainability.

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

The 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 across the country. KWORKS is recognized as a leading startup accelerator program in the Turkish entrepreneurship ecosystem.

KWORKS offers pre-accelerator and accelerator programs for entrepreneurs. Pre-accelerator programs are for entrepreneurs aiming to validate their business ideas before incorporating as a company. An

entrepreneur can join the pre-accelerator program if KWORKS decides that the entrepreneur's idea has business potential. 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 start-ups to investors, business partners, and other stakeholders. The KWORKS accelerator and pre-accelerator programs supported 27 startups in 2021 and 18 in 2022.

KWORKS has partnered with TÜBİTAK in the BiGG program (1512-Bireysel Genç Girişimci Programı), which offers young entrepreneurs a grant of up to ₺450,000. In 2020, KWORKS formed a consortium with Arçelik Garage and ODTÜ Teknokent which administered the BiGG program under the new name of BiGG3. BiGG3 collects the applications of early-stage start-up candidates and prepares them for TÜBİTAK grant application. Between 2020-2022, BiGG3 ran six programs. In 2021, 15 candidates applied in two calls with seven receiving grants. As well, the first call of 2022 received 10 applications with 5 grants handed out. Five candidates applied in the second call, the results of which will be announced in December 2022.

KWORKS took part in the program as an implementation partner and helped the 19 CSOs in the program to form their digital transformation strategies and design and implement their digital transformation projects. In the second phase of the program, KWORKS ran a 6-month long Accelerator Program for the seven selected CSOs of 2021. KWORKS supported the CSOs in materializing their digital transformation projects with this program.

KWORKS also ran a 4-month-long Accelerator Program for intrapreneurs of Türk Traktör in 2021. The commercialization of four innovative intrapreneurship projects selected by Türk Traktör was supported by this program.

In 2022, KWORKS took part in the Boost Women Innovators in Türkiye program launched by UNDP and Koç Holding. As an implementing partner KWORKS ran a 3-month-long Accelerator Program for 10 women-led start-ups that were selected for the program.

KWORKS also ran an Impact Entrepreneurship Program in 2022, a joint initiative of Vehbi Koç Foundation and Türkiye İş Bank. The program was run by KWORKS and Workup (accelerator program of Türkiye İş Bank) with the support of TSEN. Six impact-oriented start-ups were supported within this program.



# ENVIRONMENT

## PRINCIPLE 7

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Businesses should support a precautionary approach to environmental challenges;

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## PRINCIPLE 8

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undertake initiatives to promote greater environmental responsibility; and

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## PRINCIPLE 9

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encourage the development and diffusion of environmentally friendly technologies

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## ENVIRONMENT

Koç 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 Koç University's central principles.

All Koç University campuses are equipped with automatic systems designed to achieve maximum energy efficiency. A central system controls the 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 that decrease energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions while increasing the use of renewable and sustainable energy resources.



### RESEARCH COMMITMENTS TO THE ENVIRONMENT

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

The Koç University Tüpraş Energy Center (KUTEM), established in 2012 by a generous donation from Tüpraş, functions as an umbrella for energy-related research activities at Koç University. The center consists of more than 30 faculty members in Engineering, Sciences, Administrative Science, and Economics. The center aims to provide a sustainable environment for joint industry-university research projects, to train students for jobs in R&D, and to increase the overall competitiveness of Turkish industry.



**KUTEM**

KOÇ UNIVERSITY  
TÜPRAŞ ENERGY CENTER

The research efforts at KUTEM are concentrated mainly in fuel sciences, including fossil fuels, biofuels, and solar power. For fossil fuels, projects have focused on developing more efficient fuel production technologies and novel catalysts for a wide variety of industrially important reactions. The development of new adsorbents for various applications, such as emission control, energy storage, and gas separation processes, is another area of focus in this field. Efforts regarding biofuels are concentrated on harnessing biomass feedstocks, such as microalgae, for potential fuel use. Significant research efforts are on developing new algae strains with high lipid

content and growth rates by genetic modification, new photobioreactors for efficient algae growth, and new technologies for fuel extraction. In the field of solar power, novel light-absorbing systems and devices are being developed for converting solar energy into chemical and electrical energy. Though the primary focus of the center is on fuel science, the center also supports many different energy-related projects, such as lithium-ion batteries, solar cells, and thermal insulation. Since 2019, the KUTEM team has also increased research on data analytics, focusing on developing sensors and state-of-the-art computing technologies

that process data in situ, and new machine-learning algorithms to process historical data from refineries to predict possible future failures. These projects have continued throughout the 2021-2022 period.

### **KUTEM activities (2021-2022)**

- KUTEM introduced the Best Energy Paper of the Year Award in January 2021 to honor outstanding articles published in the energy field. Participants were evaluated based on their performances in presenting the novelty and the relation of their work to the energy field. A total of 28 applications were received from the various departments of engineering, sciences, and social sciences, and the evaluation committee selected four winners. In addition, KUTEM presented a special award to the only applicant from the social sciences. The second round of this award was organized in March 2022 to select the Best Energy Paper of 2021. A total of sixteen well-qualified participants were evaluated, and once again the evaluation committee selected four winners.
- KUTEM has organized a short, one-credit course on Climate and Energy Transition that aims to inform students of major issues concerning greenhouse gases and their impact on climate change. This course was offered by Benoît Luc, a former senior manager in Total Group and Energy Joint Ventures. This one-credit course was well-received, with 62 undergraduate and graduate students from various disciplines participating in Founders' Hall between March 28 and April 01, 2022.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY ARÇELİK RESEARCH CENTER FOR CREATIVE INDUSTRIES (KUAR)**

Koç University Arçelik Research Center for Creative Industries (KUAR), jointly founded by Koç University and Arçelik A.Ş. in 2015, aims to increase the efficiency and competitiveness of Türkiye's creative industries through research. A wide range of topics such as lifestyle, entertainment (game, performance, movies, drama, animation), cultural heritage (exhibitions, heritage, analysis), info-assistance, transportation, education, and healthcare lie within the scope of research conducted at KUAR, where research and development on conceptual, experimental, and visionary prototypes, working prototypes, re-design prototypes of products, design guidelines are undertaken.

KUAR recently conducted a research project titled "Co-designing an interactive recipe planner that helps chefs adopt more sustainable food preparation practices". The objectives of this project were to deliver a set of design strategies for sustainable food preparation practices synthesized from the current practices and expectations of chefs, provide methodological guidelines co-designed with chefs, and to develop an early prototype of an interactive food planner.

All these objectives have been met in the project. The team has identified five dimensions of an environmentally friendly recipe based on the current practices and expectations of chefs. Furthermore, they identified design considerations for interactive systems aimed at supporting sustainable food preparation practices in restaurants. Guidelines for researchers who would like to conduct future studies with chefs were also presented, and finally two prototypes were created (one conceptual and one research prototype) which aim to help prepare sustainable recipes and menus.

### **This project advanced technological development in the following ways:**

- First-time exploration of food waste in the hospitality sector from a design point of view: In the design field, no study has previously explored the issue of food waste in the hospitality sector. Plus, almost all the Human-Computer Interaction (HCI) and interaction design work on food waste examines the domestic context. As such, this project is the first design-oriented research project that tackles food waste in the hospitality sector, in particular reducing food waste in restaurants by influencing chefs' food preparation behavior.
- One new product concept: The team designed a new recipe planner system, KNOBIE, which allows chefs and cooks to design sustainable recipes by relying on real-time feedback.
- One new research prototype: The team designed and developed a menu planning system, RECIPY, which allows chefs and cooks to design their sustainable recipes with the help of a mobile phone application and plan menus with the help of an AR based real-time feedback.

- Design considerations for interactive systems aimed at supporting sustainable food preparation practices in restaurants: Based on the results of observations in restaurants, interviews with chefs, and co-creating workshops with chefs, the team identified considerations for interactive systems aimed at supporting sustainable food preparation practices in restaurants. These considerations are to support collaborative work, provide space for ongoing exploration, and encourage physical interactions in menu creation.

### **Broader Impact of the project:**

This project tackles food waste, a significant issue that needs to be addressed at the global level. Through following the user-centered research and design process, the project team developed one recipe planning concept and a research prototype for a menu planning system aimed at reducing food waste in restaurants by influencing chefs' food preparation practices. If these prototypes are adopted by restaurant chefs, the team believes that it would help reduce food waste in the hospitality sector. Furthermore, these prototypes are not only for reducing food waste, as one of the dimensions used to assess recipes and menus is locality. Using local sources adoption would also bring economic benefits, such as creating revenue for local food producers and farmers. These impacts are in line with two Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) defined by the United Nations: Zero Hunger (SDG 2), and Responsible Production and Consumption (SDG12).



# ANTI-CORRUPTION

## 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 the 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.





# CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Koç University's curriculum, academic tracks, certificate, and outreach programs related to sustainability, offer students numerous opportunities to engage with sustainability issues. The undergraduate curriculum offers a wide range of core courses on social, economic, and environmental responsibility. At present, all students regardless of their major 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.

# CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS



## CORE CURRICULUM

A well-designed and well-taught core curriculum inspire collaboration across specializations by showing students that, no matter how different they are, different disciplines intersect in their concern for common issues that had to do with individuals, societies, and the world. A vital tenet of the Core curriculum is that interdisciplinary collaboration can illuminate complex problems and that this exploration is best achieved when students are well-versed in multiple disciplines.

The Core curriculum at Koç University was established in 1993 and extensively revised in 2011. The extensive revision implemented in 2011 radically changed the structure of the core program from one which concentrates dominantly on humanities to a program that allows for greater exposure to shifting boundaries between disciplines. The argument behind this change is that for students to be competitive in an increasingly challenging and complex world, it is crucial to develop skills to make sense of the immensely large body of knowledge available to us today. University education is possibly the only juncture in students' lives to engage in free inquiry and intellectual exploration without the limitations of vocational concerns. In recent years, university education has come under increasing pressure to respond to the challenges originating from both forces of vocational specialization and the need for critical thinking. Moreover, socializing high school students into the learning experience in a university has been a major challenge in Türkiye as high school education has increasingly become exam-oriented and highly tracked with a very fragmented structure which categorizes students into particular tracks (such as math/science or social sciences) very early on at the expense of free inquiry, creativity, and exploration. With the core program at Koç University, we aim at a higher education that is a learning experience on its own rather than just a requisite step for a career. Thus, 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.

The Core curriculum at Koç University comprises seven knowledge areas: Humanities, Artistic and Interpretive Understanding, Ethics, Social Sciences, Empirical and Quantitative Reasoning, Sciences, and Economic and Strategic Analysis. These core areas represent the belief that a responsible education must help students develop their capacities for reasoning and for responsible judgment; it must feed their informed appreciation of the arts and literature and their own creative capacities; it must emphasize the ethical implications of what they do and what they say, and it must offer exposure to knowledge, which is crucial in an increasingly global yet fragmented world. Courses in the core program are expected to provide integrative and synoptic introductions to important knowledge areas and texts without prescribing a common body of knowledge for all students. In the 2021-2022 academic year, 73 different courses with 118 sections were offered in the core program. These courses were taught by 99 full-time faculty members and 22 part-time instructors.

## ALIS (ACADEMIC AND LIFE SKILLS)

ALIS (ACADEMIC AND LIFE SKILLS) founded by Professor Zeynep Aycan under the Dean of Students in 2010, is a student-centered program to ensure successful and enriching experiences throughout a student's academic life and to introduce fundamental skills for personal and professional life. The program offers four



# CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

courses: Academic and Life Skills, Applied Life Skills, Transition to Professional Life, and Next-Generation Leadership and Transformation. These courses present students with opportunities to practice skills often required in today's competitive professional life. Experiential learning methods and reflections are widely employed. Enrichment by diversity is one of the core principles of all ALIS courses. Concepts such as multicultural sensitivity, prejudice, and microaggressions are discussed to support students in developing a global citizenship mindset and respect for diversity. One of the program's advanced courses includes a project component where teams of students conduct a semester-long project around the theme of sustainability on campus. In addition to courses on the curriculum, ALIS Faculty offers training programs to Koç University staff, visiting staff, and student mentors to develop their multicultural sensitivity while working with a diverse body of students. The ALIS Program is a founding member of the global WISE (Wellbeing, Innovation and Social Change in Education) Network.

## COURSES AND PROGRAMS OF GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS (GSB)

Koç University's GSB master's degree programs place a great emphasis on Environment, Society, and Governance (ESG). The concept itself has been covered in a wide range of courses. Additionally, guest speakers from the field are invited to deliver seminars focused intentionally on ESG for graduate students and alumni. For instance, Ms. Elif Emirli Altug, PhD., gave a seminar on ESG in investing in June 2021, and GSB hosted Dr. Cenk Türker, Founder of ESG Türkiye Consultancy for the Sustainability in the Business seminar, in May 2022.

The past years have seen ESG investments come more into the spotlight. In response, the CFA Institute and its member societies have developed several programs and competitions on ESG-driven transformations in investing, AI in ESG investing, and curated insights for affiliated Universities. GSB is the first partner of the CFA Institute from Türkiye. Within the framework of the CFA University Affiliation Program, Koç GSB promotes events and insights to its faculty and students.

As a member of the Global Network for Advanced Management, GSB MBA students are eligible for Global Network Weeks which are held twice a school year in October and March, and Small Network Online Courses (SNOCs) from the Global Network for Advanced Management each semester. Below are the courses related to Sustainability offered to MBA Students by the Global Network for Advanced Management.

- Sustainable Development: Moving from Concept to Strategy
- Sustainable Development Goals, Cities, and Inclusive Prosperity
- Entrepreneurship and Sustainability
- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainability and Innovation: Technologies and Business Models that Address the Sustainability Crisis
- Sustainability and Innovation
- Sustainable Development of Tourism
- Sustainable Development: Moving from Concept to Strategy
- Sustainable Finance, Investing, and Impact
- Sustainable Leadership: The Rainforest Perspective
- Doing Business in Emerging Markets: Entrepreneurship and Sustainability in Latin America
- Doing Business in Latin America: The Competitiveness and Sustainability Challenge
- Sustainable Enterprises and Tourism
- Business for Social Impact and Sustainable Development
- Small Network Online Courses (SNOCs)
- Business as a Force for Good: Sustainability and Sustainable Development in Africa
- Corporate Sustainability and Responsibility
- Strategy and the Sustainable Enterprise
- Sustainability Strategy

## CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Sustainability is also covered by the Corporate Responsibility course (1.5 credits) in the EMBA curriculum. This course provides students with the requisite knowledge needed to emerge as leaders capable of leveraging the power of business to create social and environmental value. The course content blends theory and practice in a way that emphasizes both critical thinking and experiential learning, and that considers the broad dimensions of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), including labour issues, human rights, environmental concerns, corporate philanthropy, corporate governance, and ethical business practices such as ethical advertising and corruption avoidance. Emphasis is placed on the business case for CSR, especially from the perspective of companies operating in Türkiye, and on strategies for implementing CSR within business operations. The selection process for the new Master of Science in Finance program as a CFA Partner program included a thorough analysis of ethics in the curriculum.

### 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 drives 'internationalization at home' (IaH). OIP's global engagement programs are open to both undergraduate and graduate students. They are designed around a 21<sup>st</sup> 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 into its flagship global engagement, service-learning, and social entrepreneurship programs. The office also provides international opportunities to students to help them experience a 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.

OIP serves the University in the areas of International Partnership Development, Exchange Programs, International Projects, and Education Programs, International Service-Learning Programs, Innovative International Learning Experiences, and International Community Programs. These efforts provide cutting-edge opportunities for the development of internationalized services and opportunities, global engagement, and research.

In an interdependent world, OIP believes that it is important for students, faculty, and staff to have the opportunity to become personally and intellectually familiar with the people, ideas, and customs of other nations. Such interaction not only promotes a universal perspective and intellectual growth, but also adds to the cultural and economic well-being of the university and the country. Being one of the major contributors to fostering critical thought and responsible global citizenship, and valuing intercultural awareness and communication, diversity, and respect for other people and cultures are OIP's core values.

OIP's unique cocurricular program, the Global Learning, and Leadership Program (GLLP) has changed its structure to become Global Learning and Leadership for Sustainability (GLLS). The GLLS Program believes that a sustainable future can only be achieved with creative and innovative approaches based on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). With that purpose in mind, the GLLS program was created to introduce an innovative 21<sup>st</sup> century university experience for students within the scope of sustainability.

Even during the uncertain times of the pandemic, the International Projects and Education Programs (IPEP) unit of OIP has advanced and developed new partnerships for the last two years, and currently, Koç University is a part of three different projects with Erasmus+ KA2: Cooperation among Organizations and Institutions.

Banuu aims to foster employability and entrepreneurship of Iraqi students in the Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Project in a three-year (2020-2023) international project funded by the European Union in the frame of the Erasmus+ Capacity Building Key Action 2 in the Field of Higher Education. The Banuu project aims at contributing to the improvement of the student's employability in the field of Humanities in Iraq by creating new pathways of cooperation between universities and the public and enterprise sectors.

The UNIC Project is an alliance of ten universities educating through teaching, research, and community engagement, toward inclusive societies. The Project has four modules that complement one another with

## CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

the aim of unlocking a truly European experience for a new generation of students who will advance the post-industrial transformations of our cities. The UNIC Inter-University Campus module enhances mobility, the Superdiversity Academic module enhances inclusion, the UNIC City Labs module provides challenge-based learning in cities, and the UNIC4ER module enables engaged research. Mobile opportunities are provided to students at each partner university in the Project.

The Art of De-biasing (or the dBias Project in short) is exclusively focused on supporting the professional development of educators and teachers, and on bringing individualized bias profiling and development path for learners. Teachers and educators can adjust and improve their professional practice and skills. School administrators and other related specialists/expert staff can also benefit from this, and it will make them more efficient in the support they provide to learners.

In addition to being highly engaged in Erasmus+ KA1 and KA2 projects, every year, OIP organizes short-term summer abroad programs for Koç University students and offers intensive courses or certificate programs open to both Koç University students and all university students all around the globe in the fields of social innovation and leadership. In those programs, 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.

The office introduced eight engagement projects to facilitate the integration of the international community into local culture. Online Turkish Practice Hours, Newsletters, and social media projects such as ICO Interviews, and the Cultural Showcase, helped both the local and international communities come together. These projects not only allow for introductions and socializing, but also increase the awareness and understanding of different cultures at Koç University.

### COURSES AND PROGRAMS SUPPORTED AND COLLABORATED BY KUSIF

**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 that are interactive and based on experiential learning. Students work with real-life problems and are offered free social impact consultancy throughout the course.

The following organizations participated in the Creating Social Impact through Collaborative Project Management: Experiential Learning course as social impact actors: AbilityPool, Anlatan Eller, Aposto, Bego Jeans, Teachers Academy Foundation (ÖRAV), Support Foundation for Civil Society, Zorlu Holding in 2021 spring.

KUSIF continued its support and guidance of KU students interested in the social impact field in collaboration with the Koç University Career Development Center and the American Institute of Chemical Engineers Club by organizing Career in Social Impact and Sustainability Days. The scope of the event was enlarged, and many stakeholders from the network of CASE and KUSIF were invited to the event to meet and interact with the students.

- In 2021, KUSIF contributed resources, methods, and guidance to the UNIC İstanbul CityLab Day led by Koç University Migration Research Center (MiReKoc). Before the CityLab Day: Students participated in engaged research with guidance from KUSIF and MiReKoc between May 15 and May 30, 2021. The CityLab



# CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

Day: On the day of İstanbul CityLab, students, academics, city stakeholders, and citizens worked together on a virtual CityLab workshop to finalize the analysis. (June 25, 2021).

- KUSIF collected data for "The Impact Ranking 2021 and 2022" towards the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with the Koç University Academic Planning and Development Directorate.
- KUSIF-CASE Sustainability and Impact Management Academic Track: Sustainability and Impact Management are carried out jointly with the College of Administrative Sciences and Economics. The program offers mandatory and a wide range of elective courses that will prepare students for their future careers to be responsible leaders who are part of solutions to social and environmental problems.

## SOCIAL IMPACT LAB

The Social Impact Lab aims to support students, researchers, staff, and alumni with social entrepreneurship ideas. The program provides workspace, mentorship, professional support, seed funding, workshops, intense training, expansive networking, and research tools.

Nine social entrepreneur groups (undergraduate, graduate, and Ph.D. student groups) were supported. At present, there are two active groups in the program, working on sustainable nature sports and earthquakes.

The Social Impact Lab aims to bring students, staff, and academicians with similar interests, ideas, and passion to create a positive social impact on campus. To make this impact and develop a sustainable relationship with stakeholders, the Lab has developed a new program, called The Zebra Program, which aims to create a sustainable student community capable of generating solutions for social and environmental challenges based on UN Sustainable Development Goals. For this purpose, our student community has worked on four different areas: content creation, networking activities, SDG integration, and business solutions.

During the 2021 Spring Semester, 13 speakers were invited to the Social Impact Lab Zebra Program to share their knowledge and experiences on how to use entrepreneurship to solve social problems. Speakers and topics are as follows:

- Social innovation - İstasyonTEDÜ - Founding Director of TED University Social Innovation Center, Berivan Eliş.
- Social Entrepreneurship Business Models and Ecosystem Approach - İstasyonTEDU Incubation Program Coordinator, Merve Kavas.
- Philosophy of Good - Koç University of Faculty CSSH PHIL of Prof. Dr. Zeynep Direk.
- Social Entrepreneurship – Director at İmece, Mustafa Özer
- What can we do as individuals for sustainable development? - Founder of Environmental Activities, Emrah Kurum.
- Research Methods - Content and Communication manager at İmece, Can Pürüzsüz.
- Entrepreneurial Literacy – Founding member of Girisimler.net, Firat Demirel.
- Social Impact Communication - Instructor at Bilgi University and author at Sivil Alan, Kenan Dursun.
- Sustainability and Business World - Strategic Leadership and Learning of S360, Ahmet Eren Öztürk.
- Community Management – Creative Hub Director of ATÖLYE, Atılım Şahin.
- Sustainability Communication – Communications and Projects Specialist of KUSIF, Çiğdem Toparlak.
- Impact Investment - Etkiyap Founding President – Şafak Müderrisgil.
- Artificial Intelligence and Ethics – Philosopher and the founder+director of the AI Ethics Lab, Cansu Canca.

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

Koç University's mission and values embrace a liberal arts education. As such, the Dean of Students Office shares the institutional vision that the development of students' core competencies cannot be realized

## CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS



solely through academic programs and works in several major areas to help students develop their skills. 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. This year, the cooperation between students, companies, and the University, and the activities structured and monitored by the office led to many high-achievements and innovative activities. In 2022, the Student Activities and Volunteer Projects Office supported over 900 activities. Various other career-based events are organized on campus, such as Kamp, The One, and Leap, and received more than 3,500 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 at campus events, many seminars and workshops were held in English. In line with Koç University's complementary approach to education, 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 in which public actors are actively involved. 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 Diversity, Inclusion, and Disabled Student Coordination Unit, to serve as a liaison to certain projects including various public actors.

### SEVGİ GÖNÜL CULTURAL CENTER (SGKM)

It is very important for us that art is a part of life at Koç University. For this reason SGKM hosts and organizes numerous concerts, library music series, theatre plays and talks, movie events, festivals, exhibitions, dance performances, artistic shows and interactive experiences.

These events continued to enrich the lives of our students, faculty and staff in 2021 and 2022.

#### Some examples of those events are:

- Using various spots and transition areas and turning them into stages: SalıCaz! Jazz Sessions
- "Deep Listening Experiences": Aiming to show how we communicate with our world, how we "listen" and how we can expand our hearing and listening capacity. With this mission, various soundscape artists and sound healing practitioners are put in the program.
- "Sustainability" themed performing arts program: The declaration of the program is as follows "In the face of the limitations and challenges brought about by the pandemic, the vulnerability and current essential needs of almost all disciplines that share the stage in the field of performing arts have been laid bare perhaps more transparently than ever. But as actors working in these fields, as we focus on meeting the needs of today, we should also be aware that we should not compromise on our ability to address the needs of future generations as well, and furthermore, that we can only build the present through considering future generations."

## CURRICULUM & OUTREACH PROGRAMS

This season the stage opened with a screening of the film “Ecocide” as part of the Kino 2021 German Films Program, continued with online screenings of the İKSV International Theater Festival and “Conversations About the Stage” online series, at the artistic sustainability of our own fields such as theater, dance and music, as well as their economic, environmental and social aspects. As humans living on a planet, we questioned how we could continue to perform our own arts, along with various artists who joined us as guests.

### **KOÇ UNIVERSITY PRESS**

Koç University Press (KUP) was founded in 2010. As of 2020, it has published over 300 titles in humanities, arts, literature, social sciences, natural sciences, medicine, business, and technology. It is one of the leading academic publishers in Türkiye.

In 2021, KUP began publishing and distributing the books of university-affiliated Research Centers (ANAMED, AKMED, VEKAM, GABAM). Moreover, KUP has signed an agreement with Chicago UP to better distribute these academic publications on archaeology, ancient history, and Byzantium.

Starting in 2023, KUP will begin to publish academic English books about Türkiye, especially in the fields of social sciences, humanities, and history. KUP contributes to science through the publication of new research and aims to publish state-of-the-art books in all fields of science that are accessible to a wider audience, thus contributing to Türkiye’s cultural life. KUP transforms new ideas, projects, and research into books as a way of transmitting those ideas and efforts to the public.



# Koç University

## UN Global Compact

### Progress Report 2020-2022



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