

## COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT (COE)

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Argüden Governance Academy

**Period covered by this Communication on Engagement** 2022-2023

From: 1 January 2022

To: 31 December 2023

### **Part I. Statement of Continued Support by the Chief Executive or Equivalent**

Please use the box below to include the statement of continued support signed by your organization's Chief Executive or equivalent.

**26.12.2023**

#### ***Attention to Our Stakeholders:***

***We are pleased to confirm that Argüden Governance Academy has reaffirmed its support for the United Nations Global Compact and its Ten Principles on Human Rights, Labor, Environment, and Anti-Corruption. This document constitutes our Communication on Progress for the United Nations Global Compact. Please share your feedback and suggestions regarding its content with us.***

***This Communication on Progress outlines the actions taken by our organization in support of the Principles of the UN Global Compact, as well as those applicable to our organization and similar entities. Additionally, we commit to sharing this information with our stakeholders through our primary communication channels.***

***Best regards,  
Pınar ILGAZ  
Vice Chair of the Board of Directors***

## Part II. Description of Actions

Please use the box below to describe the actions your organization has taken in support of the Global Compact. It is strongly recommended that the actions taken are related to one or more of the specific activities suggested. *Please refer to the complete list of suggested activities for your type of organization found [here](#).*

- *Improving quality of life*
- *Carrying out work for a sustainable future,*
- *Creating resilient societies,*
- *Carrying out work towards Sustainable Development Goals,*
- *Contributing to global sustainability approaches,*
- *Fighting against corruption through developing good governance,*
- *Contributing to the development of integrated thinking and integrated reporting in Türkiye and in the world*
- *Supporting children and youth to develop good governance culture by the early ages.*

### Part III. Measurement of Outcomes

Please use the box below to include the most relevant qualitative and/or quantitative indicators to measure the outcome of the activities described in Part II above.

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*As the Argüden Governance Academy, a foundation dedicated to enhancing the quality of governance in public, civil society, private sector, and international institutions, we conduct research, develop content, prepare educational programs, and promote best practices to improve governance quality for a sustainable future and a high quality of life. In this context a summary of the work we carry out for leaders of private sector companies, NGOs, public institutions, and international organizations; as well as individuals of all ages, from 7 to 77, can be seen below:*

- To achieve 10 Principles of the Global Compact more rapidly, we focus on SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals in all our activities.
- To accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals, we have developed the "A Calendar Day for Each SDG" approach. In collaboration with the Global Compact Türkiye, we organize the SDG 16: Good Governance Day event.

#### FOR PUBLIC GOVERNANCE:

##### • The European Label of Governance Excellence

Since 2022, we have been authorized by the Council of Europe to confer the European Label of Governance Excellence to local governments in Türkiye. In line with this authorization, we work with an objective and above-politics approach to enhance the governance quality of municipalities, improve the quality of life for citizens, and contribute to the establishment of strong institutions, sustainable cities, and communities. Regarding the activities and commitments demonstrating its commitment to good governance, the European Label of Governance Excellence obtained the right of use by 2 municipalities in 2022 and 6 municipalities in 2023. In 2022, we organize a conference to acquire ELoGE to 2 municipalities. We also publish the Integrated Municipality Governance Model to adopt good governance and integrated thinking during the municipal management processes. By 2023, we published a Guide to prepare the municipalities for the application processes of European Label of Governance Excellence along with 4 trainings. At the end of the 2023, we concluded ELoGE Process with a Label Ceremony.

##### • Municipality Governance Scorecard 2023

In 2023, we conducted a reassessment of the "Municipality Governance Scorecard," which we developed to enhance the quality of governance in local administrations. The Municipality Governance Scorecard aims to contribute to the improvement of citizens' quality of life by assessing 37 district municipalities in Istanbul in terms of good governance practices based on publicly available data. Published for the first time in 2018 and shared as a good innovative example by OECD and UN; the Municipality Governance Scorecard provides an opportunity for Istanbul district municipalities to compare themselves and learn from good examples from a good governance perspective. We are preparing a publication and a website for this study, and the results will be released in the early days of 2024.

##### • Good Governance of Urban Reconstructions in Türkiye

The intended impact of the Project is to increase the level of trust, satisfaction, and engagement of citizens for improving the quality and effectiveness of disaster reconstruction process and enabling resilient cities. Better civic oversight and engagement would ensure a more integrated, coordinated, and effective reconstruction process. Monitoring and evaluation practice would facilitate collective learning among the various stakeholders, coordinate their efforts, and improve civic engagement.

##### • Participatory Democracy School

As a first in Türkiye, we organized the Council of Europe's Participatory Democracy School. We aim to support local good governance and promote the widespread use of participatory democracy tools of the Council of Europe through the School we launched in the autumn months of 2023. Following the foundational training in September 2023, we are organizing advanced training sessions for participants to deepen their understanding of each participation tool. In October, November, and December, a total of 5 training sessions were held in 4 provinces across Türkiye.

##### • Integrated Municipality Governance Model

In 2022, Our Integrated Municipality Governance Model contributes to the continuous development, sustainability, and quality of life-oriented activities of local governments. This Model, triggering continuous learning and development, guides municipalities on the journey to obtain the European Label of Governance Excellence. In doing so, we support municipalities in aligning their activities with SDGs such as SDG 8, SDG 11, SDG 16, and SDG 17. Thanks to the Model, 2 Istanbul District Municipalities had the right of use of European Label of Governance Excellence.

##### • Metropolitan Municipality Governance Scorecard

With the Metropolitan Municipality Governance Scorecard, we conducted research on how activities are carried out in health, environment, safe living, participation, housing, employment and income, personal development and welfare, social policy, and other issues in 27 metropolitan cities in Türkiye. We shared our unique Model that can be used by all municipalities both in Türkiye and worldwide. We shared a publication to development of good governance culture in metropolitan municipalities and organized a conference that we share the results of the research.

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## **FOR CORPORATE GOVERNANCE:**

### **• Sustainability Governance Scorecard**

*Since 2019, we have been annually examining companies' sustainability approaches through our Sustainability Governance Scorecard Project, encouraging their participation in long-term and value-focused activities. We analyzed 200+ companies for 2 times during 2022 & 2023.*

*• In all our endeavors, including the internationally recognized by UN, OECD, Council of Europe; Sustainability Governance Scorecard and Municipality Governance Scorecard projects, we stimulate development by increasing learning through exemplary practices, playing a supportive role in building strong institutions (SDG 16).*

*• As a measurement tool in the Sustainability Governance Scorecard, we assess companies' approaches to and progress in the Sustainable Development Goals, sharing their advancements.*

## **FOR YOUTH:**

### **• The Youth Network**

*Through activities conducted by the Youth Network, we engage in efforts related to SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, mobilizing individuals and institutions on a voluntary basis. Our projects related to SDGs gain diversity by supporting youth in agriculture, corporate governance, youth councils, and various initiatives for children. During 2022 and 2023, Youth Network published 22 "Youth Network Newspaper"s, organized 25 meetings with youth organizations, public authorities and NGO representatives, conducted 9 training programs and 222 young people graduated from these training programs.*

### **• The Youth Manifesto**

*In collaboration with the Governance Youth Network for development and a sustainable future, we conducted a study in the centenary of the Republic of Türkiye. We prepared the Youth Manifesto, which serves as a commitment document and includes items directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals. This Manifesto, supporting both individuals and institutions, had 71 signatories by the end of 2023.*

## **FOR CHILDREN:**

### **• Good Governance for Children**

*With this training program, we contribute to the behavioral and cultural development of children by focusing on SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities, thereby creating long-term value in society. During 2022&2023 10 training programs and 400+ children graduated from the program.*