



## **SDG16 - PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS**

Under the scope of SDG 16, the United Nations aims to reduce all forms of violence and related deaths, as well as to eliminate crimes such as child abuse, exploitation, human trafficking, and torture. At the same time, it seeks to promote the rule of law at both national and international levels, ensuring equal access to justice for all.

The UN aims to reduce illicit financial and arms flows, recover stolen assets, and strengthen the fight against organized crime by 2030. Additionally, minimizing corruption and bribery, establishing effective, transparent, and accountable institutions at all levels, and implementing inclusive and participatory decision-making processes are among the top priorities. Developing countries are also encouraged to increase their participation in global governance mechanisms.

In line with SDG 16, by 2030, it is envisioned that everyone will have access to legal identity, including birth registration while ensuring public access to information and protecting fundamental freedoms within the framework of national legislation and international agreements. Particularly in developing countries, the goal is to enhance the capacity for preventing violence, combating terrorism, and fighting crime, while also strengthening relevant national institutions through international cooperation. Furthermore, the implementation of non-discriminatory laws and policies to support sustainable development is encouraged.

In this context, the activities of Üsküdar University related to the SDG 16 label are provided below.

### **- Does your university as a body have elected representation on the university's highest governing body from:**

Üsküdar University fosters pluralism and democratic participation in all areas, beyond its main governing body (Link -1). The senate, which is the university's highest authority, consists of the rector, vice-rectors, deans, elected faculty representatives, and the student council president (Link- 2 & Link -3). The Senate oversees academic programs and regulations while determining policies regarding education, research, and publications. (Link -4). Article 4 of the "REGULATION ON ACADEMIC ORGANIZATION IN UNIVERSITIES," published in the official gazette no. 17609 dated 18.02.1982 in Republic of Türkiye, outlines that six rector candidates are chosen by faculty members, with three recommended by the Council of Higher Education for Presidential approval, following the same procedure in our institution (Link -5). The university also collaborates with the Foundation for the Protection of Humanitarian Values and Social Solidarity, which supports the university in numerous aspects.

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/basic-values>



Link 2: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/university-executive-board>

Link 3: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/university-senate>

Link 4: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/17/file/uskudar-universitesi-ana-yonetmeligi6.pdf>

Link 5:

<https://www.mevzuat.gov.tr/mevzuat?MevzuatNo=10127&MevzuatTur=7&MevzuatTertip=5>

**- Does your university as a body recognise an independent students' union?**

Üsküdar University supports the student union in protecting students' rights and meeting their educational, health, sports, and cultural needs. The university promotes coordination between its governing bodies and students, ensuring student inclusion in education-related decisions through the union (Link -1). It also encourages departmental and faculty representative elections, fostering student involvement in decision-making. Additionally, students are urged to establish clubs and collaborate with the Student Clubs' Presidency under the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports (Link -2). Many student clubs have been formed for various needs (Link -3). Each class elects a representative, one of whom becomes the department representative. A Student Council Representative is then chosen from the department representatives, attending key university meetings to voice student opinions (Link -4).

Link 1: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/ogrenci-konsevi-yonergesi-10-12-2020.pdf>

Link 2: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-ogrenci-kulupleri-yonergesi.pdf?1>

Link 3: <https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/student-clubs>

Link 4: <https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/student-council>

Student Club Activities:

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/uskubat-1-st-ordinary-general-assembly-meeting>

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/87-years-without-mehmed-akifi-ersoy>

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/cookie-corner-and-movie-activity>

<https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/en/anxiety-and-stress-management-with-positive-psychology-a-metacognitive-approach>

**- Does your university as a body have written policies and procedures to identify local stakeholders external to the university and engage with them?**

Üsküdar University adopts a participatory, innovative, enterprising, and human-oriented approach to foster global development. The university collaborates with stakeholders to



achieve its objectives, emphasizing universal academic and ethical values. According to the internal evaluation report, Üsküdar University encourages stakeholder participation in education and training activities, facilitating information sharing about their sectors. Stakeholders play an active role in education planning, graduate employment, consulting, and monitoring. The university's Quality and Accreditation Unit annually shares a cover letter (Appendix 1) and a questionnaire with external stakeholders to assess and evaluate relationships (Link -1). Additionally, a faculty-based activity report is compiled each year and included in the university's documentation (Link -2-3 and Appendix 2). Various institutions of our university are also in relations with external stakeholders (Link -4-9).

Link 1: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/dis-paydas-anketi>

Link 2: <https://kalite.uskudar.edu.tr/kurum-ici-degerlendirme-raporu>

Link 3: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/iletisim-fakultesi/faaliyet-raporu>

Link 4: <https://usatam.uskudar.edu.tr/>

Link 5: <https://usatam.uskudar.edu.tr/haberler>

Link 6: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/verimer/en>

Link 7: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/uscozum/en>

Link 8: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/satumer/en>

Link 9: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/ihamer/en>

Stakeholder Events:

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/42678/yapay-zekayla-tasarim-sergisi-acildi>

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/iletisim-fakultesi/tr/etkinlik/1897/halkla-iliskiler-ve-tanitim-ile-reklamcilik-bolumleri-dis-paydas-toplantisi-gerceklestirdi>

<https://uskudar.edu.tr/ilimer/tr/merkez-faaliyetleri>

**- Does your university as a body ensure that local stakeholders in the university, including local residents, local government, and civil society representatives (which may include groups such as refugee resettlement agencies), have a meaningful mechanism or for participating in university decision making?**

Üsküdar University collaborates with external stakeholders to advance global development and sustainability in education, research and social responsibility. In 2023, regular meetings gathered stakeholder feedback for strategic goals supported by a survey for the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan (Link -1 and Link -2). Stakeholders, including local governments and NGOs, aid in curriculum updates. The Forensic Sciences and Forensic Medicine Application Center provides expert witness services and training (Link -3, 4). VERİMER supports researchers in



data collection and analysis while adhering to ethical principles (Link- 5). The Solution Focused Women's Problems Research Center addresses gender inequality and implements gender equality projects, including training for policy makers (Link -6). The Health Tourism Application Center aims to establish Türkiye as a health tourism hub (Link -7). IHAMER, in cooperation with TİHEK, conducts human rights research and organizes seminars (Link -8).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/526/file/uskudar-universitesi-stratejik-plan-2024-2028.pdf>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/dis-paydas-anketi>

**Link 3:** <https://usatam.uskudar.edu.tr/>

**Link 4:** <https://usatam.uskudar.edu.tr/haberler>

**Link 5:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/verimer/en>

**Link 6:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/uscozum/en>

**Link 7:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/satumer/en>

**Link 8:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/ihamer/en>

**- Does your university as a body have a publication of the university's principles and commitments on organized crime, corruption & bribery?**

Üsküdar University prioritizes both universal and national laws, reflecting this commitment in its core values (Link- 1). The university emphasizes transparency and accountability across all activities. It actively participates in combating organized crime, corruption, and bribery at local and national levels. Notably, the university's procurement regulations categorically prohibit any form of bribery or corruption (Link -2). Additionally, Üsküdar University takes a firm stance against harassment and discrimination (Link -3), which is demonstrated through a transparent faculty appointment process (Link -4). To further uphold these principles, a disciplinary code is established to prevent discrimination, harassment, and all forms of misconduct (Link -5).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/basic-values>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/17/file/6-nisan-2020-uu-ihale-yonetmeligi.pdf>

**Link 3:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/taciz-yonerge-revize-son-senato-23-01-2020-003.pdf>

**Link 4:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/17/file/ogretim-uyeligine-yukseltirme-ve-atanma-usul-ve-esaslari.pdf>

**Link 5:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/654/file/ogrenci-disiplin-sorusturmasinda-uyulacak-usul-ve-esaslar-2023.pdf>



**- Does your university as a body have a policy on supporting academic freedom (freedom to choose areas of research and to speak and teach publicly about the area of their research)?**

Üsküdar University emphasizes its commitment to innovative research and practical programs (Link 1). Its mission includes educating individuals capable of generating scientific solutions to pressing problems (Link- 1). The university's logo reflects four key values: critical thinking, liberalism, pluralism, and active participation (Link -2). Democracy is a concern, as stated in its foundational document, which prohibits discrimination based on religion, language, race, nationality, gender, color, and differing viewpoints (Link - 3). The 'Feeler' statue symbolizes its human-centered approach (Link- 4). Üsküdar University encourages academics to determine their research and teaching areas (Link - 5). Additionally, the university has a Scientific Incentive Directive that rewards academics for their publications and studies (Link - 6). Established in 2011 and revised in 2021, this directive reinforces the university's commitment to academic freedom and excellence.

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/mission-vision>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/uskudar-university-logo>

**Link 3:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/certificate-of-incorporation>

**Link 4:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/the-feeler>

**Link 5:** Please see the CV of each senior or junior researcher to see the research and courses they are conducting: <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/academic-staff>

**Link 6:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/bilimsel-tesvik-2011.pdf>

**- Does your university as a body have a publication of university financial data?**

Üsküdar University diligently oversees the contentment of its students, faculty members, and administrative staff. As part of this commitment, the university steadily augments the financial resources allocated to both academic and social initiatives. Moreover, Üsküdar University places a strong emphasis on transparency and accountability in its operations. Consequently, the university openly discloses financial information.

The Council of Higher Education of Türkiye monitors the university's data including 2023 financial data on the number of scholarship students, expenditures per student, library expenditures, R&D expenditures, advertising and promotion expenditures, project expenditures, and monthly salaries paid to faculty members (Link-1).

**Link 1:** <https://www.yok.gov.tr/Documents/Yayinlar/2023-universite-izleme-ve-degerlendirme-genel-raporu.pdf>



**- Does your university as a body provide specific expert advice to local, regional or national government (e.g. through policy guidance, participation in committees, provision of evidence)?**

Üsküdar University emphasizes the practical application of academic knowledge and encourages faculty members to share their expertise with government agencies. The University and its staff are frequently invited to meetings organized by Municipalities and Governorships (Link-1). This engagement extends to interactions with national bodies as well (Link-2). The university organizes training sessions and events in cooperation with these institutions (Link-3, Link-4, Link-5). Faculty members in the Forensic Medicine and Forensic Sciences Application Research Center (Link-6) serve as official expert witnesses for Türkiye, assisting courts in their areas of expertise (Link-7). Notably, one academic has been a member of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board since 2005, overseeing the implementation of drug control conventions (Link-8).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/43504/prof-dr-nevzat-tarhan-aile-akademisi-aile-asisi-gibi-olacak>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/iletisim-fakultesi/tr/etkinlik/1830/anadolu-universiteleri-belgesel-film-projeleri-sunum-pitching-etkinligi>

**Link 3:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/40962/ambassadors-for-sustainable-volunteering-workshopwas-held>

**Link 4:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/42031/uskudardan-deprem-bolgesine-okul-oncesi-egitim-materyali-destegi>

**Link 5:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/cocuk-haklarinin-izlenmesi-kuresel-ornekler>

**Link 6:** <https://usatam.uskudar.edu.tr/ekibimiz/ihtisas-daireleri>

**Link 7:** <https://rayp.adalet.gov.tr/resimler/494/dosya/bilirkisilistesi28-10-202212-41-pm.pdf>

**Link 8:** [https://www.incb.org/incb/en/about/members/sevil\\_atasoy.html](https://www.incb.org/incb/en/about/members/sevil_atasoy.html)

**- Does your university as a body provide outreach, general education, upskilling and capacity-building to policy- and law-makers on relevant topics e.g. economics, law, technology, migration and displacement, and climate change?**

Üsküdar University prioritizes organizing events to inform policymakers and society about global issues, aiming to support development, sustainability, and peace. The university hosts events to facilitate integration between Turkish and international students on migration (Link - 1). Academic staff publishes articles to combat discrimination (Link- 2) and provides information on the global water crisis (Link - 3). Additionally, Üsküdar University organized international events titled “Monitoring Children’s Rights: Global Examples” to encourage activism (Link - 4). The Department of Forensic Sciences, the first of its kind in Türkiye, aims to



enhance justice services and train experts in various fields. The Criminal Justice graduate program within the Institute of Forensic Sciences is a first in Türkiye providing education in Forensic Chemistry and Forensic Toxicology to aid in gathering evidence for criminal acts (Link - 5, 6, 7).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/12632/uluslararası-ogrenciler-afrika-gunu-etkinliginde-bulustu>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/8840/yabancı-dusmanligi-nasil-onlenir>

**Link 3:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/42017/individual-measures-to-fight-with-the-global-water-crisis-can-be-a-savior>

**Link 4:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/cocuk-haklarinin-izlenmesi-kuresel-ornekler>

**Link 5:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/mdbf/en/forensic-science>

**Link 6:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/babe/en/criminal-justice-thesisnon-thesis-masters-degree>

**Link 7:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/babe/en/forensic-chemistry-and-forensic-toxicology-masters-degree>

**- Does your university as a body undertake policy-focused research in collaboration with government departments?**

Üsküdar University supports global and national development by raising generations aware of world problems. It provides education and plans research activities. The R&D Directorate and Technology Transfer Office collaborate with external stakeholders to enhance research (Link-1, Link-2). State institutions are vital for funding and outreach. TÜBİTAK supports projects from Üsküdar's academic staff and students (Link-3, Link-8). The university conducts collaborative research on critical topics, including environmental pollutants, Alzheimer's (Link-9), civil society (Link-10), social innovation (Link-11), and volunteering (Link-12). The Department of Forensic Sciences offers training on Evidence Collection in Sexual Assault for Ministry of Health physicians three times a year (Link-13, Link-14). A protocol with public health laboratories aims to improve analysis of new psychoactive substances (NPS). One of our academicians serves on the advisory board of Tübitak UME (Link-15).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/uu-teknoloji-transfer-ofisi-tto-yonergesi.pdf?1>

**Link 2:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/assets/uploads/sayfa/18/file/u-u-argev-yonergesi.pdf>

**Link 3:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/40952/an-outstanding-tubitak-success-from-the-faculty-of-health-sciences>

**Link 4:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/42000/a-tubitak-success-by-receiving-a-score-in-molecular-biology-and-genetics>





**Link 5:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/8992/uskudarli-arastirmacilar-tubitak-ta-bir-basariya-daha-imza-atti>

**Link 6:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/8997/researchers-from-uskudar-achieved-another-success-at-tubitak>

**Link 7:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/9052/tubitak-will-support-more-projects-of-28-uskudar-students>

**Link 8:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/42369/tubitak-support-to-students-continues-increasingly>

**Link 9:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/9075/two-more-projects-will-be-supported-within-the-tuseb-rd-projects>

**Link 10:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/8847/first-step-was-taken-for-the-ngos-at-university-project>

**Link 11:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/41606/dort-mevsim-guzel-insan-olmak-sosyal-inovasyon-model-projesi-basariyla-tamamlandi>

**Link 12:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/40962/ambassadors-for-sustainable-volunteering-workshop-was-held>

**Link 13:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/en/icerik/12577/sexual-assault-evidence-collection-and-evidence-safety-educator-training-was-organized>

**Link 14:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/icerik/12619/cinsel-saldirida-delil-toplama-ve-delil-guvenligi-egitimine-yogun-ilgi>

**Link 15:** <https://www.ume.tubitak.gov.tr/tr/haber/tubitak-ulusal-metroloji-enstitusu-2024-danisma-kurulu-toplantisi>

**- Does your university as a body provide a neutral platform and "safe" space for different political stakeholders to come together to frankly discuss challenges?**

Üsküdar University actively promotes a diversity of thought and democratic engagement across its administration, research initiatives, and overall activities. This dedication is reflected in its educational curriculum, which presents students with a variety of perspectives. Moreover, the university's research centers, which embrace a wide range of worldviews and research areas, function as platforms that bring together diverse political actors (Link -1). Additionally, the university fosters an open environment through its student clubs, where individuals with different ideologies collaborate on events, facilitating the convergence of various political viewpoints (Link -2).

**Link 1:** <https://uskudar.edu.tr/tr/uygulama-ve-arastirma-merkezleri>

**Link 2:** <https://sks.uskudar.edu.tr/ogrenci-kulupleri>





– Total number of graduates of the university: 5732

- Number of graduates taking courses in Law, Forensic Sciences, Criminology, Criminal Psychology, Law Enforcement Legislation and similar courses: 2945