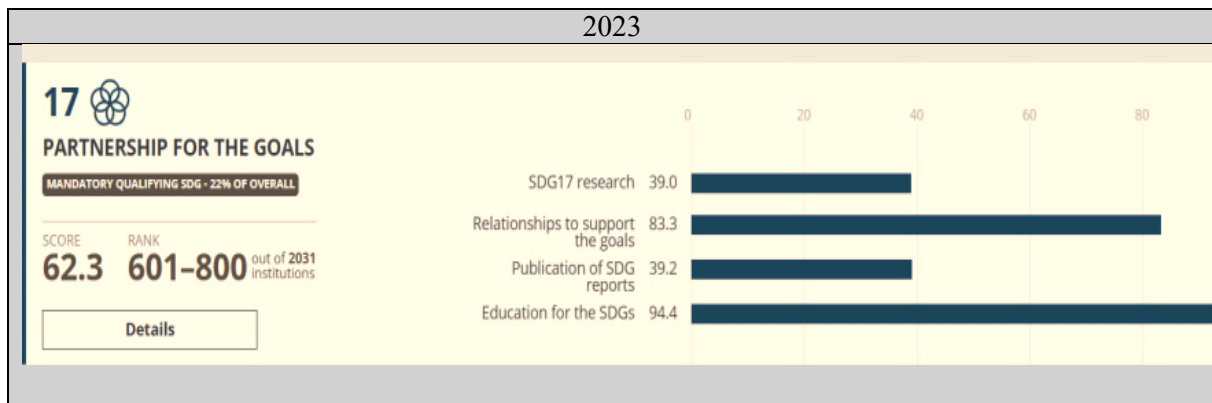
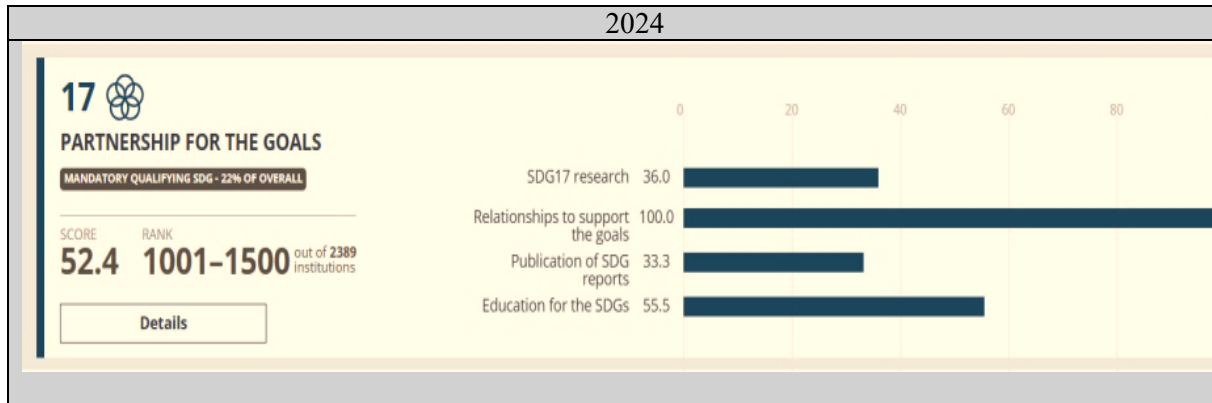




SDG17 - PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

➔ Our university's SDG 17 ranking scores in THE WUR for 2023 and 2024 are as follows:



According to the 2023–2024 scores:

- The percentage decrease in the SDG 17 Research score is -7.6% .
- The percentage increase in the National and International Collaboration score is 8.07% (full score: 100).
- The percentage decrease in the SDG Reports score is -15% .
- The percentage decrease in the Education score is -41.2% .

Overall, a -15.8% decrease in the overall score has been recorded over the past year.



17.2.1- Does your university have direct involvement in or provide input to SDG policy development with national governments or regional civil society organizations, including identifying problems and challenges; developing policies and strategies; modeling possible futures with and without interventions; monitoring and reporting on interventions; and enabling adaptive management?

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNESCO “Center of Excellence” award (Not national) • Journal of Happiness and Well-Being (Indirect) • Publications such as Al-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth under the leadership of the UN Environment Programme (Not national – indirect) • Prof. Dr. Sevil Atasoy, Vice Rector of Üsküdar University, served as a member of the UN International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) during 2015–2022 (Not national – indirect) • “NGOs at the University” project • Eight examples of direct participation in SDG policy development processes of national governments or NGOs, including the policies and strategies developed within these processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Strategic Plan, Objectives 3 and 6 • Quality assurance reports • List of stakeholder public institutions, organizations, and NGOs • “NGOs at the University Working Group” and related activities • List of Research and Application Centers • List of Working Groups • Fourteen examples of direct participation in SDG policy development processes of national governments or NGOs, including the policies and strategies developed within these processes

17.2.2 – Does your university, as an institution, initiate and participate in cross-sectoral dialogue on the Sustainable Development Goals, for example through conferences involving government bodies and/or NGOs?

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended Faculty Meetings • External Stakeholder Partnerships • NGOs and the University Project • KASTOB & Üsküdar University Collaboration • Six example events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutional Strategic Plan • 24 events organized by the “NGOs at the University Working Group” • Courses and training programs offered by the Continuing Education Center • Quantitative data showing the increase in SDG-focused sectoral collaborations • 43 events related to cross-sectoral dialogue



17.2.3- Does your university, as an institution, participate in international cooperation on data collection or measurement for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Academic staff tagging their academic, teaching, and social activities with the SDGs in their CVs • United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) • 28 events and protocols 	<p>Collaborations for measurement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UI GreenMetric World University Rankings • Times Higher Education (THE) 2025 Impact Rankings • UNESCO TWAS Center of Excellence • Comparison of the number of Erasmus agreements for 2023–2024 <p>Collaborations for data collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International institutional participation: attendance at NAFSA (USA), EAIE (France), ERACON (Portugal), and EURIE (Istanbul) fairs • Participation in international project management and consortium activities • 2024 International Partners Summit • Turquality Brand Support Program • 23 events and protocols

17.2.4- Does your university, as an institution, review comparative approaches and develop international best practices for addressing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through international cooperation and research?

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate agenda • Sharing key initiatives with partner institutions at G20–N20 meetings • Launch of the Turquality Program • Sustainable Development Club • International Student Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic Plan – Objective 4 • Strategic Plan PESTLE Analysis for identifying sectoral trends • Collaborations: • Active collaborations with international organizations such as UNESCO TWAS, the World Health Organization (WHO), EAIE, and EURIE • Regular participation in the EAIE Conference • Participation in the NAFSA Annual Conference and Expo • Participation in the Eurasian Higher Education Summit • List of Erasmus Agreements



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration with KASTOB and other civil society organizations (national) • Prof. Dr. Sevil Atasoy – Member of the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accreditations: FEDEK, MÜDEK, İLED, EAQUALS, TEPDAD, ISO, TS EN ISO/IEC 15189:2014 • Research: • 2024 international publication data of our Research and Application Centers and Working Groups • Nine engagements conducted for international collaboration • International symposia and events (22 examples) • Example of Good Practice: • BrainPark Technology Transfer Office • 5th place in the Education Services ranking of the Service Exporters’ Association
--	---

17.2.5- Does your university, as an institution, collaborate with non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to address the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

2023	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Development Student Club • “NGOs at the University” project • “Remember Me” social responsibility project in collaboration with Darülaceze • Gaza Humanitarian Crisis Symposium • “Sustainable Volunteer Ambassadors” workshop • TÜBİTAK project – research conducted in the Hatay earthquake region • Three events 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • List of collaboration protocols signed with NGOs • Social innovation models and projects developed within the framework of NGO collaborations • Decision to establish the Social Contribution Coordination Office • Training sessions and workshops conducted by the NGOs at the University Working Group • Allocated budget to support NGOs in social responsibility projects • 17 events carried out in collaboration with NGOs

17.3.1. Üsküdar University continued to strengthen its student-centered social support policies in line with SDG 1 – No Poverty during the 2023–2024 period. Although the total number of students decreased from 17,123 in 2023 to 15,958 in 2024, the scope and impact of support provided to low-income students were expanded. The number of students receiving financial assistance from low-income families increased from 5,678 in 2023 to 6,260 in 2024. Similarly, the number of fully funded (full-scholarship) students, which stood at 885 in 2023, rose by 41 students in 2024, increasing their share of the total student population from 5.17% to 5.80%. This increase—covering families of martyrs and veterans as well as students affected by earthquakes—demonstrates the university’s strengthened commitment to equal access and social justice. Regarding graduation outcomes, aligned with targets of 82% for undergraduate and 78% for associate degree programs in 2023, a 76% graduation target for low-income students was set for 2024. An integrated package of supports was provided, including scholarships, on-



campus part-time employment opportunities, free psychological counseling, discounts on health and dental services, and free campus–metro transportation. While meal, transportation, and part-time work supports were maintained in 2023, these were transformed into a comprehensive social support ecosystem in 2024; free food support during exam periods was introduced, and discounted access to basic needs was enabled through collaborations with 24 partner institutions. In terms of societal impact, the community-based activities that expanded in 2023 were further broadened in 2024; through collaboration with the Tarhan IDER Foundation, TRY 12.6 million in social assistance was delivered in 2024. In local development and entrepreneurship, the BrainPark supports continued from 2023 were strengthened in 2024 by providing in-kind support worth TRY 6.5 million to 13 initiatives and allocating TRY 1 million for youth projects within the scope of the Science and Ideas Festival. These comparative data indicate that, despite the decline in student numbers, Üsküdar University enhanced both the quantity and quality of anti-poverty supports in 2024, achieving more inclusive and effective progress toward SDG 1.

17.3.2. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its policies on campus food security, sustainable nutrition, and reducing food waste in line with SDG 2 – Zero Hunger. Although the total number of students declined from 17,123 in 2023 to 15,494 in 2024, food management and student support mechanisms became more systematic and measurable. In the 2023–2024 period, methods for measuring and monitoring food waste were refined; canteen and cafeteria waste began to be tracked not only through estimates but also via containers of defined capacities and daily observational records. During this process, the awareness campaign “Take what you eat, finish what you take” was expanded, the university obtained the Zero Waste Certificate, and waste data were transferred to digital platforms in line with transparency principles. According to 2024 data, 462 kg of non-recyclable waste, 12,345 kg of separated recyclable waste, and 1,951 kg of partially separated waste were recorded. To address student food insecurity, needs-based meal and work scholarships implemented in 2023 were transformed into a structured program in 2024; free daily meals and a subsidized meal system were introduced for students experiencing financial hardship. During examination periods, free soup, bread, and beverages continued to be provided; new practices such as emergency funds and sharing meals produced in nutrition laboratories with students in need were also implemented. In campus dining services, vegetarian and vegan options were standardized, plant-based protein–focused menus were offered two days per week, and seasonality and local sourcing were prioritized in menu planning. While supplier sustainability was reported at a limited level in 2023, it was concretely documented in 2024 through local producer partnerships, memberships in sustainable food platforms, and Good Agricultural Practices certifications. The number of graduates increased from 3,859 in 2023 to 3,936 in 2024; graduates from agriculture- and sustainability-related programs showed a slight decrease from 724 to 718. In addition, in 2024 the university actively contributed to the 1st Savings and Waste Symposium and the 3rd International Food Chemistry Congress, strengthening knowledge exchange among local producers, academics, and public stakeholders. These comparative data demonstrate that, despite the decline in student numbers, Üsküdar University achieved more systematic, measurable, and institutionalized progress in food security, sustainable nutrition, and reducing food waste in 2024.



17.3.3. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its education, research, community service, and policy contributions in line with SDG 3 – Good Health and Well-Being, both quantitatively and qualitatively. According to THE WUR data, the university’s overall SDG 3 score increased from 69.5 in 2023 to 72.9 in 2024, with a particularly notable +9.8-point increase in the partnerships and health services indicator. While the total number of graduates was 3,376 in 2023, this rose to 3,936 in the 2024–2025 period; the number of graduates in health-related fields increased from 1,712 to 1,785, indicating a strengthened health workforce capacity. National and international health collaborations that became institutionalized in 2023 were expanded in 2024 to include partners such as East West University, the University of Crete, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the Global Neurotechnology Consortium; significant grant success was also achieved under the Erasmus+ KA171 program. In the area of local health services, following the establishment of Üsküdar Dental Hospital in 2023, the School-Age Hearing Screening Protocol was signed in 2024, expanding community-based health services. In terms of scientific research, the increase in congress participation and publications observed in 2023 was advanced further in 2024 through the MESSAGE experiment, conducted as part of Türkiye’s first human space mission, as well as editorial roles in international journals. In community health and well-being, volunteerism and post-disaster psychosocial support activities that were institutionalized in 2023 expanded in 2024 to nearly 40 community engagement and volunteer initiatives; academic studies aimed at raising public awareness on migration, xenophobia, and refugee rights also increased. Mental health supports for students and staff were secured in 2023 through regulations and access mechanisms, and were further strengthened in 2024 through digital appointment systems and scientific events such as the 6th International Positive Psychology Congress. In addition, the Smoke-Free Campus Policy, integrated into the strategic plan in 2023, continued in 2024 with new awareness seminars and addiction prevention coordination structures, reinforcing the university’s commitment to creating a healthy, safe, and inclusive campus environment.

These comparative indicators demonstrate that, in 2024, Üsküdar University achieved more systematic, measurable, and increasingly impactful progress toward the objectives of SDG 3.

17.3.4. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University continued to develop its institutional policies and practices aimed at strengthening inclusive, accessible, and high-quality education in line with SDG 4 – Quality Education. According to the THE World University Rankings SDG 4 indicators, a limited decrease of 1.3% in the overall score was observed in the 2023–2024 comparison; however, significant structural improvements were recorded across sub-indicators. During this period, the proportion of graduates with teaching qualifications increased by 2.1%, while the share of first-generation university students rose by 12.1%, indicating enhanced inclusivity in access to education. Although there was a 2.4% decrease in the research indicator and a 22.6% decrease in lifelong learning metrics, new policies and practices implemented in 2024 supported qualitative transformation in these areas. One of the standout initiatives of 2024 was the transformation of the long-standing Positive Psychology course into a live, interactive, and free online program open to all segments of society. This eight-week program attracted strong participation from individuals across diverse age groups and professions. In the same



year, an open-access platform was launched within library services, enabling free public access to books and articles authored by university academics, thereby strengthening equal access to educational resources. At the institutional level, the Governance, Education and Training, Research and Development, Sustainability, Social Contribution, Internationalization, and Distance Education Policies adopted in 2024 integrated principles of quality, equity, and lifelong learning into the educational ecosystem. In addition, updated regulations on international student admissions, student clubs, scholarships, distance education, support for students with disabilities, and the prevention of discrimination demonstrate the institutionalization of a fair learning environment for all individuals, regardless of gender, socioeconomic status, disability, or nationality. These comparative indicators show that, despite quantitative fluctuations, Üsküdar University built a more inclusive, accessible, and sustainable model of quality education in 2024, aligned with the objectives of SDG 4.

17.3.5. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its policies aimed at women’s access to education, academic advancement, and institutional representation in line with SDG 5 – Gender Equality, both quantitatively and qualitatively. According to the THE WUR SDG 5 indicators, the university recorded an overall improvement of 1.1% between 2023 and 2024; notable gains were achieved particularly in student access metrics (16.9%), indicators related to women’s academic advancement (13.4%), and SDG 5–related research outputs (5.5%). Although the total number of students declined from 17,123 in 2023 to 15,958 in 2024, the number of first-generation female students increased from 1,579 to 1,615, indicating that inclusivity in women’s access to higher education was maintained. While there was a numerical decrease in the number of newly enrolled female students between 2023 and 2024, the ÜSÇÖZÜM monitoring dashboard, implemented since 2022 to track and support these students, was updated and publicly shared in 2024. At the institutional policy level, the Gender Equality Action Plan and the Directive on the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination remained in force; additionally, the quota for women aged 34 and above, implemented by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) in 2024, was introduced as a complementary support mechanism. Regarding academic and administrative representation, the number of senior academic positions increased from 282 in 2023 to 293 in 2024, while the number of women academics holding these positions rose from 136 to 137. Graduation data indicate that the total number of graduates reached 3,900 in 2024; notably, the number of female graduates in STEM fields increased from 320 to 511, and in medicine and health sciences from 1,106 to 1,209. Mentorship, scholarship, and support mechanisms, built upon initiatives launched in 2023, were institutionalized in 2024 under the Social Contribution Coordination Office. Support measures for women students and staff with caregiving responsibilities—including flexible course arrangements, online education options, childcare rooms, and nursery protocols—continued as in previous years. These comparative indicators demonstrate that, in 2024, Üsküdar University strengthened gender equality not only at the policy level but also through measured, monitored, and institutionalized practices, achieving steady and evidence-based progress toward the goals of SDG 5.

17.3.6. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University continued its systematic efforts in water management, water conservation, and public awareness in line with SDG 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation. Despite stagnation and declines in some indicators, the university achieved significant



structural progress in the areas of policy, awareness, and governance. According to THE WUR data, while the university's overall SDG 6 score showed a 5.5-point decrease in the 2023–2024 comparison, the SDG 6 research indicator improved by 3.6 points, strengthening academic contributions to water management. Total water consumption was measured at 27,856 m³ in 2022 and 35,074 m³ in 2023; in the 2024–2025 period, this figure declined to 31,566.53 m³, demonstrating the effective continuation of monitoring and control mechanisms. The university regularly monitors water consumption across all campuses and maintained water-saving building standards throughout 2023–2024, including sensor-activated taps, dual-flush toilets, sensor-operated urinals, and 722 aerators. These systems—documented to achieve up to 50% water savings—were more robustly reported in 2024. Wastewater management was carried out in compliance with regulations under the infrastructure of the Istanbul Water and Sewerage Administration in both periods; measures to prevent pollutants from entering the water system—such as sealing storm drains and routine maintenance—continued. Free and safe access to drinking water was ensured in 2023–2024 through water dispensers, membrane filtration systems, and regular analyses; in 2024, this practice was institutionalized through the Directive on Ensuring Uninterrupted Water Supply. In landscape management, low-water-demand plants, sprinkler systems, and seasonal irrigation restrictions were applied in both periods, with climate-data-supported reporting expanded in 2024. In the areas of water reuse and water ethics, initiatives such as the Al-Mizan Earth Covenant, the work of the Sustainability Coordination Office, and GreenMetric applications advanced the process initiated in 2023; the university scored 675 out of 1,000 in the GreenMetric Water Management category, making its performance internationally visible. In education and public awareness, activities that were largely limited to course content in 2023 expanded significantly in 2024 to include graduate-level courses, the 1st Savings and Waste Symposium, Science and Ideas Festival projects, and extensive media engagement. As a result, water conservation awareness was disseminated systematically both on and off campus. These comparative findings indicate that, despite declines in some quantitative indicators in 2024, Üsküdar University developed a governance model that records, monitors, and integrates water management with societal impact, achieving qualitatively strengthened progress toward the objectives of SDG 6.

17.3.7. During the 2022–2024 period, Üsküdar University achieved a holistic progression toward SDG 7 – Affordable and Clean Energy, transitioning from project-based practices to institutional policy and governance in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy transition, and carbon management. According to the THE WUR SDG 7 indicators, while the overall score declined from 56.7 to 41.2 in the 2023–2024 comparison, the energy-themed research indicator increased (34.1 → 34.9), indicating that the university sustained its academic output in sustainable energy. The process, which began in 2022 with compliance with national regulations and project-based implementations, was institutionalized in 2023 through energy efficiency assessment reports and preparations for the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan. In 2024, energy management was formalized and made traceable through the Sustainability Policy and the establishment of the Sustainability Coordination Office. During the same period, energy efficiency in existing buildings was enhanced, smart building automation systems and LED lighting were widely implemented; with the Solar Power Plant (SPP) commissioned in 2024, an annual electricity generation target of 392,827 kWh was set, projecting an 18% reduction in total energy consumption. In terms of



carbon management, the Smoke-Free Campus initiative launched in 2022 was formalized via a directive in 2023, and in 2024 was integrated into institutional policies through a hybrid vehicle fleet, carbon footprint monitoring systems, and strategic plan targets. Efforts to reduce energy waste, which began in 2022 with savings reports, progressed to campus-based measurements in 2023 and to professional monitoring and reporting supported by external consultancy in 2024. Within the framework of a policy to avoid fossil fuel investments, contracts were signed in 2024 with licensed companies to convert waste oils into biodiesel, supporting the transition to renewable energy with tangible investments. In the dimension of social impact, the university has conducted energy efficiency awareness activities since 2022; contributed to global policy discussions in 2023 through international environmental initiatives and the COP28 report; and in 2024 expanded clean energy awareness to broader audiences via media outreach, seminars, Science and Ideas Festival projects, and TENMAK visits. Additionally, through the Power and Machines Laboratory established within the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering and the BrainPark Incubation Center, the university provided consultancy to local industry, supported low-carbon technology development, and fostered 15 active start-ups and patent-oriented initiatives. These comparative indicators demonstrate that, despite ranking fluctuations under SDG 7, Üsküdar University has, as of 2024, established an institutionalized and sustainable energy management model that integrates energy efficiency, renewable energy, carbon management, and societal impact.

17.3.8. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its institutional practices related to employment, working conditions, economic sustainability, and human rights–based governance in line with SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, both quantitatively and qualitatively. According to the THE WUR SDG 8 indicators, the university’s overall score increased by 33.85% in the 2023–2024 comparison; particularly notable progress was recorded in secure contracts (36.73%), workplace practices (35.92%), expenditure per employee (26.01%), and student job/internship placements (a 1000% increase). The university provides all academic and administrative staff with regular, lawful, and living-wage–based remuneration. Administrative staff salaries are above the minimum wage, while academic staff salaries are aligned with the framework set by the Council of Higher Education and may be increased based on performance. Freedom to establish and join trade unions is recognized as a constitutional right for all employees, including women and international staff; a zero-tolerance policy against discrimination based on religion, gender, age, or similar grounds is enforced under the Directive on the Prevention of Harassment and Discrimination. Institutional commitments against forced labor, modern slavery, human trafficking, and child labor are secured through compliance with relevant legislation and the activities of the Human Rights Studies Application and Research Center; in 2024, the university’s stance on these issues was further reinforced by a Senate decision. In outsourced services (security, cleaning, catering, etc.), third-party workers are ensured equal rights, and the principle of “equal pay for equal work” is monitored within the scope of the Gender Equality Action Plan (2022–2026). The number of employees increased from 1,136 in 2022 to 1,166 in 2023, while the number of academic staff rose from 518 to 563; the number of employees with contracts longer than 24 months increased from 557 to 781, strengthening job security. University expenditures rose from TRY 710 million to TRY 1.7 billion over the same period, reflecting institutional growth and economic contribution. While the student population was 17,123 in 2023, the number of students completing



internships longer than one month increased from 97 to 1,203, representing one of the most striking developments supporting students' transition into the labor market. These comparative indicators demonstrate that, as of 2024, Üsküdar University has strengthened decent work, inclusive employment, and sustainable economic growth through a holistic governance approach, aligned with the objectives of SDG 8.

17.3.9. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University achieved steady progress under SDG 9 – Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure by strengthening research, innovation, and industry collaborations. According to the THE Impact Rankings data, the university's overall SDG 9 score increased from 38.7 in 2023 to 39.4 in 2024, representing a 1.81% improvement. The most prominent driver of this progress was the SDG 9 research outputs indicator, which rose from 9.6 to 13.8, marking a notable 43.75% increase. The patent indicator, reflecting innovation performance, also showed substantial growth, increasing from 4.2 to 6.9 (+64.29%). In terms of industry collaboration, while the number of university spin-off companies remained constant at 16 in both periods, total research income from industry and commerce increased by 74.20%, rising from TRY 2,632,724 to TRY 4,586,233. This growth was particularly concentrated in specific fields: medical research income increased by 391.83%, and social sciences and humanities research income rose by 238.37%. Over the same period, academic capacity also expanded; the total number of academic staff increased from 563 to 646 (+14.74%), driven especially by growth in the social sciences and humanities (51.75%) and STEM fields (38.33%). These comparative indicators demonstrate that, as of 2024, Üsküdar University has established a research and innovation ecosystem that deepens industry engagement, enhances innovative outputs, and simultaneously strengthens infrastructure and human capital, delivering measurable and sustainable progress toward the objectives of SDG 9.

17.3.10. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its institutional policies on inclusivity, equal access, and human rights–based governance with measurable indicators, in line with SDG 10 – Reduced Inequalities. According to THE WUR data, the university's overall SDG 10 score increased by 2.1% during this period; notable increases were recorded in the share of first-generation students (12.5%), the proportion of staff with disabilities (6.5%), and SDG 10–related research outputs (1.3%). Although the total student population declined from 17,123 to 15,958 between 2023 and 2024, inclusive policies and support mechanisms were strengthened at the institutional level. The number of first-generation students decreased from 2,443 to 2,118 (–13.3%), a trend associated with changing socioeconomic conditions and student preferences; this informed the restructuring of scholarships, mentoring, and support programs. While the number of international students from developing countries fell from 2,845 to 1,852, the university addressed this shift as a structural risk and linked inclusive internationalization policies to strategic plan indicators. The number of students with disabilities decreased from 793 to 661; nevertheless, campus accessibility, academic accommodations, and digital application processes were standardized and expanded through the Disabled Student Unit. On the employment dimension, the total number of employees increased from 1,166 to 1,286 (approximately +10%); the limited decrease in the number of staff with disabilities was attributed to retirements and position changes. The 2024 report indicates that, compared to 2023, the university's approach to equality and inclusivity has moved from principles to practice. Through the Gender Equality Action Plan,



ENMER, ÜSÇÖZÜM, İHAMER, and related units, concrete programs, mentoring, psychological counseling, and peer support mechanisms for women, persons with disabilities, disadvantaged groups, and international communities have been institutionalized. These comparative findings demonstrate that, as of 2024, despite quantitative fluctuations, Üsküdar University has developed a mature and sustainable inclusivity governance model under SDG 10, completing the policy–implementation–evidence cycle.

17.3.11. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University adopted a holistic approach under SDG 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, focusing on the protection of cultural heritage, public access, sustainable campus practices, and local partnerships. According to THE WUR data, the university’s overall SDG 11 score declined by 7.8 points between 2023 and 2024; this decrease was mainly driven by reductions in research outputs (–6.2 points) and support for arts and cultural heritage (–31.9%). Despite this, a 5.5% increase was achieved in the sustainable practices category, indicating progress in structural and long-term transformation areas. Through the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports and student clubs, the university continued to support public and student access to cultural and natural heritage sites within and beyond Istanbul by organizing regular visits. Its academic and ethical stance on cultural and natural environments was strengthened through policy texts such as the Al-Mizan Earth Covenant, the Global Well-Being Manifesto, and the Islamic Environmental Ethics Forum. Libraries and digital resources were made accessible to external users through open-access policies and remote access infrastructure, while public knowledge sharing was expanded via scientific events, research center activities, and university media outlets. Expenditure on arts and cultural heritage increased by 39.32% from 2023 to 2024, rising from TRY 3,938,750 to TRY 5,487,350, demonstrating the university’s institutional investment in cultural sustainability. Free access to green and open spaces on campus was maintained, and public use was strengthened through Memorial Forest initiatives, joint activities with civil society organizations, and open academic events. Practices related to sustainable transportation, remote working, and carbon reduction were elevated to the institutional level through zero-carbon targets integrated into the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, supported by the adaptive reuse of existing buildings in line with sustainability standards, zero-waste practices, and GreenMetric results. These comparative findings indicate that, as of 2024, despite short-term performance fluctuations, Üsküdar University has embraced an institutionalized, ethics-based, and long-term transformation approach in cultural heritage, public access, and sustainable urbanism under SDG 11.

17.3.12. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University developed a holistic institutional approach aligned with SDG 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production, encompassing ethical procurement, waste management, reduction of plastic use, and circular economy principles. All food products served in university cafeterias in both years were prepared in compliance with health and ethical standards, under the supervision of food engineers and dietitians; menus were designed by the Menu Planning Committee and approved by the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports. Supplier companies were monitored through regular on-site inspections, hygiene checklists, sample analysis reports, and observation audit reports; in 2024, the documentation and verifiability of these inspections were further strengthened. In the area of waste management, the Waste Management Procedure implemented in 2023 continued in 2024 with an expanded scope; to prevent organic waste, the Hot Meal Preparation



Procedure and the Storage Conditions Procedure were standardized. For waste oil management, grease trap systems were actively used in both years; in 2024, processes were transparently reported through contracts with licensed companies and annual waste oil quantity tables. Inorganic waste was separated at source and delivered to municipalities, while single-use plastic cups were completely eliminated and replaced with a thermos-use system, significantly reducing plastic consumption. Toxic and hazardous waste was safely stored in temporary storage areas and transferred to licensed organizations; compliance with legislation was documented through Zero Waste Certificates. Throughout 2023–2024, the amounts of waste generated, recycled, and sent to landfill across the university were regularly measured and recorded in Environmental Analysis Reports. Policies aimed at reducing plastics and single-use products were supported through scientific and community activities such as the Environmental Ethics Platform, World Environment Day events, and the 4th International Food Chemistry Congress. This approach was also extended to outsourced services and the supply chain, being integrated into procurement contracts and service protocols. In addition, the university regularly reported its sustainability activities and shared them with the public. These comparative indicators demonstrate that, as of 2024, Üsküdar University has institutionalized responsible consumption and production across policy, practice, and measurement dimensions, achieving mature and evidence-based progress toward the objectives of SDG 12.

17.3.13. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University strengthened its environmental, social, and governance (ESG)–based initiatives in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, both in scope and impact. Carbon footprint calculation and environmental performance monitoring efforts launched at the institutional level in 2023 were made more systematic in 2024; indicators such as total energy consumption, low-carbon energy sources, waste management, and green space ratios began to be regularly monitored. In the same period, energy efficiency investments increased, recycling volumes rose, and sustainability indicators were aligned with strategic plan targets. As of 2024, the range of training programs, symposia, and certification programs on climate change, environmental sustainability, and disaster awareness expanded across the university; the integration of climate, environmental health, and sustainability themes into curricula became more widespread. Beyond academic work, social innovation projects, student clubs, and community engagement activities helped extend climate awareness, environmental ethics, and a culture of sustainable living to society at large. Throughout 2023–2024, the university increased collaborations with local governments, public institutions, civil society organizations, and international platforms, contributing scientific input to policy discussions on climate change, migration, disaster management, and environmental risks. This progress demonstrates that Üsküdar University’s sustainability approach goes beyond aspirational statements, maturing into a comprehensive and integrated model in 2024 grounded in measurable indicators, institutional structures, and societal impact–oriented practices.

17.3.14. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University maintained a holistic approach under SDG 14 – Life Below Water, grounded in education, research, and ethics, focusing on the protection of aquatic ecosystems, sustainable fisheries, pollution prevention, and public awareness. According to the THE WUR SDG 14 indicators, the university’s overall score declined by 11.63% in the 2023–2024 comparison, with decreases concentrated particularly in water-sensitive waste management (–16.8 points) and SDG 14 research outputs (–9.4 points). Nevertheless, stability was maintained in indicators



related to education and practice supporting aquatic ecosystems, protection of local ecosystems, and sustainable procurement policies. In 2023, the Environmental Health Associate Degree Program offered within the Vocational School of Health Services integrated topics such as freshwater ecosystems, water quality, ecology, and environmental impact assessment into the curriculum. In 2024, this approach was expanded and reinforced at undergraduate and graduate levels through courses including Ecology, Environmental Health, Environmental Sociology, Environmental Journalism, Environmental Sustainability, and Nature Education. Awareness-raising activities conducted by academics through media and social media, along with contributions from student clubs, increased further in 2024. The impacts of fisheries and aquaculture on ecosystems were analyzed within the scope of the MARTERA Project, initiated in 2023 and continued through the end of 2024, providing field-based contributions to sustainable fisheries management. At the level of institutional ethics, the Environmental Ethics Forum established in 2023, the Post-Pandemic Global Well-Being Manifesto, and the Al-Mizan Earth Covenant, to which the university contributed, continued in 2024 to serve as guiding frameworks for the protection of marine, lake, and river ecosystems, as well as for preventing plastic and microplastic pollution and overfishing and illegal fishing. Procurement of seafood products for university cafeterias was conducted in both periods in compliance with national and international sustainable fisheries standards, with technical specifications and supplier criteria strengthened in 2024. Through the PROMER and BIOTEKMER laboratories, research on aquatic ecosystems, biosensors, pollution, and biodiversity continued; during 2023–2024, 11 new research projects were launched, further supporting academic capacity. Wastewater and hazardous waste management was carried out in both years in accordance with İSKİ regulations and the Zero Waste Management System, while plastic reduction was supported through water dispensers and awareness campaigns. These comparative findings indicate that, despite quantitative performance fluctuations in 2024, Üsküdar University developed a mature aquatic ecosystem governance model that integrates ethics, education, research, and public awareness, providing a long-term and institutionalized contribution toward the objectives of SDG 14.

17.3.15. During the 2023–2024 period, Üsküdar University achieved multidimensional progress under SDG 15 – Life on Land, advancing from awareness-based activities to scientific research, practical implementation, and institutional policies. According to THE WUR data, the university’s overall SDG 15 score increased from 34.0% in 2023 to 46.8% in 2024, representing a remarkable 37.6% improvement. The most striking development was observed in the SDG 15 research indicator, where performance rose from 2.2% to 33.1%, corresponding to an extraordinary 1404.5% increase. This demonstrates a clear shift toward a research-driven approach in the areas of terrestrial ecosystems and biodiversity. While activities in 2023 were largely limited to forest fire awareness and environmental awareness events, 2024 saw a significant expansion into wildlife conservation projects, propagation of endemic species, forensic genetics and CRISPR-based research, TÜBİTAK 1001–funded projects, and academic, multidisciplinary initiatives such as the “Green Transformation, Animal Rights, and Veganism Summit.” In the field of sustainable food production on campus, isolated practices in 2023 (e.g., contracts for the collection of plant-based waste oils) evolved in 2024 into a coherent theory–practice integration through the introduction of courses such as Agroecology, Environment and Organic Agriculture, and Organic Agriculture Technology, alongside collaborations with sustainable suppliers



and student-centered applied projects. Regarding the protection of ecosystems and biodiversity, 2023 primarily emphasized conference papers and awareness texts, whereas 2024 marked the adoption of a scientific conservation approach through laboratory-based research, *in vitro* propagation studies, and genetic editing technologies. In community education, content that was limited in scope in 2023 was strengthened in 2024 through courses such as Environmental Sustainability, Environmental Journalism, and Laboratory Technology, as well as field studies conducted with local stakeholders (including Ağaç ve Peyzaj A.Ş., the Faculty of Forestry Herbarium, and Karaca Medicinal Plants Garden). While sustainable management of agricultural lands was addressed mainly at the curricular level in 2023, it was expanded in 2024 into the research and public awareness domains through international food and water management projects. In 2024, sustainable tourism was also addressed for the first time; new areas of community engagement were created through the activities of the Health Tourism Application Center and the Aromatherapy Festival. At the institutional policy level, environmental analysis reports prepared in 2023 were translated into concrete actions in 2024, including applied tree-planting activities within social responsibility courses, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) processes, and energy-efficient and green building practices. Efforts to reduce plastic waste were transformed into behavioral change through the distribution of metal water bottles, microplastic awareness seminars, and the strengthening of recycling infrastructure. Meanwhile, hazardous waste management, which was at the planning stage in 2023, evolved in 2024 into an effective and continuously monitored implementation process, supported by refrigerated storage facilities, contracts with İSTAÇ, and regular environmental engineering inspections. These comparative indicators clearly demonstrate that, as of 2024, Üsküdar University has developed a mature, measurable, and sustainable governance model for terrestrial ecosystems under SDG 15, spanning the full spectrum from awareness to research, and from policy to practice.

17.3.16. During the 2024–2025 period, Üsküdar University achieved structural progress under SDG 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening the content quality and evidentiary basis of its initiatives in governance, participation, transparency, human rights, and societal impact. According to THE WUR data, the university’s overall SDG 16 score increased by 0.1% during this period, with a 2.1% improvement recorded particularly in university governance indicators. In the 2025 submission, compared to 2024, the scope of content and diversity of evidence were expanded across almost all sub-indicators. Regarding governance structures, while the 2024 submission presented a senate-centered narrative, the 2025 submission strengthened the institutional governance framework by adding executive board linkages, legal bases via mevzuat.gov.tr, and official documents related to senate elections (16.2.1). In the area of student participation, descriptions that were limited to general mechanisms in 2024 were supported in 2025 with concrete activity links of student clubs, making the implementation dimension visible (16.2.2). For external stakeholder engagement, whereas 2024 included basic surveys and list links, 2025 deepened and diversified content by incorporating the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, external stakeholder letters, and activities of centers such as ÜSATAM, VERİMER, SATÜMER, İHAMER, and ÜŞÇÖZÜM (16.2.3–16.2.4). In the domains of ethics, transparency, and accountability, the 2025 submission increased policy document diversity by adding student disciplinary procedures, strategic plan documents, and quality assurance reports (16.2.5–16.2.6). Regarding financial



transparency, while 2024 presented only a budget table, 2025 added official evidence of budgeting, monitoring, and resource utilization processes (16.2.7). Under societal contribution and access to justice, the 2025 submission expanded content with concrete evidence such as educational support for earthquake-affected regions, family education programs, volunteering workshops, and expert witness services (16.3.1). In the areas of anti-discrimination and social awareness, 2025 showed a marked increase compared to 2024, with anti-racism dialogues, events on migration and refugee rights, integration activities for international students, and academic contributions on international platforms (16.3.2). In terms of public-interest research and project activities, the 2025 submission increased both the number and diversity of TÜBİTAK-funded projects, and added applied initiatives such as TRGENMER, ARGEYEP, TTO projects, and evidence collection training programs (16.3.3). For the indicator addressing a neutral and safe environment where diverse views can be expressed, 2025 presented concrete examples including the Cyber Resilience Summit, academic debate congresses, and peace-oriented civic engagement events (16.3.4). Regarding graduate indicators, the total number of graduates decreased from 3,859 in 2024 to 3,113 in 2025; the number of graduates in fields such as law, forensic sciences, criminology, and related areas was reported as 2,945 in 2024 (16.4.1–16.4.2). These comparative findings demonstrate that, as of 2025, despite quantitative fluctuations, Üsküdar University has strengthened and matured its evidence-based governance, participatory mechanisms, and institutional approach centered on social justice under SDG 16.

17.3.17. During the 2023–2024–2025 period, Üsküdar University demonstrated significant progress under SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals by institutionalizing national and international collaborations in both quantitative and qualitative terms. According to THE Impact Rankings data, while the overall score declined by 9.9% in 2023–2024, this decrease was largely driven by technical sub-indicators such as the publication of SDG reports (–5.9%) and SDG-focused education indicators (–38.9%). In contrast, the Partnerships to support the Goals indicator recorded a 6.7% increase. In 2023, high-impact international activities continued, including the “AL-Mizan: A Covenant for the Earth” initiative led by the UN Environment Programme, The Journal of Happiness and Well-Being, and Prof. Dr. Sevil Atasoy’s membership on the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board (INCB). In 2024–2025, this framework was further expanded: within the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, numerous formal protocols were signed with public institutions and civil society organizations across areas such as health, education, gender equality, digitalization, and environmental sustainability. The number of the university’s Research and Application Centers increased to 41, and Working Groups to 60. Collaborations with the Istanbul Governorate, Provincial Directorate of Health, TÜBİTAK, the Ministry of Family and Social Services, the Ministry of Youth and Sports, KASTOB, and many NGOs were translated into tangible outputs, including policy recommendations submitted to the Grand National Assembly of Türkiye (TBMM), social innovation projects, and training activities. In the area of cross-sectoral dialogue, the number of joint events rose from 18 in 2023 to 25 social responsibility projects in 2024, and the “NGOs at the University” model became a permanent collaboration mechanism. At the international level, the university strengthened its partnership capacity through achievements such as Top 500 placements in 9 of the 17 SDGs in THE Impact Rankings 2025, participation in UI GreenMetric, a 43.4% increase in Erasmus agreements, the UNESCO TWAS Center of Excellence designation, and



active engagement with platforms including NAFSA, EAIE, and EURIE. In the education dimension, as of 2024, 145 courses with strong SDG linkages and 9 associate, 15 undergraduate, 20 master's, and 7 doctoral programs institutionalized meaningful SDG-based education for all students. In the same year, 12,017 students completed mandatory SDG-related courses, 7,371 students enrolled in elective SDG courses, and data from 610 postgraduate theses, 112 student projects, and 175 student club activities enabled the measurement of sustainability literacy. A measurement and evaluation system that did not exist in 2022 and 2023 was established in 2024, allowing sustainability literacy to be monitored quantitatively for the first time. These comparative findings clearly demonstrate that, despite score fluctuations, Üsküdar University has, as of 2024, developed a data-driven, institutionalized, and long-term global partnership model under SDG 17, deepening collaborations to effectively support the Goals.

17.4.1. Does your university, as an institution, have a meaningful education commitment around the Sustainable Development Goals that applies to all students?

2023	2024	İYİLEŞTİRME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Senate decisions• Courses on Positive Psychology and Communication Skills; University Culture and Entrepreneurship; Project Culture• Bologna Process• Selected elective courses• GreenMetric• Strategic Objective• Examples from master's theses• Promotional TV programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mission and vision• Institutional Strategic Plan• Senate decisions• Bologna integration• Quality assurance program• Unit directives• External stakeholder documents• University-wide courses for all students: Positive Psychology and Communication Skills, University Culture and Entrepreneurship, Project Culture• Alignment of program educational objectives and learning outcomes with the SDGs• GreenMetric	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adding the phrase “in line with the Sustainable Development Goals” to the mission and vision statements on the websites of all departments.• Adding the phrase “in line with the Sustainable Development Goals” to the educational objectives and learning outcomes of all departments.• Including the phrase “in line with the Sustainable Development Goals” in the Bologna Course Information Package descriptions for relevant courses.



17.4.2. Does your university, as an institution, offer dedicated courses (full degree programs or elective courses) that address sustainability and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)?

2023	2024	İYİLEŞTİRME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health Program • Seventeen elective courses provided as examples • A list highlighting the alignment of selected elective and compulsory courses with the SDGs • Examples of seminars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nine associate degree programs directly related to the SDGs • Fifteen undergraduate programs directly related to the SDGs • Twenty master's programs directly related to the SDGs • Seven doctoral programs directly related to the SDGs • A table of 145 elective courses directly related to the SDGs, offered in the 2024 fall–spring semesters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elective courses can be offered across all departments directly under the 17 SDG labels. For example: • Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions • Responsible Consumption and Production • Reduced Inequalities • Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure • Gender Equality (already offered in the 2nd semester) • Quality Education • Good Health and Well-Being

17.4.3. Does your university, as an institution, offer dedicated social outreach education activities for a wider community, including alumni, local residents, and displaced persons?

2023	2024	İYİLEŞTİRME
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seminars • Public lectures • Digital Library • Continuing Education Center 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 6 of the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan • Continuing Education Center (six SDG-related training programs) • Career Center (four SDG-related training programs) • Human Values Education Center • ÜÜTV (six SDG-related programs) • Training sessions and workshops conducted within responsibility projects with external stakeholders (six projects) • Educational events (four SDG-related training activities) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training programs should be planned for displaced persons. • For example: • Migrant Rights and Social Awareness training • Psychosocial Support for Migrants training • Social Cohesion and Cultural Support training



17.4.4. Does your university, as an institution, measure students' sustainability literacy?

2023	2024	İYİLEŞTİRME
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Activities, media talks, and courses organized for staff, students, and the general public• A TV program on the 17 UN Goals broadcast on YouTube• Numerous master's theses related to sustainability and the SDGs• Various courses addressing sustainability and the SDGs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Number of students enrolled in university-wide common courses linked to the SDGs (University Culture; Entrepreneurship and Project Culture; Positive Psychology and Communication Skills)• List of elective courses strongly linked to the SDGs and the number of students enrolled in these courses• List and number of master's and doctoral theses strongly linked to the SDGs• List and number of student projects strongly linked to the SDGs• List of social responsibility projects strongly linked to the SDGs• Number and characteristics of student clubs with a strong connection to the SDGs• Number of students participating in USEM (Continuing Education Center) training programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A Student SDG Literacy Survey was developed to be implemented in 2025.