



2021 Sustainability Report SDG1

1 NO
POVERTY





SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

1 NO
POVERTY





SDG 1 aims to end poverty in all its forms everywhere. Its seven associated targets aim, among others, to eradicate extreme poverty for all people everywhere, reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women, and children of all ages living in poverty, and implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all.

Globally, the number of people living in extreme poverty declined from 36 % in 1990 to 10 % in 2015. Nevertheless, this rate increased sharply from 2019 to 2020, from 8.3% to 9.2%, the first rise in extreme poverty since 1998 and the largest since 1990. This erased more than four years of steady gains. The reason for this increase is the Covid-19 pandemic. In this context, it is seen in the research carried out by The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) that more than 1 billion people are likely to live in the level of extreme poverty.

For those who work, having a job does not guarantee a decent living. In fact, 6.9% of employed workers and their families worldwide lived in extreme poverty in 2021. This rate is also higher than before the pandemic. Moreover, 28.9% of people were considered vulnerable in 2020. Ensuring social protection for all children and other vulnerable groups is critical to reducing poverty.

The SDG Agenda acknowledges that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Priority actions on poverty eradication include:

- improving access to sustainable livelihoods, entrepreneurial opportunities, and productive resources;
- providing universal access to basic social services;
- progressively developing social protection systems to support those who cannot support themselves;
- empowering people living in poverty and their organizations;
- addressing the disproportionate impact of poverty on women;
- working with interested donors and recipients to allocate increased shares of ODA to poverty eradication; and
- intensifying international cooperation for poverty eradication.

Universities need to be able to demonstrate how they are helping to address this problem through their work. As employers and economic hubs, universities have a direct role in reducing poverty in their communities. By giving people from poorer backgrounds quality education, they help to remove intergenerational poverty.¹

AGU'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES

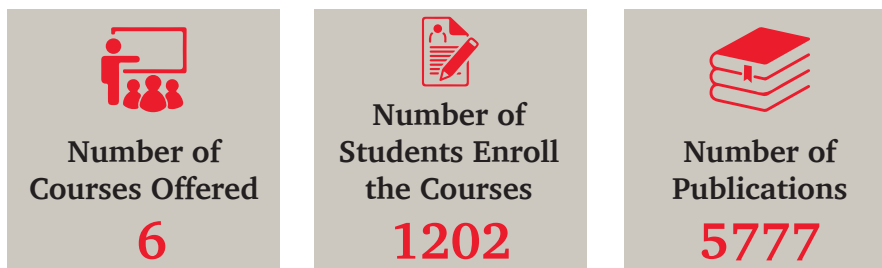
Over 10% of the world's population live in extreme poverty, unable to fulfill the most basic needs – food, health, education, access to clean water, and sanitation. Abdullah Gül University (AGU) aims to reduce inequalities between disadvantaged groups and adapts policies on helping low-income students. In this regard, the University offers scholarships including housing, food, computer, career scholarships, seed money as well as monthly stipends.

As a state university, AGU applies the State's Regulations and measures to support disadvantaged students' Access to Higher Education. National students are not required to pay tuition fees in state universities, and state housing scholarships are provided. As per the Turkish Higher Education Council's decision, Syrian students are also currently exempted from paying tuition fees. Law No. 2547 gives special privileges to young people who are gifted in the arts, science competitions, or sports, disabled or with health problems, and top students of their schools.

¹ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>
<https://sdgs.un.org/topics/poverty-eradication>

AGU'S PROGRESS

Students Statistics



AGU is a state university. Accordingly, undergraduate students are admitted through a central placement exam. Although it has no effect on undergraduate student admissions, there are policies applied today in student admissions to master's and doctoral programs. Student selections are made in accordance with the Regulation on Student Selections for Higher Education Institutions in Türkiye. Similarly, AGU also applies the 7th article of this regulation, which includes the paragraph stating that student selections are made following the processes of examination, measurement, evaluation and placement, which are carried out based on the principles of reliability, confidentiality, impartiality, and scientificity, and offer equal opportunities to all candidates. Within the framework of these principles, AGU targets to have 20% of its accepted students from the bottom financial quantile. The following table shows AGU's undergraduate and graduate application and acceptance numbers.

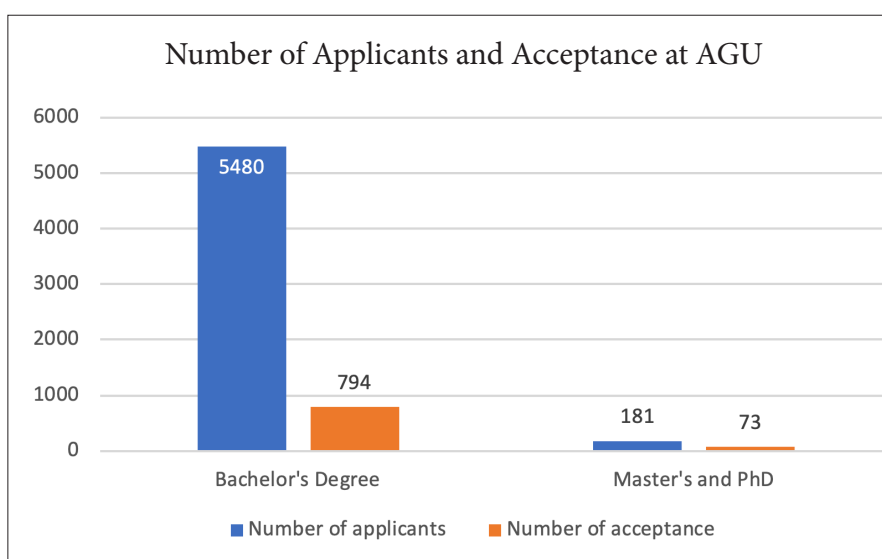


Table 1 Number of Applicants and Acceptance at AGU

In addition, AGU aims to increase the number of women candidates who apply to the University every year to ensure gender equality among its students and to support women who are included within the disadvantaged groups. The tables below show the female student rate and the female acceptance rate at AGU.

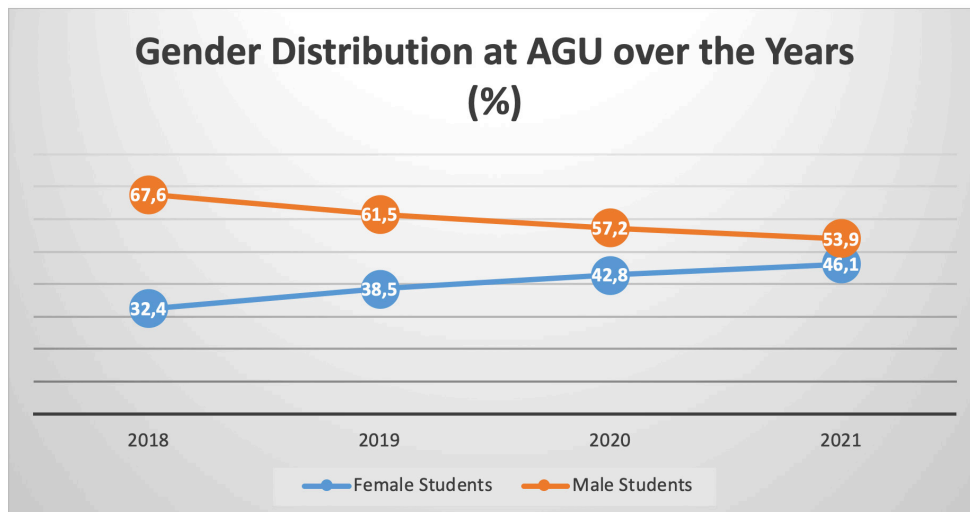


Table 2 Gender Distribution at AGU

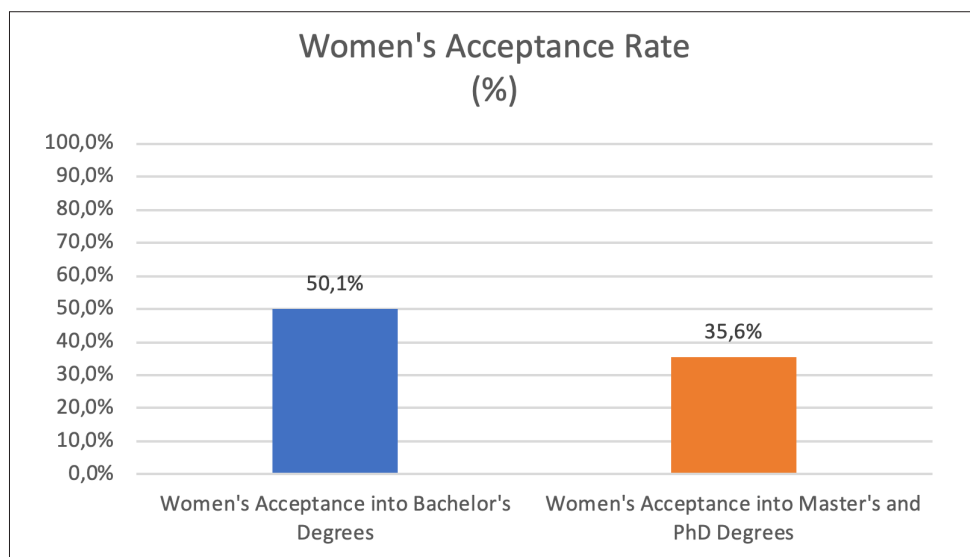


Table 3 Women's Acceptance Rate at AGU

At the same time, AGU constantly monitors its graduate numbers. With the education it provides to its students, AGU takes steps to train qualified workforces. Graduate statistics of AGU by year are shown in the table.

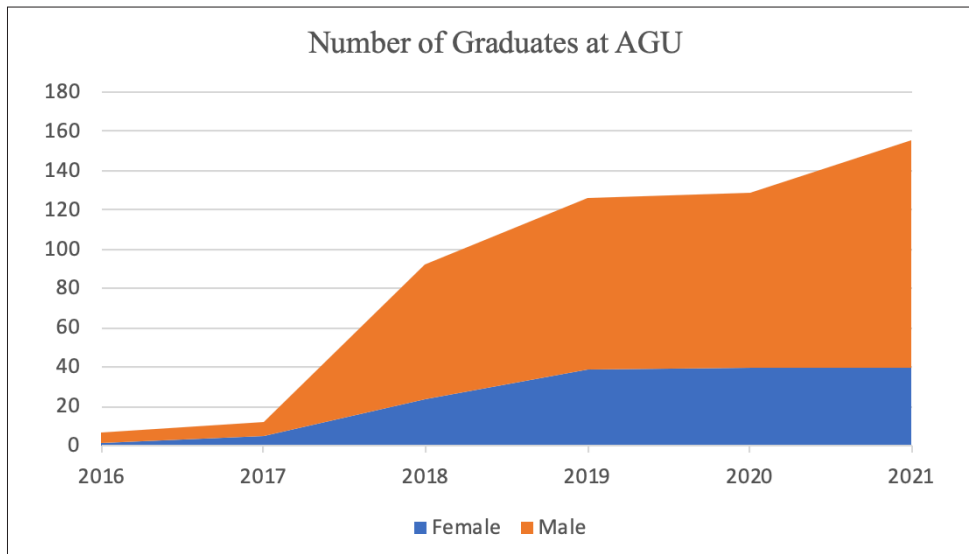


Table 4 Number of Graduates at AGU

Moreover, the increase in the number of students from low-income countries among the students studying at AGU shows that AGU continues the policy it has followed in terms of equal opportunities.

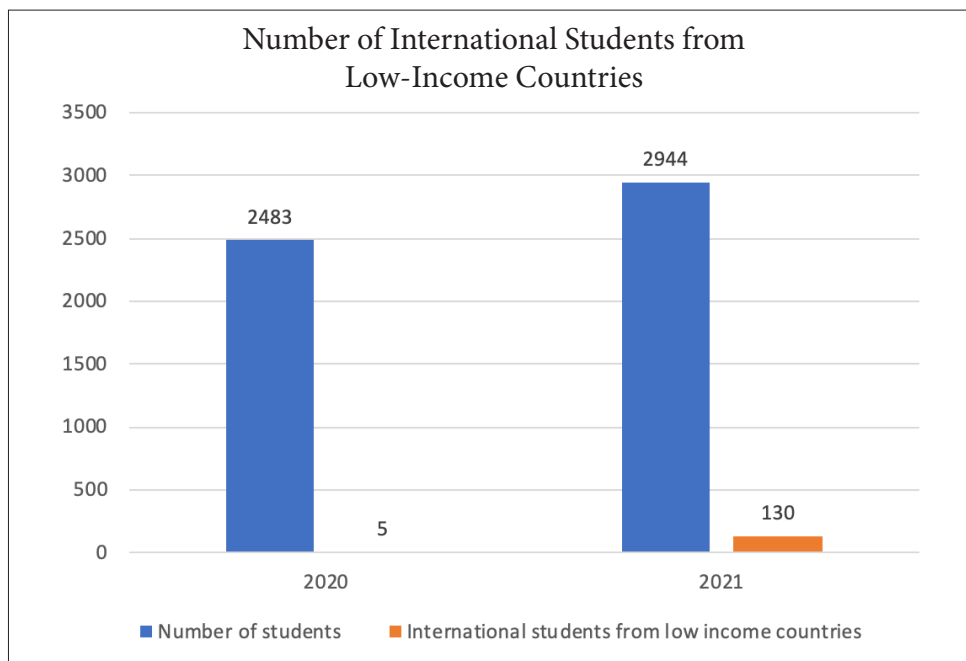


Table 5 Number of International Students from Low-Income Countries

Scholarships

Students from the bottom 20% of household income group receive housing scholarships, grants, and interest-free loans to encourage their participation in higher education. In addition to the state scholarships, AGU and AGU Foundation (AGUF) provide its students with other scholarships. As AGU aspires to be a research and teaching university of international standards, an element playing a pivotal role in its development is the AGU Foundation. The work of the AGU Foundation is dedicated to the overall goal of supporting the University with the following three specific aims

- a) To provide financial incentives to successful students, students with financial needs and alums looking for further study and career opportunities.
- b) To provide economic, cultural, and social support to the University's employees.
- c) To fund developments in the University's physical and technical-technological facilities and underwrite improvement efforts in education and research and opportunities for their application.

Through this partnership, AGU gives housing scholarships to the students, and AGU Foundation provides financial incentives to successful students as well as to those in financial need (dormitory, food stipends, computers, etc.). AGU canteen meals are subsidized by the University and cost only TRY 4.5, approximately USD 0.5, for students.

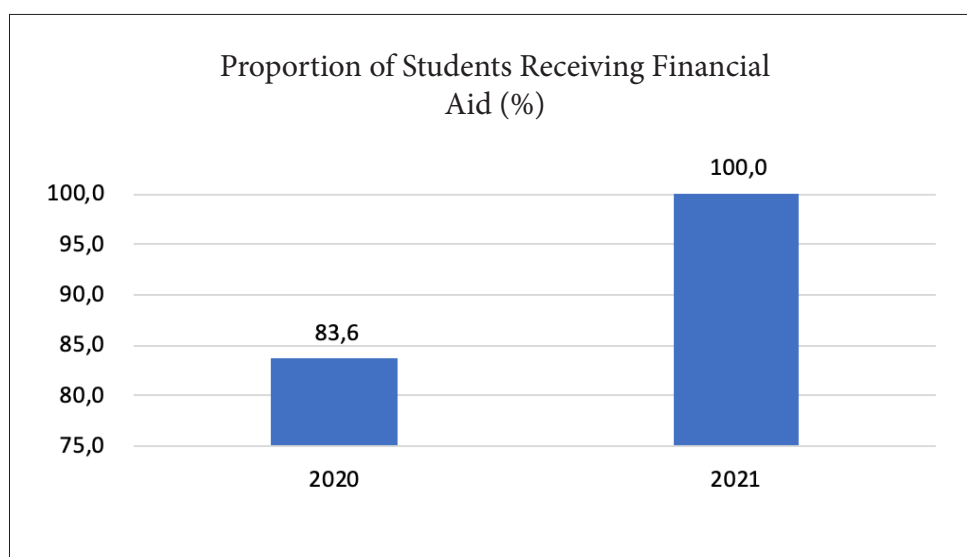


Table 6 Proportion of Students Receiving Financial Aid

Moreover, there are two initiatives where students can both earn income and improve their skills. In part-time work, students work in various departments of the University outside their class hours. In the 7+1 applied Workplace Training Program, they spend a semester in an industrial company.



Student Village

International students studying at AGU also benefit from the scholarships provided to other students. In addition, there are also other scholarship opportunities given by the Turkish State to international low-income students. These are Türkiye Scholarships, TÜBİTAK Scholarships (both for undergraduate and graduate students), and Scholarship for Development.

Moreover, AGU has a Legal Counsel Office with two legal counselors, from which AGU students may receive free counsel, as well as a Psychological Counselling and Guidance Office, which currently employs two psychologists. A donation page (bagis.agu.edu.tr) is set to encourage financial donations from benefactors to support AGU students.

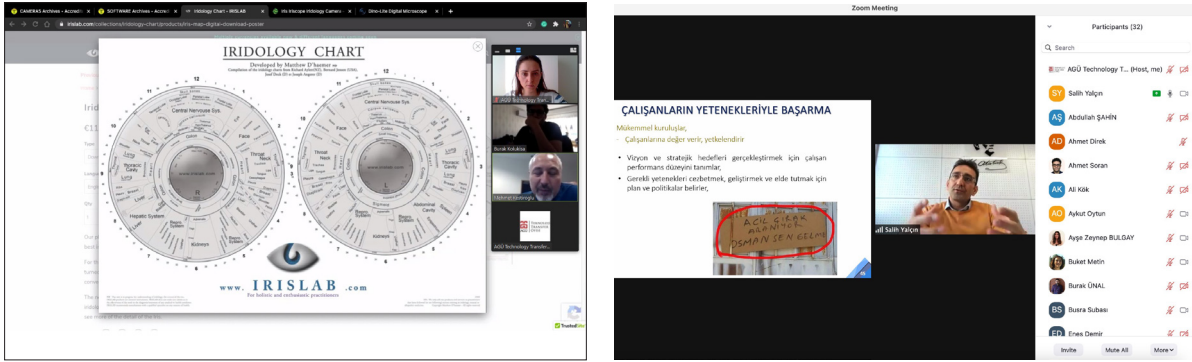
RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

AGU aims to fight poverty by contributing to society through its research and projects. Within the framework of SDG 1, AGU has the following facilities: Fly For Future (F3) Incubation Center, Technopark, Model Factory, Creative Hub, Social Entrepreneurship Centre, and Non-Academic Transcript (NAT).

F3 Incubation Centre

AGU TTO carries out its activities with the aim of transforming the outputs of scientific research carried out at AGU into economic value, increasing the university-industry cooperation, making higher use of national and international support mechanisms, developing entrepreneurship, and managing and commercializing intellectual property rights. AGU TTO serves researchers with its F3 Incubation Centre. For candidate entrepreneurs at the AGU F3 Incubation Centre, support is provided in the following fields

- Open office space usage
- Training, consultancy, and mentoring,
- Prototyping.



Mentoring Support Photos at F3 Incubation Centre

AGU became the implementing agency of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye's (TUBITAK) support program (BIGG) for entrepreneurs in the region. Entrepreneurs can apply to AGU to receive a grant of TRY 450,000 from TUBITAK. When the entrepreneurs reach a certain maturity, AGU sends the eligible projects to TUBITAK for funding. In this regard, entrepreneurs are provided with free training, mentoring, and project writing support.

AGU Technopark

In 2021, the AGU Technopark was established in partnership with the Kayseri Chamber of Commerce, the Kayseri Chamber of Industry, and AGUF. Intending to be sustainable and non-profit, it is the only technopark established through the Technology Transfer Office in Türkiye. This viewpoint aims to continue activities by producing knowledge, transforming knowledge into value, and contributing to science and society at an advanced level with the technopark.



Technopark Signing Ceremony

Model Factory

AGU is involved in the national effort to eradicate poverty in all its forms and dimensions via its on-campus Model Factory, a United Nations Development Program project implemented in Türkiye by the Turkish Government. AGU also supports the development of sustainable businesses through its Model Factory, where participants are helped with the start-up of promising sustainable SMEs through consultancy, training, and financial support, improving SMEs' processes by training them on lean manufacturing techniques, optimization of productivity, and energy efficiency and waste management, and enhancing SMEs' competitiveness on the international arena by accessing Industry 4.0 technologies.



Model Factory

AGU Creative Hub

The AGU Creative Hub was established to encourage creative and innovative thinking of young entrepreneurs. At the AGU Creative Hub, participants can get free training sessions and workshops. AGU has also launched a Social Entrepreneurship Network in Türkiye, which includes programs supporting and guiding active citizens and social entrepreneurs by giving them access to training.

2.2. Trainings

Trainings organized to increase the technical and entrepreneurial skills of the hub beneficiaries.

Date	Name of Training		Number of Participants
11.01.2021	Cooperation Training	Online	26
19.01.2021	Design Thinking Training	Online	20
23.01.2021	Creative Drama Training	Online	14
27.01.2021	Ideas to Solutions Training	Online	25
21.02.2021	Reverse Engineering Training	Online	18
17.03.2021	Psychology of Entrepreneur Training	Online	16
20.03.2021	Intercultural Learning Training	Online	13
08.01.2021 04.03.2021	Creative Industries Professionals Training - 1 Design	Hybrid	8
02.01.2021 27.06.2021	Creative Industries Professionals Training - 2 Software	Online	15
17.03.2021	Workshops for Public - 1 Kent	Online	21
24.03.2021	Workshops for Public - 2 Kir	Online	21
12.04.2021	Marketing Training	Online	32
06.06.2021	Creative Drama Training	Online	6
26.04.2021 24.06.2021	Creative Industries Professionals Training - 1 (Design - Practicing Computer Aided Drawing with Rhino 3D)	Online	8
27.11.2021 28.11.2021	Creative Drama Training	Face to Face	24
30.11.2021	Workshops for Public - Financial Literacy	Face to Face	21
13.12.2021	Workshops for Public - Entrepreneurship	Face to Face	6
14.12.2021	Workshops for Public - Sustainable Development Goals	Face to Face	16
17.12.2021	Workshops for Public - Upcycling	Face to Face	9
31.12.2021	Workshops for Public - Official Correspondence Procedures and Principles - Petition Writing Rules Training	Face to Face	23
31.12.2021	Workshops for Public - Purchasing Processes and Company Accounting for Entrepreneurs	Face to Face	7
07.01.2022	Workshops for Public - Information for ESC and Erasmus+ Program	Online	21
	Total		370

Creative Hub Training Programs

Social Entrepreneurship Centre

AGU has a Social Entrepreneurship Centre. Non-profit and social responsibility projects prepared by students are implemented in this centre. Moreover, students are encouraged to think about social problems and learn the steps of entrepreneurship.

Non-Academic Transcript (NAT)

AGU aims to enable its students to translate all activities into a learning process or to participate in activities in accordance with the competencies they need during their learning process. With the coordination of the AGU Youth Factory and the Dean of Students Office, the Non-Academic Transcript (NAT) has been created at AGU and ensures easy recognition of students' competencies. Students' academic achievement is already recognized by a diploma and an academic transcript they receive when they graduate from their respective universities. Via NAT, students can also have any extracurricular activity they have participated in and competency (soft skill) they have acquired recognized.



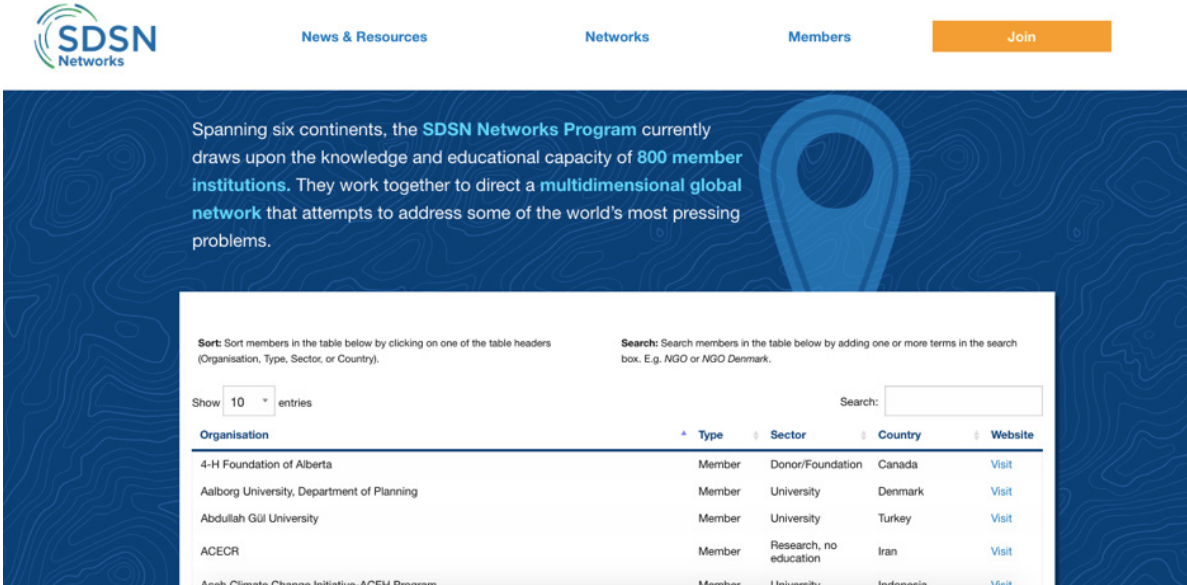
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COURSES

AGU has the [EDU 100 Personal and Professional Development Course](#), also called “Life at AGU.” This course is designed to help students transition to academic life. EDU 100 aims to assist them by articulating the purpose and nature of higher education and the expectations of AGU and the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering. It also seeks to increase students’ awareness of campus resources and have them reflect on personal and social issues that first-year students often face in a higher education environment. Additionally, in this course, students receive time and stress management seminars.

AGU also organizes workshops and seminars on Global Challenges within the frame of its Global Challenges [courses](#), i.e., GLB 201 Food and Health and GLB 202 Immigration and Population, and brings together experts and local decision-makers in an effort to find solutions to global issues

COOPERATION AND EVENTS

AGU, via its [partnerships](#) with international NGOs (such as the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network-SDSN](#), the SDSN Youth, the [SDG Academy](#), and the [Global Solutions Initiative](#)), has also been able to contribute to the first SDG at national and local levels.



Spanning six continents, the [SDSN Networks Program](#) currently draws upon the knowledge and educational capacity of **800 member institutions**. They work together to direct a **multidimensional global network** that attempts to address some of the world's most pressing problems.

Sort: Sort members in the table below by clicking on one of the table headers (Organisation, Type, Sector, or Country). **Search:** Search members in the table below by adding one or more terms in the search box. E.g. NGO or NGO Denmark.

Show entries

Organisation	Type	Sector	Country	Website
4-H Foundation of Alberta	Member	Donor/Foundation	Canada	Visit
Aalborg University, Department of Planning	Member	University	Denmark	Visit
Abdullah Gül University	Member	University	Turkey	Visit
ACECR	Member	Research, no education	Iran	Visit
Aceh Climate Change Initiative-ACEH Program	Member	University	Indonesia	Visit

SDSN Network List

[The International Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges \(ISYEC\)](#), for instance, tackles youth employment issues worldwide and proposes suggestions, and its 4th edition was held in Istanbul, where Rector Prof. Dr. Cengiz Yılmaz contributed as a keynote speaker. Previously, Abdullah Gül University had hosted the symposium three times. The last edition was organized in collaboration with SALTO-Youth Euromed Resource Center and the Youth@Work network, which consists of the Turkish National Agency and 16 other national Erasmus+ agencies. One hundred fifty people, including policymakers, academic researchers, employers, technology transfer officers, and youth workers, joined the symposium.



The 4th International Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges (ISYEC)

AGU organizes training sessions, seminars, workshops, symposiums, and panels to improve access to basic services for all. The AGU Youth Factory aims to serve not only students but also the wider public, especially young people in local, national, and international youth work fields with a wide variety of projects. Also, the AGU Library organizes various workshops and activities for primary, secondary, and high school students who want to visit the library. On the one hand, primary school students who visit the library with their teachers get to learn the library rules and participate in creative drama and story workshops organized specifically for them in the University's seminar halls. On the other hand, secondary and high school students are informed about the books and library classification system in the library. Thus, students learn about how to access the resources they need when they go to a library as a researcher.



AGU Library Training for Primary School Students

In 2021, the AGU Youth Factory was invited to the “Social Entrepreneurship Day” meeting organized by ASHOKA. Many workshops were held within the scope of the event, and the Youth Factory made various contributions to the meeting reports.

As part of the activities within the Week for Children with Leukemia, a panel titled “Childhood Cancer and Stem Cell Transplantation” was held at AGU as part of “GLB201 Food and Health,” one of the Global Challenge courses aiming at social contribution in addition to AGU's traditional education and research missions.



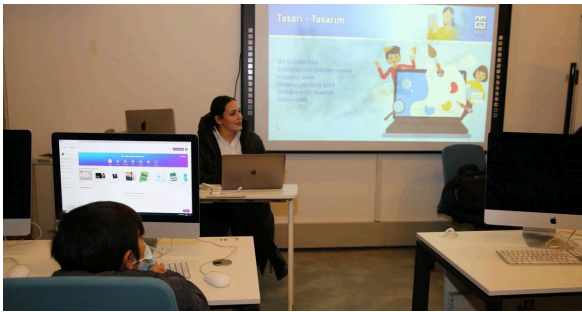
Panel for Children with Leukemia

The AGU Children's University designs learning activities for children to raise confidence, encourage curiosity, enhance motivation, and introduce life experiences. It also aims to provide social opportunities and increase entrepreneurship by organizing many events and training programs throughout the year.



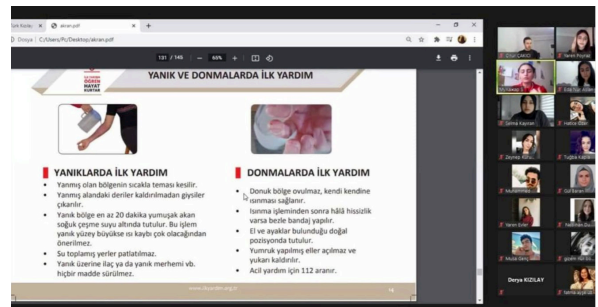
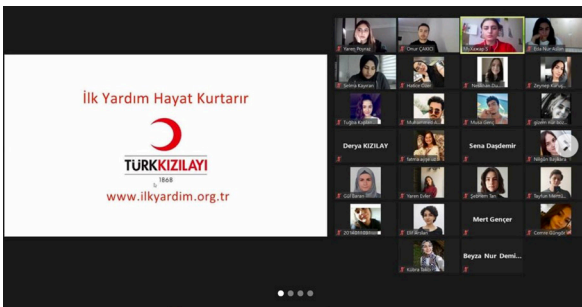
Sustainable Development Goals Workshop

Kid Designers Training, for example, was held thanks to the cooperation of the AGU Academy, the Children's University, and the AGU Directorate of Press and Public Relations. Graphic designer Nur Kartal from AGU Press gave the training, where the concept of design and design elements were explained to the children. At the end of the training, organized within the scope of a social responsibility project, participation certificates were given to the children.



Kid Designer Training

Young Red Crescent AGU, a student club at AGU, conducted a peer training session for its volunteers in the new academic year. Volunteers learned how to perform first aid at the training given by a Red Crescent trainer. In addition, the training raised awareness of disaster protection among the volunteers.



1st Peer Training of the Young Red Crescent AGU

A social entrepreneurship training program was also held at AGU within the Social Entrepreneurship Network in Türkiye project, led by the Vehbi Koç Foundation in collaboration with the Koç University Social Impact Forum (KUSIF), Ashoka Türkiye, Social Innovation Initiative Association (SIID), Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Development Association (SKYÇD), TED University, Mozaik Foundation (Bosnia and Herzegovina), and Social Enterprise UK. The training was given by five trainers from Kayseri, working at Erciyes University, Abdullah Gül University, and Middle East Development Agency, and from Mersin University, who had received the social entrepreneurship trainer training at Koç University last year.



Social Entrepreneurship Training

At AGU, students seek solutions to global problems in line with the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations, which targets ending poverty, protecting the environment, action against climate change, and world peace. For instance, in her piece on “No Poverty” for AGU News, the University’s monthly bulletin, Arooba Zaib, a student of Political Science and International Relations, stated that the problem of poverty, which needed to be combated against, was exacerbated by the Coronavirus Pandemic. Mentioning how AGU took steps against this problem, she wrote that AGU facilitated the exchange of ideas on the issue by holding a panel.

Yoksulluğa Son / No Poverty



Arooba Zaib Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Öğrencisi / Student of Political Science and International Relations



From the Eyes of Students, AGU News

The AGU Career Centre has been working with the Presidential Human Resources Office of the Republic of Türkiye to help ameliorate the unemployment problem among young people holding university degrees. In this context, they have organized joint internship programs.

The Department of Industrial Engineering of AGU organized the fourth Industry-based Student Projects Fair in 2021. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Fair was organized online on Zoom, and five projects competed within the Fair. Academics from different universities, students, managers, and engineers of 17 companies operating in distinctive sectors participated in the Fair. In the competition, Industrial Engineering students worked on an industrial engineering problem that would improve the efficiency, save costs and increase the competitiveness of ASELSAN, Dönsa Textile, Gümüşsuyu Carpet, and HES Kablo companies.

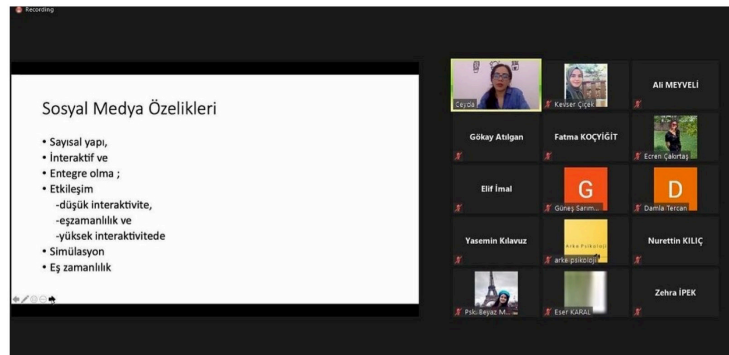


4th Industry-based Student Projects Fair

AGU Psychology Department Research Assistant Ceyda Cihan Aydoğdu has been selected as the Kayseri Province Coordinator of the 'Hold on to the Counseling Network in Fight Against Suicide' (İ.M.D.A.T.) project, which was supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports within the scope of the youth projects support program (2020-1) and implemented through the Mental Health Association. Mrs. Aydoğdu contributed to the project with educational support thanks to her training in "Social Media and Suicide."

Within the scope of the project, experts who have received training in subjects such as therapy approaches to suicide, law, and sociology related to suicide for about a year will carry out activities aimed at preventing suicide and providing psychosocial support to cases in society as project representatives in the provinces where they are located.

In the project to be carried out between 2020-2022, academics working in the universities of our country are contributing with training and consultancy services.



Social Media and Suicide Training

Moreover, Research Assistant Aydođdu held an online seminar on “Time Management and Motivation” for potential university students. In this context, they received psychological support and information. The meeting was held on Zoom and was open to all candidate students.



Time Management and Motivation Seminar

AGU Student Development Center Specialist and Clinical Psychologist Özge Tok participated in the support work for disaster victims in Manavgat after the disasters in our country as part of a psychosocial support team consisting of volunteers from the Ministry of Family and Social Services and EMDR Trauma Recovery Group.



Support Work for Disaster Victims in Manavgat

