



**2022**  
**Sustainability Report**  
**SDG10**

**10** **REDUCED**  
**INEQUALITIES**



**ABDULLAH GÜL**  
**UNIVERSITY**



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

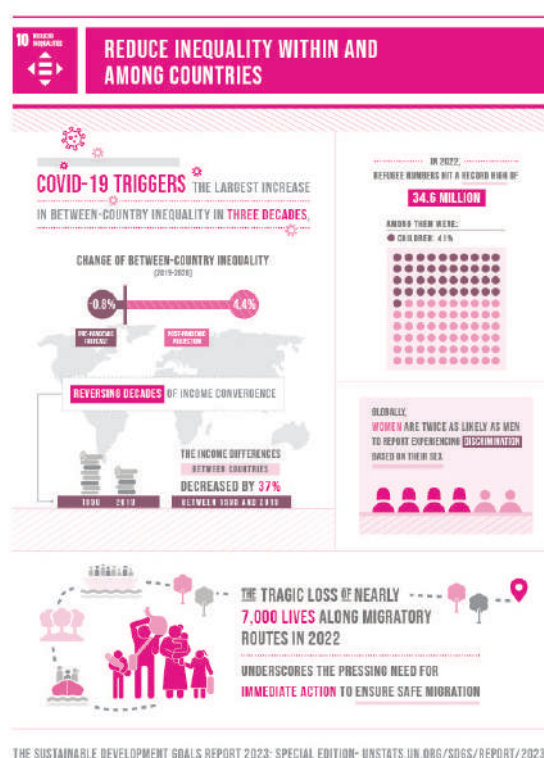
**10** REDUCED  
INEQUALITIES



## SDG10: Reduce Inequalities

SDG10 aims to **Reduce inequality within and among countries**. Inequality within and among countries is a persistent cause for concern. Despite some positive signs toward reducing inequality in some dimensions, such as reducing relative income inequality in some countries and preferential trade status benefiting lower-income countries, inequality still persists.

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated global income inequality, partly reversing the decline of the previous two decades. Weak recoveries in emerging markets and developing economies are expected to raise between-country inequality. Globally, the absolute number of refugees in 2021 was the highest on record. The war in Ukraine is creating one of the largest refugee crises of modern times.



Prior to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, more than three fifths of countries with available data saw higher growth in household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 per cent of the population than the national average. The pandemic is threatening to reverse this trend. In 2020 many countries saw declines in growth among the bottom 40 per cent of greater magnitude than the national average.

Banks' profitability weakened in 2020 mostly because of the COVID-19 pandemic, although reported asset quality remained good. Based on financial soundness indicators data for 2015–2020, the fraction of countries reporting return on assets above 1.0 per cent declined to 48 per cent in 2020 from 72 per cent in 2019 and the median return on assets declined from 1.5 per cent to 1.0 per cent.

The International Organization for Migration Missing Migrants Project recorded 5,895 deaths on migratory routes worldwide in 2021, a number surpassing pre-pandemic figures and making 2021 the deadliest year on record for migrants since 2017.

By mid-2021, the number of people who were forced to flee their countries owing to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations or events causing serious E/2022/55 22-06472 17/25 disturbances of public order had grown to 24.5 million, the highest absolute number on record. For every 100,000 people, 311 are refugees outside their country of origin, an increase from 216 in 2015. In addition, as at 12 April 2022, about 4.7 million refugees from Ukraine had crossed borders into neighbouring countries.

Globally, in 2021, 62.3 per cent of 138 countries with data reported having a wide range of policies to facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, meaning that they had policy measures for 80 per cent or more of the 30 subcategories under the six domains of the indicator.

The proportions of tariff lines applied to imports admitted duty-free from least developed countries, small island developing States and developing countries have remained relatively stable in recent years, at around 64.5 per cent, 65 per cent and 51 per cent, respectively.

The global average cost of sending \$200 decreased from 9.3 per cent of the amount sent in 2011 to 7.42 per cent in 2016 and to 6.3 per cent in 2021, getting closer to the international target of 5 per cent.<sup>1</sup>

## AGU'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES

The AGU Values are implemented into every aspect of university life. Upholding our values also means that we are dedicated to protecting the fundamental rights of equality and freedom. In this regard, AGU has adopted its own Policies on Equalities and Freedom. AGU's Policies on Equality and Freedom recognize all individuals' rights without discrimination or harassment on the basis of race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, citizenship, ethnicity, marital status, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or any other status protected by the applicable law to the extent prohibited by law.

Reducing inequalities and ensuring that no one is left behind are integral to achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With this in mind, Abdullah Gül University (AGU) supports underrepresented groups, including people with disabilities, international staff, students, and women. The University has committees and policies to ensure the rights of underrepresented groups.

All Turkish public universities, including AGU, comply with the National Student Selection and Placement Centre Regulations. Article 7 of these regulations guarantees reliability, confidentiality, impartiality, and equal opportunity for all candidates. Meanwhile, Article 10 of the Turkish Constitution states that all Turkish laws and regulations

<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal10>  
<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/goal-10/>  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>

must be applied equally without discrimination. Therefore, everyone is equal before the law without distinction as to language, race, color, sex, political opinion, philosophical belief, religion, sect, or any such grounds.

AGU, as a Turkish public university, also complies with the National Higher Education Council regulation stating that Syrian students are not to be charged tuition fees to study in Turkish universities. Moreover, according to Article 4 of the relevant [Turkish legislation](#), “Public institutions are required to employ disabled people and ex-convicts.”

AGU Institutional Strategic Plan also includes actions aiming at increasing the recruitment and participation of under-represented groups, women, and students with disabilities. There is a [Barrier-Free Unit](#) at AGU, and this unit works to ensure that disabled students, academics, and administrative staff of AGU have equal access to facilities and services at the University and to create an environment that supports their development. AGU has a committee on disability that develops [policies](#), regularly checks university facilities, and runs workshops alongside NGOs. Moreover, AGU has established the Liaison Office to support international staff, the International Office to support international students, and the “[Engelsiz](#)” (“Barrier-Free”) program, which supports and integrates people with disabilities on campus. Within the frame of its barrier-free program, AGU assures that all facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. For example, AGU provides sidewalk ramps, handicapped parking, large elevators, and handicapped bathrooms in every building. Also, AGU provides support services for people with disabilities upon request (e.g., personal assistants, transportation, etc.). Moreover, AGU’s Department of Health, Culture, and Sports organize [courses](#) on sign language.



AGU acts with the principle of reducing barriers for its students at the University. In this context, AGU aims to eliminate inequalities by providing students with positive measures in areas such as housing applications and selections for Erasmus mobility. AGU also tackles inequalities in the [part-time](#) recruitment of students by the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports. Applications of students with disabilities are prioritized in the selection of students to be employed part-time at the University, regardless of the conditions sought for other students. In addition, the Department gives priority to students with disabilities in applications for [Student Housing](#) and gives them additional points. Likewise, in Erasmus staff and student mobility selections, as one of the [staff](#) and [student](#) selection criteria, additional points are given to disabled people while making the selection.

AGU aims to become a high-quality university and has been promoting its vision globally. At the same time, the University has been making a strong impact on social life. To ensure equality, the AGU Social Diversity and Equality Committee has been established. The priorities of the committee are educating AGU students to be world citizens and transforming societies for the better. The committee has plans to organize training sessions and seminars for the students in order to raise their awareness about gender mainstreaming. It also aims to reach to and work with a wider audience based in Kayseri.

The AGU Social Diversity and Equality Committee analyses and recommends university policies related to the following fields:

- 1-Protection of Human Rights,
- 2-Peace and Inclusion,
- 3-Promoting Equity and Reducing Inequality,
- 4-Justice and Strong Institutions,
- 5-Gender Equality.

While fighting against inequalities, AGU was nominated for the Accessibility in Space award for “Administrative and Classroom Buildings” in the Council of Higher Education’s 2021 organization and won the “Accessibility in Space Award” in the Orange Flag category for the “Administrative and Classroom Buildings” in 2022.



*Accessible University Award*

Click [here](#) to visit the Disabled Program Order for the AGU Campus.

Click [here](#) to visit Details of Accessible Campus.

Accessibility Practices in Internal and External Areas of The Campus

#### **Parking lots**

- Disabled parking direction sign application
- Implementation of disabled parking signs
- Disabled parking lot painting application

#### **Common Circulation Areas**

- Disabled entrance signage applications

### Applications in Common Circulation Areas

- Tactile surface application
- Braille printed floor plan (free standing) application
- Braille printed floor plan (without feet) application
- Braille printed information board application.
- Lighted audible emergency exit guidance system application
- Glass surface warning sign application
- Stair anti-slip tape application
- Braille printed directional sign on handrail application
- Disabled counter application
- Intelligent hearing system bench type (induction loop system) application
- Emergency call button and help button dashboard application
- Emergency exit sign application
- Emergency exit signage application

### Applications in Wet Areas

- The emergency drawstring call button and over-door warning light application
- Disabled WC direction sign application
- Braille printed male WC door name holder (transparent foil) application
- Braille printed female WC door name holder (transparent foil) application
- Braille printed disabled WC door nameplate (transparent foil) application

### Applications in Elevators

- Braille printed elevator instruction manual application



AGU provides accessible facilities for people with disabilities: Barrier-Free program, dedicated to people with disabilities, AGU assures that all facilities are accessible to people with disabilities. AGU also provides sidewalk ramps, handicapped parking, large elevators, and handicapped bathrooms in every building. Besides that, Administrative Units provide legal and practical support for disabled members of AGU.

Click [here](#) to visit the Barrier-Free Coordinatorship web page.

AGU Erasmus Office applies extra points for the Erasmus applications of students with disabilities. Students who prove they have a disability are given +10 points for their application. In addition, if these students are at least 70% disabled, they can benefit from an additional grant of €250 per month.

The Department of Administrative and Financial Affairs has introduced the obligation to have a vehicle suitable for disabled personnel in the technical specifications for personnel service rental for 2022.

AGU has a Barrier-Free Coordinatorship to provide counseling programs for students with disabilities on practical communication skills, coping with difficulties, gaining social skills, and career support. In addition to that, the Barrier-Free Unit cooperates and communicates with the university, municipality, and associations for the disabled. AGU Barrier-Free Coordinatorship agreed to collaborate in serving disabled students for accommodation at AGU dormitories.

Click [here](#) to visit the Barrier-Free Coordinatorship web page.

Click [here](#) to visit the Barrier-Free Guideline web page.

Click [here](#) to visit the Disabled Program Order for the AGU Campus.

Click [here](#) to visit Details of Accessible Campus.



AGU Barrier-Free Coordinatorship agreed to collaborate in serving disabled students for accommodation at AGU dormitories. AGU Health, Culture, and Sport Unit evaluates the disability situations of candidate students for dormitories. Click [here](#) to visit the Dormitory Application Form to see taking disability into account within the process.

Click [here](#) to visit the Barrier-Free Guideline web page.



## AGU'S PROGRESS

Within the scope of equality policies at AGU, the ratio of women to men is observed, and activities are organized to increase the participation of women in education. Mentorship programs are implemented for female students to successfully complete university education and prepare for business life. In addition to general scholarships provided by other public universities, additional scholarships are also available to low-income students at AGU thanks to the AGU Foundation.

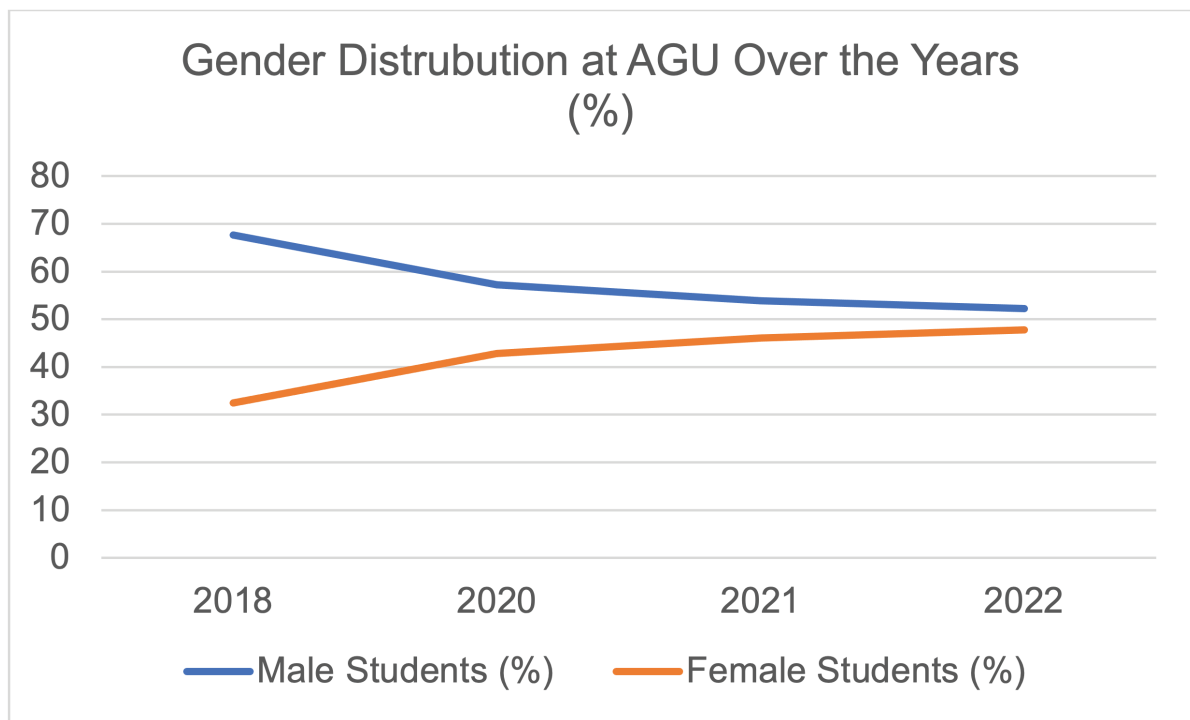
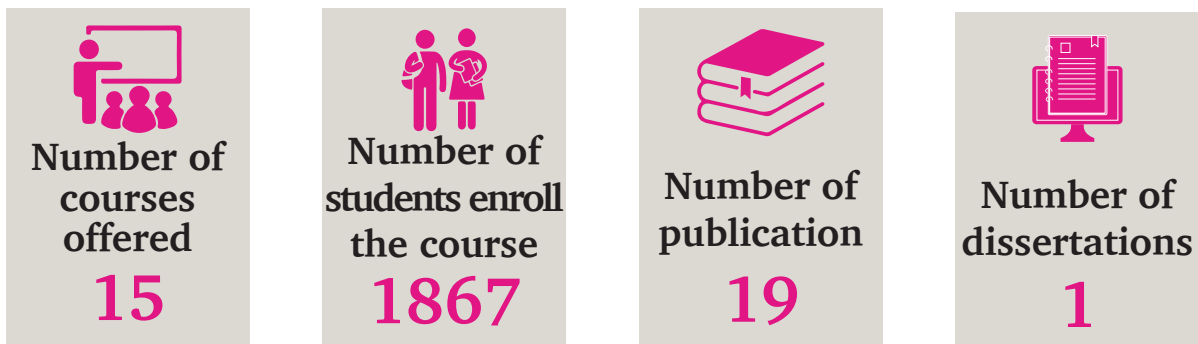


Table 1 Gender Distribution at AGU

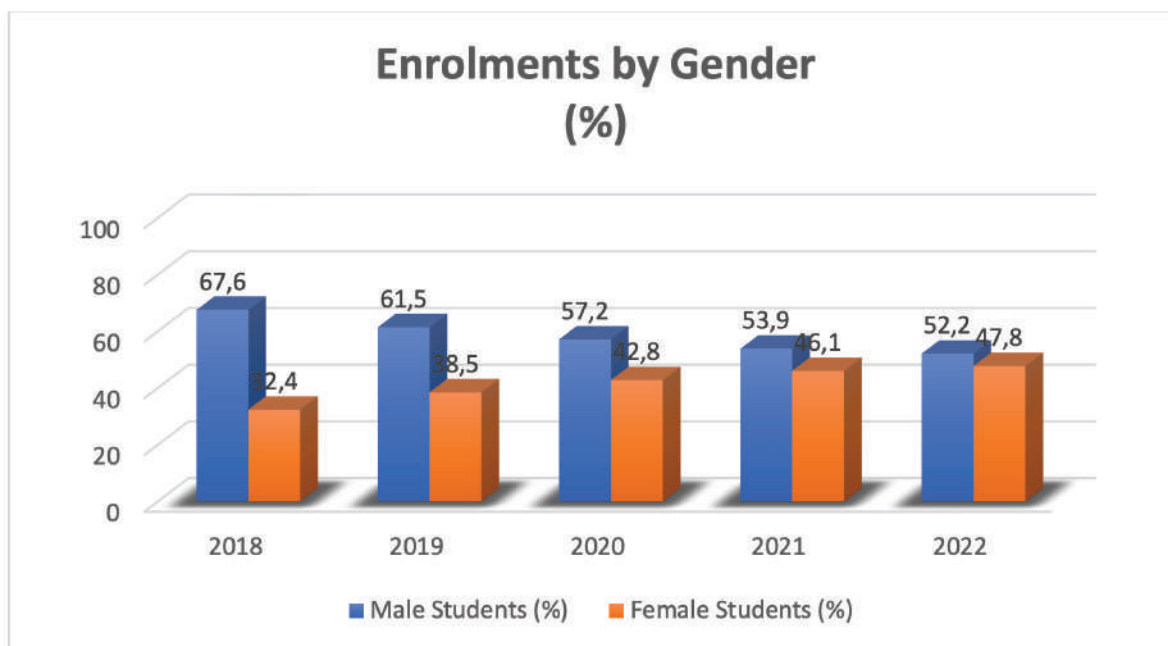


Table 2 Enrolments by Gender (%)

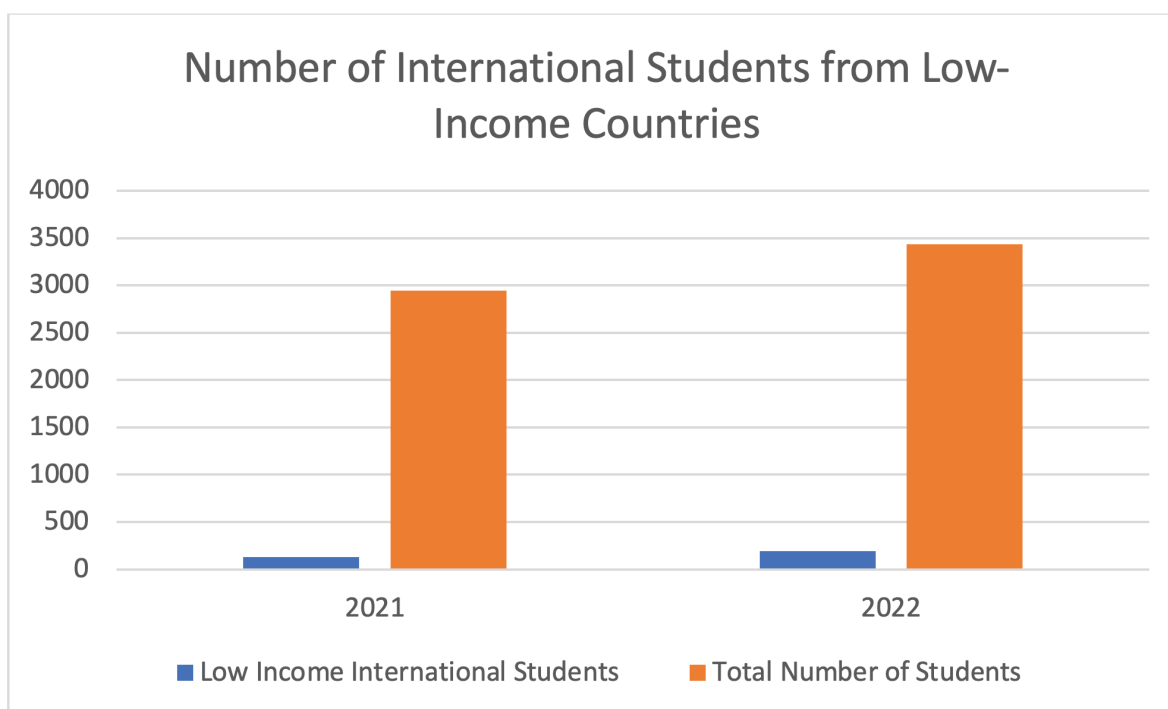


Table 3 Number of International Students from Low-Income Countries

Furthermore, AGU systematically measures and tracks women's application, acceptance or entry rate, and study completion rate at the University. To increase women's rates, AGU gives priority to women candidates during university promotion and preference days.

AGU aims to remove barriers for disadvantaged groups in every field. In this direction, AGU tries to make the university environment suitable for disabled people. There are currently one disabled student and five disabled staff at AGU.

AGU Technology Transfer Office (TTO), the implementer of the Bigg Program, provides privileged support to disadvantaged groups such as disabled and displaced people.

AGU bodies support mentorship programs for underrepresented and disabled groups to complete their studies & prepare for business life. AGU F3 Incubation Center gives priority to women entrepreneurs and disadvantaged groups for Start-Up Support. (Click [here](#) to visit F3 Incubation Center web page).

AGU has a [Barrier-Free Coordinatorship](#) to provide counseling programs for students with disabilities on practical communication skills, coping with difficulties, gaining social skills, and career support. In addition to that, the Barrier-Free Unit cooperates and communicates with the university, municipality, and associations for the disabled. It evaluates AGU campus regarding accessibility and identifying deficiencies and proposes ideas to deal with them. Barrier-Free Coordinatorship also provides counseling programs for students with disabilities on practical communication skills, coping with difficulties, gaining social skills, and career support. In addition to that, the Barrier-Free Unit cooperates and communicates with the university, municipality, and associations for the disabled. It evaluates AGU campus regarding accessibility and identifying deficiencies and proposes ideas to deal with them. You can kindly click [here](#) to read the Barrier-Free Unit Directive, [here](#) for the Directorate of Personnel Department and [here](#) for the AGU commissions.

AGU pays attention to being transparent, fair, and just toward candidate personnel during recruitment procedures to disseminate social equality. Gender, affiliation, disability, or social status do not constitute any label as an obstacle in recruitment. AGU has an Action Plan points to the Recruitment.

## Projects and Events

Department of Political Science and International Relations has organized a seminar series, and Dr. Member Nazlı ŞENSES ÖZCAN presented a seminar titled “Gender, Women and the Precariat: Examples from Turkey”. The event was held online via the Zoom platform. This presentation focuses on how the intersection of gender and migration dynamics creates different forms of precariat (flexible and precarious work) and the conceptual/theoretical implications of understanding precariat.

Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü

**SEMİNER  
SERİSİ**

AGÜ

**TOPLUMSAL CİNSİYET, KADINLAR ve  
PREKARYA: TÜRKİYE'DEN ÖRNEKLER**

**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Nazlı ŞENSES ÖZCAN**  
Başkent Üniversitesi

### Özet

Bu sunumun amacı, toplumsal cinsiyet ve güç dinamiklerinin keskinleştiği farklı prekaryaya biçimlerini nasıl oluşturduğuna ve bu keskinleşimin prekaryaya anlamadığı kavramsal/teorik etkilerinin neler olduğuna odaklanmaktadır. Özellikle çalışma hayatında cinsiyet ve güçten keskinleşmiş işçilerin kadınların çalışma koşulları üzerinde derinleşen etkilerinde prekaryanın diğer yaşam alanlarını yansıtması da ele alınmaktadır. Özellikle prekaryaya komünist/teorik tartışmalar içeren kadınlar açısından yeniden ele alınmaktadır. Kavramsal ve teorik analizde kullanılan ampirik güncel, Türkiye'deki işçilerin kadınların yaşam ve çalışma koşullarına ilişkin mevcut tartışmaların özetidir.

### Bio

Dr. Nazlı Şenses Özcan, Başkent Üniversitesi Siyaset Bilimi ve Uluslararası İlişkiler Bölümü'nde 2014 yılından beri Dr. Öğretim Üyesi olarak çalışmaktadır. Lisans derecesini 2004 yılında Başkent Üniversitesi Uluslararası İlişkiler bölümünden, yüksek lisansını Leiden Üniversitesinde (Hollanda) Siyaset Biliminden, doktora derecesini ise 2012 yılında Başkent Üniversitesinde Siyaset Bilimi bölümünden almıştır. Genel araştırma alanı güç siyasettir. Özel olarak, yayınlara ve araştırmalara düzensiz, güç, güç ve güvensizlik (prekaryasyon), sivil toplum ve güç ilişkisine odaklanmaktadır. En son yayını, İstanbul'da son yıllarda sivil toplum düzeyinde gelişenlere yönelik geliştirilen çalışmaları "Derinden komünistlik (hospitality) kavramı çerçevesinde" içerisinde Fatma Faruk'un ile ortaklaşa yazdıkları makaledir.

27 Nisan 2022 Çarşamba

AGU International Office has organized an Orientation Programme to welcome new international students. International Office supported our new students during registration, Diploma Equivalency, Residence Permit, Health Insurance etc.



AGU hosted an event for international students organized by the Kayseri Directorate of Immigration Management to help them use public services.



During Orientation Program there are so many events to inform new students about AGU and academic life.

International Student Association Club and AGU International Office organized the Lebanon Day. Students from Lebanon promoted their culture and country.

As part of the Intercultural Series organized jointly by the International Student Association Club and AGU International Office, the Lebanon Day event was held in the Rectorate Conference Hall on the Sümer Campus.



"Social Cohesion Meetings" training for refugees affiliated with the Kayseri Provincial Directorate of Migration was organized on campus. In the training given to 370 refugees in three weeks, the Youth Factory also presented on Sustainable Development Goals and their importance.



AGU has a Psychological Counseling and Guidance Office in order to help students to develop socially, emotionally, mentally, and behaviorally, to contribute to their personal development, and to help them gain the necessary competencies to overcome academic, personal, and social difficulties they may encounter in daily life and to cope with problems.

#### Students supported by Psychological Counseling and Guidance Office in 2022

|                                |    |
|--------------------------------|----|
| Number of low-income students: | 63 |
| Non- traditional students:     | 5  |
| Women:                         | 40 |
| LGBT students:                 | 3  |

AGU Academic Audio Library Project aims to ensure that academic course resources are converted into accessible formats for visually impaired students. This project aims to establish a platform that will enable visually impaired students to access academic resources through open access and to provide the vocalization of academic publications in English and Turkish for this platform.



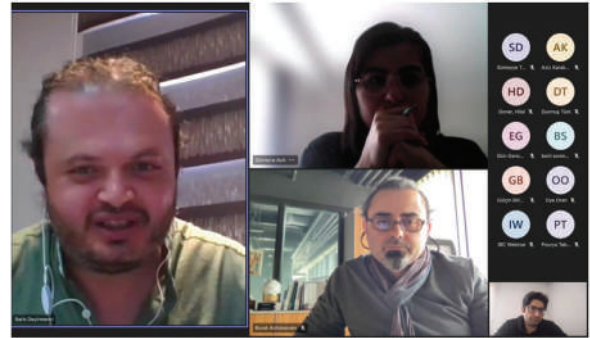
The poster features a red banner at the top with the text "NO BARRIERS TO SHARE LIFE" and an icon of an eye with a diagonal line through it. Below this, the text reads: "AGU ACADEMIC SESLİ KÜTÜPHANEM" PROJECT MEETING EVENT. A small icon of an open book with a magnifying glass is also present. The text continues: "You are invited to our meeting event to learn more about the project, which aims to make academic/digital books that visually impaired people, one of the disadvantaged groups in society, have difficulty accessing, voiced by AGU students!". At the bottom, it specifies the date "01.04.2022 - 14.30" and the location "Rectorate Conference Hall". Logos for AGU Gençlik Fabrikası, swe, AGU İşbirliği Kulübü, and AGU Kütüphane Daire Başkanlığı are displayed at the bottom.

In cooperation with AGU, the Provincial Directorate of Migration Management, and the Provincial Directorate of National Education, a 160-hour Turkish course was provided for 4 times in 3-month periods to ensure the integration of migrants into society.



## British Academy's Project on Syrian Immigrants

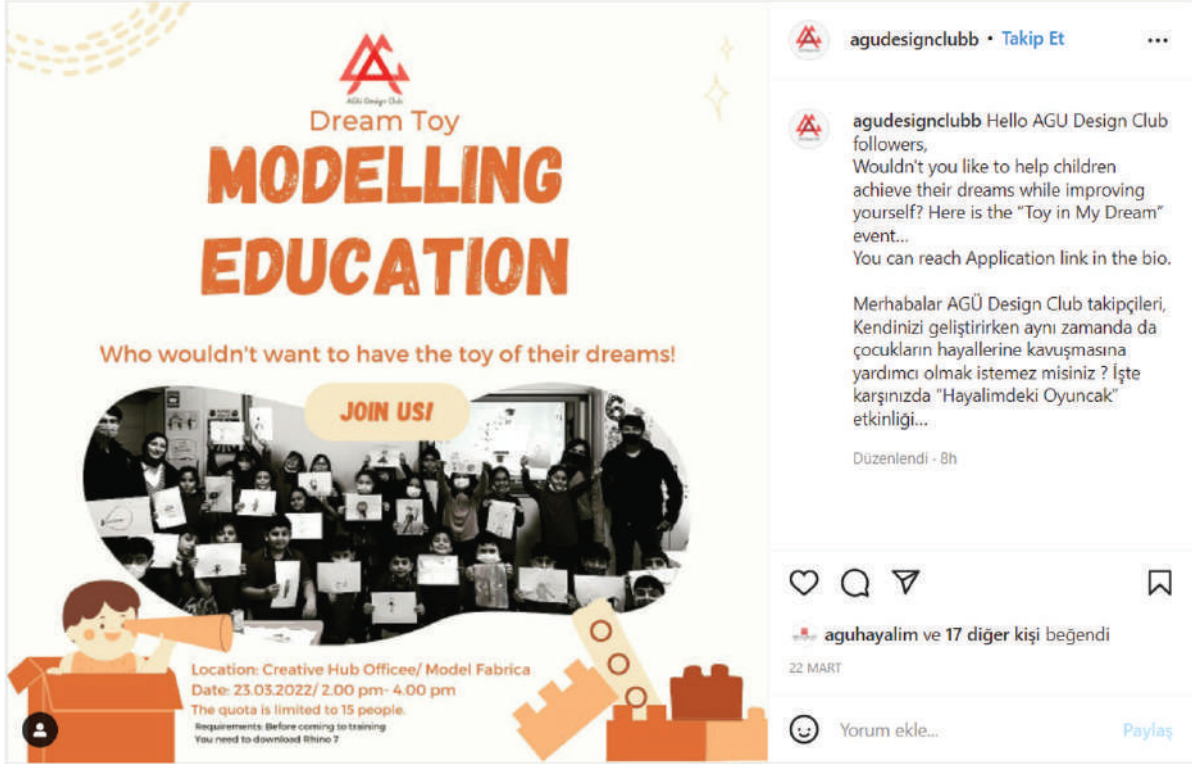
"In/Visible Syrian Immigrants in Turkey: Identities and Cities in Transition", a research project supported by the British Academy, and "Teaching Children Turkish as a Foreign Language with Games". At the meeting, Prof. Dr. Burak Asiliskender, Chair of the Department of Architecture at AGU, and faculty members Dr. Sinan Akyüz and Dr. Sümeyra Ayrık made presentations to introduce Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan (3RP). In the area of education spearheaded by UNICEF, the platform cooperates with the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Turkish Red Crescent, partners from NGOs, and partners from public institutions such as the Ministry of Education (MEB), the Ministry of Youth and Sports (GSB), the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB), the Ministry of Family and Social Services (ASHB).



## British Academy's Project on Syrian Immigrants

## Dream Toy

As AGÜ Design Club, an educational event was held at the Model Factory Creative Hub under the name of 'Dream Toy' to help children achieve their dreams.



## Assignment as Tournament Referee for BILL JEAN KING CUP

The Billie Jean King Cup (or the BJK Cup) is the premier international team competition in women's tennis, launched as the Federation Cup in 1963 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the International Tennis Federation (ITF). The name was changed to the Fed Cup in 1995, and changed again in September 2020 in honor of former World No. 1 Billie Jean King. The Billie Jean King Cup is the world's largest annual women's international team sports competition in terms of the number of nations that compete.

Department of Bioengineering of Life&-Natural Sciences Faculty, Assist. Prof. Dr. İsmail AKÇOK's request to be appointed as referee in the BILL JEAN KING CUP tournament to be held at Antalya Megasaray Tennis Academy between 11-16 April 2022, in accordance with Article 29 of the 3289 Law on the Organization and Duties of the General Directorate of Sports, has been accepted.



*Assignment as Tournament Referee for  
BILL JEAN KING CUP*

