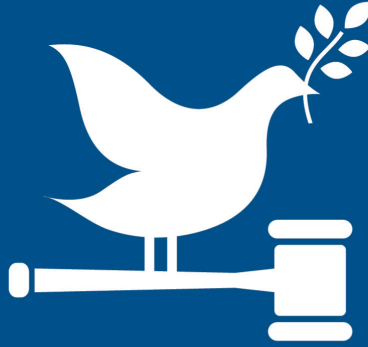




2021  
Sustainability Report  
SDG16

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



ABDULLAH GÜL  
UNIVERSITY



**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

**16 PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS**



**SDG 16** aims to **promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.**

Pleas for global peace are growing louder as the world witnesses the highest number of violent conflicts since 1945, with approximately 2 billion people living in conflict-affected countries by the end of 2020. Amid these crises and despite movement restrictions arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, forced displacement has continued to occur and even grow. By the end of 2020, 82.4 million people had been forcibly displaced worldwide, meaning that 1 in 95 persons has currently been forcibly displaced. These numbers will increase, as the war in Ukraine is estimated to have already displaced over 7 million people in the country. The costs of war and conflict are high, affecting the poorest and most vulnerable the most and leading to global impacts and escalating humanitarian needs.



Globally, about 437,000 people were victims of homicide in 2020. Between 2015 and 2020, the global homicide rate declined by 5.2% (from 5.9 homicides per 100,000 population to 5.6 per 100,000). Women and girls are disproportionately impacted by lethal violence in the home and account for about 60% of all homicide victims killed by intimate partners or other family members.

The United Nations recorded at least 11,075 civilian conflict-related deaths in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts in 2021. This translates into 4.1 civilians per 100,000 population; one in eight of those deaths was the death of a woman or child. Compared with 2020, the number of deaths decreased by 26% and by 80% compared with 2015. Despite the overall reduction, many of these situations are fragile, with ongoing and growing risks of escalation and associated violations of international human rights and international humanitarian law. As of 12 April 2022, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights had recorded the killing of 1,932 civilians in the conflict in Ukraine and the actual figure is considerably higher.

<sup>1</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/img/info/Goal-16.pdf>

Based on survey data from 114 countries, on average, approximately 69% of the population report feeling safe or very safe walking alone around the area in which they live after dark, a figure that has remained stable over the period 2016–2021. Women continue to feel significantly less safe than men.

Violence against children is widespread, affecting children regardless of wealth or social status. In 76 countries (mostly low and middle-income countries) with available data from 2013 to 2021, 8 in 10 children aged 1–14 years were subjected to some form of psychological aggression and/or physical punishment at home in the previous month.

In 2018, for every 10 victims of human trafficking detected globally, about 5 were adult women and 2 were girls. About one-third of the overall number of detected victims were children. The sharp increase in unemployment rates brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic is likely to increase trafficking in persons. Ukrainian refugees, mostly women and children, are particularly at risk of human trafficking and exploitation.

Only 60 countries (mostly low- and middle-income countries) have internationally comparable data on sexual violence in childhood against girls and only 12 have produced such data for boys. Across regions with representative estimates in 2020, the prevalence of sexual violence in childhood among young women aged 18–29 years ranges from 2% in Central and Southern Asia to 7% in Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand).

By the end of 2020, 11.2 million people were held behind bars compared with just under 11.8 million people in 2019, representing the first decrease in the last two decades. This re-education can be attributed to various factors, including the emergency release of prisoners and reduced admissions of new detainees due to court delays or reduced crime and/or law enforcement activities during the period of the lockdown measures following the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the share of prisoners held in detention without being sentenced was roughly 1 in every 3 prisoners, the same share since 2000.

Parliaments and their leaders have become younger and more gender-diverse in the past five years. Representation of youth (aged 45 years or under) stood at 28.1% in 2018, climbed to 31.1% in 2021 and then dropped to 30.2% in 2022. While the proportion of women speakers rose gradually from 17.3% in 2018 to 22% in 2022, this continues to be below the global average proportion of women in parliament (26.1%). The proportion of women committee chairs fell from 26.8% in 2021 to 26.2% in 2022. Male parliamentarians aged 46 years or over continue to dominate leadership positions in parliament, holding 71.8% of speaker posts and 60.5% of committee chairs.

Progress in establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions decelerated in 2021. On average, there were four applications for accreditation by new national human rights institutions every year for the period 2015–2017 compared with only one new application for national human rights institution accreditation per year for the period 2018–2021. Only 43% of countries currently benefit from independent national human rights institutions.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2022/secretary-general-sdg-report-2022--EN.pdf>

## AGU'S POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Peace and justice go hand in hand, and they are indeed vital for equity between people and countries. To support this, we need our institutions to be strong enough to maintain a focus on delivering the SDGs. This can range from individual justice eradicating modern slavery and people trafficking to ensuring that our countries have the evidence base needed to react appropriately to crises. Abdullah Gül University (AGU) has regulations and policies for peace and justice. These regulations and principles are identified in AGU's policy supporting academic freedom, which includes the rights, without restriction, to freedom of teaching, discussion, scholarly and creative work and service, freedom in choosing areas of research and disseminating and publishing the results thereof, freedom to express their personal opinions, freedom from institutional censorship, and freedom to participate in professional or representative academic bodies. The University has participatory bodies to recognize and engage local stakeholders. Besides, AGU has a Technology Transfer Office for communication with local businesses and a Press and Public Relations Directorate for public communication.

AGU has values that are implemented into every aspect of university life. In its values, AGU has committed to “promoting fundamental rights and freedoms for all, leading by example and progressing sustainably.” In this regard, AGU has adopted its policies.



AGU has diverse elected representatives on the University's highest governing bodies, the University Board and Senate. For instance, the President of the Student Council is part of the University Senate. They are invited to senate meetings on specific topics, relevant to their position and role. Student Council elections are held once every two years in a democratic environment by the Dean of Students. According to the Inter-University Council document, “University Student Council Regulations”, Article 15, subparagraph d, “The Student Council President attends the meetings of the Senate and the Board of Directors of the University if deemed appropriate by the Rector's Office during the discussion of issues related to students.”

The University's General Secretary is a non-academic member of the University's Board and therefore represents non-faculty employees. The other members of the University Board are faculty members. Each department elects its representative, and department representatives determine the faculty representatives. The chairman of the AGU Council is elected among the faculty representatives.

AGU stakeholders are recognized and defined in the University's Strategic Plan 2017-2021 (page 17), on Stakeholder List, as well as the University's Internal Self Evaluation Report (page 21), submitted to the Higher Education Council. In addition to the stakeholder list, AGU has also identified members for its diverse committees and an Organisation Schema. The Committee Members List is updated once a year. Kayseri Chamber of Industry (KAYSO) Representative and Kayseri Chamber of Commerce (KTO) Representative are also included among the committee members. The University's highest governing bodies regularly invite local stakeholders to join their meetings and participate in the decision-making process of the University, which includes members not only from the KTO or KAYSO but also from local government, civil society, etc. as stakeholders. Multiple AGU departments have advisory boards, including influential CEOs, industry leaders and civil society, to optimize the relevance of AGU programs and services. AGU constantly engages and interacts with its stakeholders by visiting them frequently, like visits to companies, universities, high, primary, or secondary schools, etc. and inviting them to the campus for science competitions, fairs, workshops, seminars, use of labs, summits, etc.

The AGU Foundation (AGUF), whose only aim is to support AGU on its mission to become a world university, is a foundation established by Türkiye's respected industrialists and business people with broad participation. In addition to providing financial support, AGUF has a cooperation model that focuses on the same purpose within the framework of a common mission and vision with the University and will enable AGU to achieve its goals.

AGUF's main areas of support are as follows: awarding and supporting successful students; providing all kinds of support to meet the economic, social, and cultural needs of the academic and administrative staff; and supporting the development of education, research, and application opportunities with its physical and technological infrastructure.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal16>  
<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>



University-Industry Research Cooperation Foundation (USAIV) is a foundation established in cooperation with AGU, Erciyes University, Kayseri University and KAYSO in Kayseri. The objectives of USAIV are as follows:

- To ensure university-industry cooperation in order to conduct research for industry in accordance with today's technology.
- To support researches carried out in universities according to the latest technology for industry. In this context, to establish laboratories, workshops, to provide tools and equipment and to inform industrialists about the latest developments.
- To provide successful disadvantaged students with the opportunity to do internship, specialisation and doctorate at home and abroad,
- To open and operate student dormitories, libraries, canteens, workplaces in places deemed appropriate by the Board of Directors of the Foundation,
- To provide opportunities to train personnel and scientists in technical fields related to today's technology. In this direction, to organise seminars, conferences and symposiums in order to ensure that university students and industrialists benefit from international developments in science branches.
- To establish companies, to become partners in existing enterprises and to operate them.
- To promote teaching, training and research, to publish all kinds of publications such as magazines, bulletins, newspapers and books related to the technological developments of the day, to organise competitions, to give awards.

AGU also complies with Turkish Law No. 3628 on the "Declaration of Financial Assets, Struggle Against Bribery and Corruption". Article VI of the AGU Policies on Equality and Freedom tackles "Forced Labour, Crime, Corruption and Bribery." AGU complies with Article 18 of the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye, which states that "No one shall be forced to work. Forced labour is prohibited." In line with this constitutional regulation, AGU strictly condemns and shall not engage in forced labour, modern slavery, and human trafficking activities.

AGU has a Student Clubs Handbook for student clubs, and the operations of student clubs are carried out in accordance with this handbook. Our Student Clubs have social media accounts, such as those of AGU Young Red Crescent, AGU Children with Leukaemia Health and Education Foundation (LOSEV), and AGU Women in Business, where they share their activities with the public. The University also has the SDG Student Hub, an initiative based on SDSN Youth. The SDG Student Hub organizes many training programs and activities.

## AGU'S PROGRESS

AGU tracks publications, projects, courses, theses, dissertations, congress and symposium participation for all SDGs through AVESIS (Academic Data Management System).

### Students Statistics



### Scientific Statistics



## RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

AGU aims to ensure peace, justice and strong institutions by conducting a lot of research and projects. Some of the projects carried out are Socio-Technical University Model for Higher Education, Kayseri 2050, the Learn and Transform, Strategic Plan for Fundraising for Istanbul Land Walls, Determining Ideal Post-Earthquake Housing Design Criteria with an Interdisciplinary Approach and Developing a Decision Support System Project and 'Psychology Around the World' a project to improve cultural sensitivity. AGU also has a technopark, which supports its research and projects. In addition, some faculty members of AGU serve on the advisory boards of research support programs.

### Socio-Technical University Model for Higher Education Project

AGU was established as a research and development project called "Socio-Technical University Model for Higher Education," an ongoing initiative started by the Turkish Ministry of Development and supported by the Turkish Higher Education Council. The project was defined with the help of about 20 search conferences and 40 workshops and has aimed at pioneering the new generation university model in Türkiye, with unique and innovative curricula and educational processes, thus disseminating its find-



ings across all higher education institutions in the country and beyond to inspire and trigger the implementation of new educational and administrative systems, processes, and policies. In addition, within the frame of our Bachelor’s program in Business Administration, AGU students complete courses in “Law for Managers” and “Tax Law.”

## Kayseri 2050 Project

AGU collaborates with the Kayseri Municipality to help the city develop more sustainable, eco-friendly, cost-efficient, affordable facilities, including housing for residents. In this regard, a search conference was organized jointly by AGU and Kayseri Metropolitan Municipality on the “Kayseri 2050” theme and started to create shared wisdom and participatory planning.

Within the framework of university-industry R&D cooperation, AGU and Kayseri Transportation Inc. have partnerships on several projects to make transportation services more efficient. One of these projects is the “Artificial Intelligence and Graphic Theory Based Smart Intersection Management System Development Project” for Kayseri. It aims to minimize traffic problems by performing modelling activities of the intersection points of Kayseri Province. The other project is “Kayseri Public Transportation System Optimization (Preparatory Phase).” The long-term objectives of the project are as follows:

- Analyzing and evaluating the problems of the urban transportation sector and producing innovative solutions.
- Developing products for establishing a transportation structure with domestic, innovative, green, and smart systems.
- Ensuring the formation of a safe and sustainable transportation structure with high efficiency.
- Reducing fuel consumption and carbon emissions from urban transportation.
- Digital transformation for smart cities and infrastructures within the framework of the fourth industrial revolution (Industry 4.0) and sustainable support.



*“Kayseri 2050” Project*

## The Learn and Transform Project

“The Learn and Transform Project” of the Kayseri Model Factory was launched thanks to the partnership of AGU, KAYSO, and KTO. It was designed to give hands-on training to industrialists on production efficiency and digital transformation.

The primary target group of the Kayseri Model Factory is Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) with more than 50 employees, which have the highest potential for growth and employment creation. The Learn and Transform Project, combining Model Factory Experiential Training and field coaching, aims to train and develop a company’s own “Lean Leaders.” The training programs within the project are designed to enable these leaders to significantly increase company productivity with the “Lean Production Methodology” by changing their perspective on production without making any new investment and to make the gains they have achieved sustainable by spreading them within their companies.

## Strategic Plan for Fundraising for Istanbul Land Walls

Within the scope of conservation works for the Land Walls of Istanbul, which has been recognized as having Outstanding Universal Value among the 18 sites registered on the UNESCO World Heritage List in our country, together with 3 other sites in Istanbul, preparations for a Strategic Plan for the Land Walls are underway with the aim of funding restoration of cultural heritage assets so that projects that have been prepared and approved can be realized. Concerning the restoration and repair works to be carried out, Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality has started a campaign for the protection and reputation of the Land Walls and its surroundings through contemporary conservation approaches. The plan aims to determine strategies that are assumed to create the resources for budget development for the protection of the Land Walls of Istanbul by emphasizing visibility, awareness, and reputation about them and promoting them to possible supporters; list the objectives under these strategies; and prepare an action plan that will include the actions required to achieve the objectives.

Determining Ideal Post-Earthquake Housing Design Criteria with an Interdisciplinary Approach and Developing a Decision Support System Project

AGU Civil Engineering Faculty Member Assoc. Prof. Dr Müge Akin’s project were entitled to be supported by TÜBİTAK within the scope of ARDEB 1001 “Earthquake Research Call”.

The TÜBİTAK project, titled “Determining Ideal Post-Earthquake Housing Design Criteria with an Interdisciplinary Approach and Developing a Decision Support System”, will highlight the criteria for the ideal post-earthquake shelter need, taking into account different disciplines and parameters. In the Project, Dr Buket Metin from AGU Department of Architecture will be included as a researcher. In addition, academicians from Erciyes University Civil Engineering and Industrial Engineering Departments and Catalonia Polytechnic University will also take part as researchers.

## AGU Technopark

AGU Technopark was established in partnership with AGUF, KAYSO, and KTO. AGU Technopark is the only technopark in Türkiye established through a non-profit Technology Transfer Office in order to be sustainable. AGU Technopark carries out innovation and product development activities by cooperating with the public and private sectors regarding research, development, and innovation. AGU Technopark, one of the aims of which is to improve university and industry cooperation, provides incorporation and entrepreneurship support for the University. In addition, it carries out work in the fields of mentoring, entrepreneurship, licensing, or industrial cooperation within the scope of intellectual property of the information produced and inventions made.

## Advisory Boards of Research Support Programs

AGU faculty members, for instance Prof. Dr. Niğmet Uzal and Prof. Dr. Evren Mutlugün, serve on the advisory boards of research support programs in organizations such as the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TUBITAK), which is affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Technology of Türkiye, and the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Organization (KOSGEB). Furthermore, some related projects were carried out as TUBITAK projects and Scientific Research Projects (BAP) and continued in 2021.

## EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COURSES

AGU offers many educational programs and courses. In 2021, 24 courses related to the SDG 16 were offered. In addition to these courses, we have units such as the AGU Academy, the Model Factory, the AGU Youth Factory, and Technology Transfer Office and educational programs such as the Global Challenge Curriculum (GLB). AGU hosts multiple educational programs and courses open to the general public, such as executive education programs and/or vocational training programs.

## AGU Academy

An AGU Centre called “AGU Academy” is dedicated to designing and providing upskilling, continuing education, and capacity-building programs, such as Project Management, Language courses, Information Technology and In-Service training, etc., to the general public. In 2021, the AGU Academy organized training and short training programs for disadvantaged students within the scope of social responsibility. All participants received an online participation certificate at the end of the training programs. Some of the topics of these programs were climate change, conflict resolution and economics.

## Model Factory

In collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Turkish Ministry of Science, Industry, and Technology, the KAYSO and the KTO, AGU established a “Model Factory” on its Sümer Campus, which started running in 2019. The launch was made during a meeting held by KAYSO. This ambitious project falls within the framework of the Turkish government’s 100-day action plan of the national strategic plan 2019-2023. The project is partly financed by the German Investment Bank (KfW) as well as the UNDP, which has committed to invest about 14 million Turkish Liras.

## AGU Youth Factory

The AGU “Youth Factory” is a learner-focused youth centre, recognized by the Turkish Higher Education Council, whose mission is to help youth by offering training and helping them gain life experience, expand their visions, acknowledge international cultures, be creative and enterprising, become active members of society, share the joy of learning together as well as creating together. The centre collaborates with numerous national-international public institutions. For instance, it signed an agreement to provide specific expert advice to and work closely with Turkish National Agency and European Commission’s “SALTO Euromed Youth Resource Centre.” The AGU Youth Factory is also a member of “Eurodesk Turkey Trainers Board and Strategy Team,” a member of the trainers pool of the “Turkish National Agency” and “United Nations Academic Impact.” In addition, the AGU Youth Factory publishes an Annual Report, which includes its national and international work, projects, and events.

## AGU Technology Transfer Office

AGU Technology Transfer Office organizes training programs within the scope of the Creative Hub Project in order to improve the skills of entrepreneurs to work together. These training programs are open to the participation of the whole public and free of charge. At the end of each program, all participants receive a “certificate of participation.” Some of the topics of the organized training programs are as follows: Creative Drama, Cooperation, Ideas for Solutions, Psychology of Entrepreneurs, Intercultural Learning, Software, and Design.

## AGU Global Challenge Curriculum (GLB)

AGU developed an innovative GLB composed of one mandatory course and several elective courses taught throughout the four undergraduate academic years. These courses focus on global topics such as the ones tackled by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and real-life-based projects aim to make students “ready for life” after graduation. The curriculum model combines research, learning, and social impact and adopts a constructivist approach by considering competencies. The curriculum will advance students within the framework of active learning, learn-

ing by doing, on-site learning, and peer learning in a transdisciplinary ecosystem. On this platform, students may discuss global topics. In 2021, as every year at AGU, a training session on Global Challenges and SDGs was organized by Bahar Özay (PhDc), Türkiye Coordinator of the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), as part of the GLB 301 Sustainability course. Please [see](#) for more information about the AGU Higher Education Curriculum for SDGs.

## COOPERATION AND EVENTS

AGU emphasizes the significance of the cooperation and events conducted in relation to the SDG 16. Some of the University's relevant cooperation and events are as follows.

### Cooperation

AGU has a number of partnerships with international organizations related to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, such as the "[SDG Accord](#)," which is an organization that collects data to analyze and assess universities' commitment to the UN SDGs; "[Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance \(ATHENA\)](#)," which is one of the federations of higher education institutions within the scope of the European Union's European Universities Initiative; "[UN Academic Impact](#)," which has been launched by the United Nations to support the realization of its goals, increase awareness about the protection of human rights, advance educational opportunity for all, and support the realization of the SDGs; "[SDGs Universities](#)," which aims to bring together universities and research institutions from across the world in a global forum to collaborate and reconnect with the discourse of Sustainable Development; "[Global Solutions Initiative](#)," which is a global collaborative enterprise to propose policy responses to major global problems, addressed by the G20, the G7 and other global governance fora; "[SDSN](#)," which promotes integrated approaches to implement the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change through education, research, policy analysis, and global cooperation; "[SDSN Youth](#)," which has been launched by SDSN to empower youth globally to create sustainable development solutions, educate young people about the SDGs, and provides opportunities for them to pioneer innovative solutions to address the world's biggest challenges; "[SALTO-Youth](#)," which provides non-formal learning resources for youth workers and youth leaders and organizes training and contact-making activities to support organizations and National Agencies (NAs) within the frame of the European Commission's Erasmus+ Youth programme, the European Solidarity Corps and beyond; "[SDG Academy](#)," which is an online education platform that creates and delivers Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC) on interdisciplinary issues concerning 17 SDGs determined by the United Nations, prepared by academics, practitioners and experts working on sustainable development; "[Association for Developing Women Collaboration \(KIGDER\)](#)," a crucial civil society organization performing very important deeds with the purpose of improving women legally, socially, and politically first in Kayseri and then in all countries and helping them produce added value; "[Erciyes Teknopark Sera Incubation Centre](#)," which provides support to spin-offs, start-ups working in the field of Smart Life, Smart Urbanism, Mobile Applications,



Robotics, Wireless Communication, Wearable Technologies, Mobile Health, Intelligent Education, Renewable and Intelligent Energy Systems, Information Technologies and Software, and Food Technologies and with the partnership of which AGU can assist the start-up of sustainable businesses; “International City/County Management Association (ICMA),” which was established with the mission of advancing professional local government through leadership, innovation, and ethics and creating more egalitarian, more inclusive, and better communities around the world.

In September 2018, AGU was approved to become an official signatory of the Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU), the “Great Charter of Universities” which lays down the “fundamental values and principles of the university” and “encourages strong bonds among European Universities”. “It contains principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy as a guideline for good governance and self-understanding of universities in the future.” AGU also officially resigned the new MCU 2020. The original principles of autonomy and independence remain in the new MCU, and it has been expanded to incorporate values and responsibilities that are vital to strengthening the role of universities in the preservation of the planet and in promoting health, prosperity and enlightenment around the world. Universities, their students and graduates make important contributions to the world, and they can’t do it alone. The connections forged through signing and celebrating the MCU 2020 are vital to this work. According to AGU’s Board Policies on Equality and Freedom, no one is to be discriminated against for their political opinions. Everyone is free to express their political views as long as they are in line with Turkish laws.

## Events

### 1- The 1<sup>st</sup> Learn and Transform Project Launch Meeting

The 1st Learn and Transform Project launch meeting of the Kayseri Model Factory, which was established in partnership with AGU, KAYSO, and KTO and cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Technology and UNDP, was held. The launch meeting brought together different institutions for decision-making processes.

Speaking at the meeting, Rector Prof. Dr. Cengiz Yılmaz pointed out that a good example of the university and industry cooperation was exhibited in the project. Prof. Dr. Yılmaz also stated that the Model Factory emerged with a good idea when it was

established and developed with determined management and personnel suitable for the purpose.

Klaus Müller, KfW Director for South-east Europe and Türkiye, also attended the meeting with a video explaining the purpose of the program.



*1<sup>st</sup> Learn and Transform Project Launch Meeting from Kayseri Model Factory*



## 2- UN Delegation Visited AGU

Philippe Leclerc, Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Türkiye, and his accompanying delegation visited AGU.

Firstly, a round table meeting on “Urban Economy and Asylum System” was organized at the Abdullah Gül Presidential Museum and Library on the Sümer Campus.

In addition to Philippe Leclerc, Deputy Governor Mehmet Sadık Tunç, AGU Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Erk Hacıhasanoğlu, UNDP Resident Representative Louisa Vinton, representatives from the Metropolitan Municipality, Chamber of Industry, Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Agriculture, Turkish Employment Agency (ISKUR), Immigration Authority, and Provincial Health Directorate attended the meeting. The UNCHR visit brought together many institutions on the AGU campus.

The opening speeches of the meeting were made by Vice Rector Prof. Dr. Erk Hacıhasanoğlu, UNHCR Türkiye Representative Philippe Leclerc, UNDP Resident Representative Louisa Vinton, and Deputy Governor Mehmet Sadık Tunç. During the meeting, various discussions were held on trade, industry, agriculture-animal husbandry, urban economy, asylum system and social adaptation of refugees in Kayseri.

AGU and UNHCR signed a “Letter of Understanding (LoU)” protocol after the meeting. This collaboration aims to strengthen UNHCR’s support to AGU in the protection and the provision of services to temporary protection beneficiaries, international protection applicants and status holders and asylum-seekers in Kayseri and eventually in Türkiye, as well as to support vulnerable local communities to promote social cohesion. The purpose of LoU is to establish a framework for strengthening operational collaboration between the Parties in the areas of education, livelihoods, social cohesion, protection, assistance and solutions, empowerment opportunities for young people, in particular young women and refugees, enforcement of student involvement, self-reliance and other relevant areas mutually agreed upon.

Philippe Leclerc then attended the GLB 205 “Sustainable Cities and Communities” course at AGU and made evaluations on the challenges and opportunities related to refugees and migrants and answered the questions of the students.

Lastly, the UN delegation visited Rector Prof. Dr. Cengiz Yılmaz in his office at AGU. Philippe Leclerc talked with Rector Yılmaz for a while and stated his gratitude that the “Urban Economy and Asylum System” round table meeting was held at AGU.



*UN Delegation Visited AGU*

AGU Department of Political Science and International Relations member Asst. Prof. Dr. Armağan Teke Lloyd, together with Asst. Prof. Dr. Bilge Yalçındağ from the AGU Department of Psychology and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Harika Süklün from the AGU Department of Business Administration, represented AGU at the “4th National Action Plan on Combating Violence against Women (2021-2025) Preparatory Workshop,” organized by the Kayseri Provincial Directorate of the Ministry of Family and Social Services. During the three-day workshop between 7–9 December 2021, different institutions exchanged views and made plans for future joint work.

### 3- AGU Technopark Officially Established

AGU Technopark, established in partnership with AGUF, KTO, and KAYSO, is the only technopark in Türkiye established through a non-profit Technology Transfer Office to be sustainable. AGU Technopark, which aims to increase the wealth of society by supporting the innovation and competitiveness culture of knowledge-based companies, manages and promotes the flow of information and technology between universities, R&D organizations, companies, and the market.

The Technopark was officially established and started its operations with the signing ceremony held in the Rectorate Senate Hall on the Sümer Campus. Founding Rector Prof. Dr. İhsan Sabuncuoğlu, Foundation member Mustafa Çelik on behalf of the AGU Foundation, Chamber of Commerce President Ömer Gülsoy, and Chamber of Industry President Mehmet Büyüksimitci attended the signing ceremony and signed the partnership agreement.

It was pointed out that to ensure the sustainability of AGU Technopark, they established it as the only non-profit technopark in Türkiye through a Technology Transfer Office, and in this respect, a first in Türkiye was realized.



*AGU Technopark was officially established*

#### 4- World Human Rights Day Workshop

Under the leadership of the AGU Faculty of Architecture, the 5th SDGs Workshop for Children was held within the scope of “10 December World Human Rights Day,” with the participation of the “Science at School for Climate” project team of the German Embassy.

Practical experiments, interactive shows, and thematic games were included in the workshop organized within the scope of “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions,” the 16th Sustainable Development Goal of the UN.



*AGU Technopark was officially established*

