



2021
Sustainability Report
SDG17

17 **PARTNERSHIPS**
FOR THE GOALS



ABDULLAH GÜL
UNIVERSITY



**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

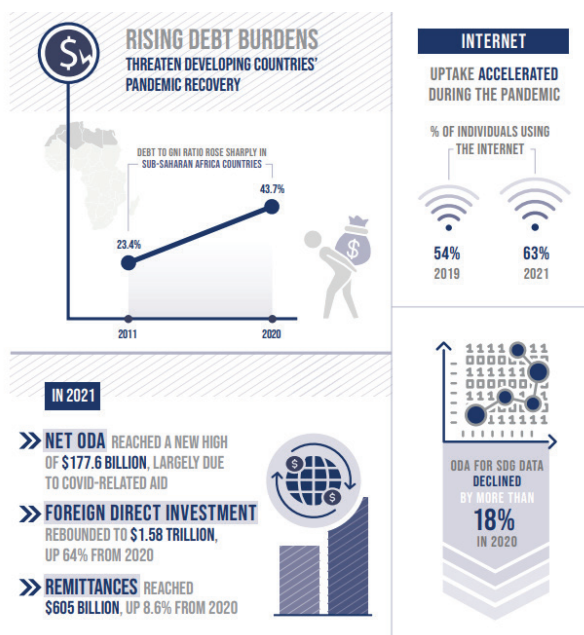
**17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS**



SDG 17 aims to strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

Many developing countries are struggling to recover from the pandemic despite a record-high level of official development assistance (ODA) and a strong rebound in global foreign direct investment (FDI) and remittance flows. Among other challenges, developing countries are battling record inflation, rising interest rates and looming debt burdens. With competing priorities and limited fiscal space, many are finding it harder than ever to recover economically. With the pandemic far from over and stark disparities in vaccine distribution among countries, there is also the threat of a “two-tiered” COVID-19 recovery. To build back better from the pandemic and rescue the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a full-scale transformation of the international financial and debt architecture will be required.

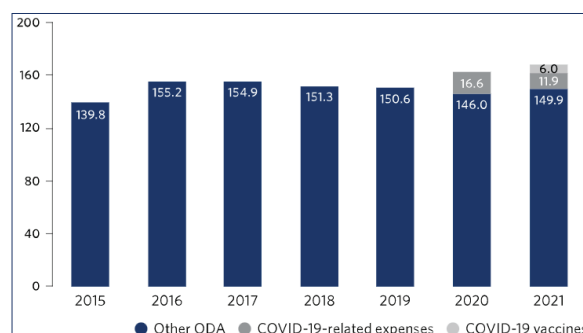
The world is facing a multitude of crises across the social, health, environmental, and peace and security spectrums. To find lasting solutions, international cooperation must be scaled up urgently. To stay ahead of crises, significantly more investment in data and statistics will be necessary.



1

Global foreign direct investment flows showed a strong rebound in 2021, up 7% to an estimated \$1.65 trillion from less than \$1 trillion in 2020 and surpassing their pre-pandemic level.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, remittance flows to low- and middle-income countries were projected to have grown by a strong 7.3% to reach \$589 billion in 2021.



Components of net official development assistance flows, 2015-2021

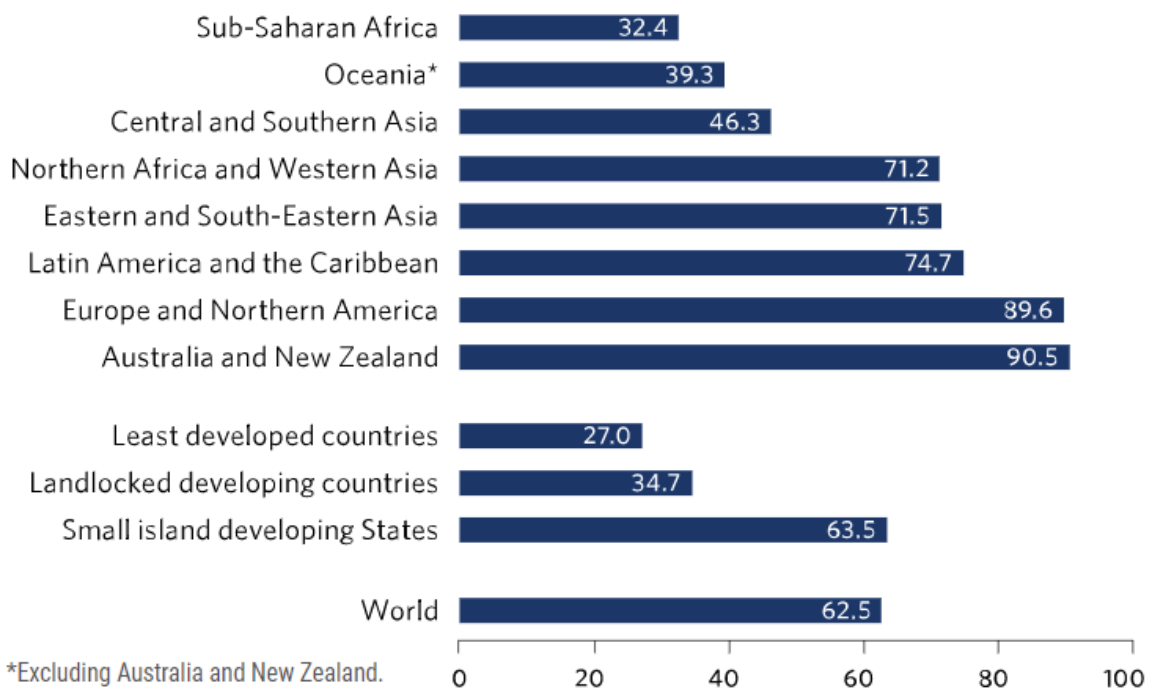
¹ <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2022/Goal-17/>

Information and communications technology

The latest data show that the uptake of the Internet accelerated during the pandemic. The number of users surged by 782 million to reach 4.9 billion people in 2021 or 63% of the population, up from 4.1 billion people in 2019. Globally, in 2020, 62% of men were using the Internet compared with 57% of women.

Fixed broadband subscriptions continue to grow steadily, attaining a level of 17 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants on a global average in 2021. In the least developed countries, despite double-digit growth, fixed broadband remains a privilege of the few, with only 1.4 subscriptions per 100 inhabitants.

Growth in trade of environmentally sound technologies over 2015–2020 was 5% which, while positive, represented a drop in the overall growth rate prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (the growth rate having been 8% over 2015–2019). While the pandemic has had a negative impact on international trade, those countries with strong economies, large manufacturing and/or financial bases and a focus on innovation are increasing their investment and trade in environmentally sound technologies.



The proportion of individuals using the Internet, 2021 (percentage)

Data, monitoring and accountability

In 2021, 142 countries and territories reported having national statistical legislation compliant with the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, up from 136 in 2020 and 107 in 2016.

In 2021, a total of 150 countries and territories reported implementing a national statistical plan, up from 132 in 2020, with 84 of the plans fully funded. The pandemic has

delayed the development of new national statistical plans worldwide, meaning that many national statistical offices are implementing expired statistical plans which may not fully cover their evolving development objectives².

AGU POLICIES AND PRACTICES

A successful development agenda requires inclusive partnerships at the global, regional, national and local levels built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and shared goals placing people and the planet at the centre. Sustainable development is the responsibility of every part of society, across the world. It cannot be achieved without linkages, across the goals, but also between institutions, governments, companies, NGOs, and people. Strong international cooperation is needed now more than ever to ensure that countries have the means to recover from the pandemic, build back better and achieve SDGs³.

With this regard, Abdullah Gül University (AGU) is committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at local, regional, national, and global scales. The University's organic and additional research is put at the disposal of the network to refine the gathering of data related to SDGs and craft effective policies and actions. AGU has "AGU 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.



AGÜ Values

Since 2013, AGU has started to position itself in higher education with the search conferences it has held with more than 900 external participants (local and foreign scientists, representatives of the business and industry world and NGOs). AGU has focused on producing high-quality research outputs since its establishment and has defined itself as an innovative research university. Having a flexible and dynamic structure due to its

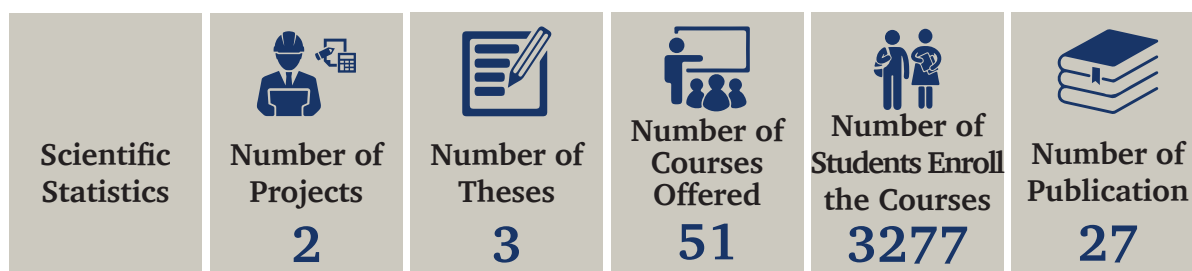
² <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/files/report/2022/secretary-general-sdg-report-2022--EN.pdf>

³ <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/globalpartnerships/>

newly established nature, AGU is able to reach the goals stated within the framework of the vision it has set relatively more easily, and can also produce assertive and guiding outputs in research management processes. Acting with the awareness of this position, AGU has established a common Research Policy with the participation of all academic units, academic staff and external stakeholders (business and industry world, NGOs and public institutions), especially in relation to research processes. AGU's research focus in this sense has been identified as a "sustainability theme". The "17 SDGs" set by the United Nations (UN) since 2018 have formed the basis of the AGU research policy, as areas to which AGU research projects must contribute. Accordingly, AGU has research focusing specifically on advanced materials, health and medical biotechnology, smart systems, cities and societies, energy, innovation and entrepreneurship. It is expected that all research projects, including theses at AGU, as the basic elements of the policy, will reveal their certain contributions to SDGs. In addition, research scientist knowledge, skills and competence development processes are designed in line with these expectations.

AGU'S PROGRESS

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



Courses Statistics

SDG No.	2021	
	No. of Courses Offered	Total No. of Students Enrolled the Courses
SDG 1	6	1202
SDG 2	3	1184
SDG 3	93	4283
SDG 4	79	5008
SDG 5	13	1387
SDG 6	15	1824
SDG 7	33	3000
SDG 8	72	3671
SDG 9	119	5777
SDG 10	33	2640
SDG 11	90	4464
SDG 12	61	3612
SDG 13	22	1969
SDG 14	3	1183
SDG 15	3	1172
SDG 16	24	1672
SDG 17	51	3277
Total	711	44939

RESEARCH AND PROJECTS

AGU aims to ensure partnership for the goals by conducting many research and projects. Some of the projects carried out are Socio-Technical University Model for Higher Education, Kayseri 2050, Model Factory and Architectural Design for Pluralist Society. In addition, AGU has AGU Foundation (AGUF) to support AGU's research and projects.

New Generation Socio-Technical University Model Project

AGU was created as an R&D research project called “New Generation 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 Turkey, with unique and innovative curricula and educational processes, to disseminate the project's findings 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.

The Socio-Technical University Model Project has provided AGU with the necessary intellectual capital to be innovative and bring the universities' 3rd mission: “Societal Impact,” to the Higher Education agenda in Turkey and beyond.



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. The 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 Kay-

seri. This project, it is aimed 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.

- Analysing and evaluating the problems of the urban transportation sector and producing innovative solutions.
- To develop products for the establishment of a transportation structure with domestic, innovative, green and smart systems.
- Ensuring the formation of a safe and sustainable transportation structure with a high level of efficiency.
- To reduce 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 support sustainability.



Kayseri 2050 Project

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 Sumer 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.

Architectural Design Project for Pluralist Society

The AGU Architecture Department participated to “Architectural Design Project for Pluralist Society” aims to teach through design thinking for making cities and communities more inclusive and sustainable. It is a Capstone Design Project for the students of Department of Architecture. With this project, it is aimed to design an innovative and collaborative City Hall for governance of 21st century that society in all forms with municipal and national governance, stake holders, and national and international funds in Kocasinan, Kayseri. The process consists of City

Level Analyzes, Land use Decisions, Conceptual Design Idea; Building envelope design proposals with sections and elevations – Schematic 3D representations. It also aims to develop a global attitude in design by using local problems as a reference for global issues.

AGUF

As AGU aspires to its aim of being a research and teaching University of international standards, an institution playing a key role in its development is the AGUF. Founded in 2011, the work of the AGUF is dedicated to the overall goal of supporting the university with the following three specific aims: To provide financial incentives to successful students, students with financial needs and alumni looking for further study and career opportunities, to provide economic cultural and social support to the University's employees, to fund developments in the university's physical and technical technological facilities, and underwrite improvement in education, research and opportunities for their application.

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 academic and administrative staff and supporting the development of education, research, projects and application opportunities with its physical and technological infrastructure.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS AND COURSES

AGU offers many educational programmes and courses. In 2021, 51 courses related to SDG 17 were offered.

In addition to these courses, AGU has educational programmes such as AGU Global Challenge Curriculum (GLB), Online

Global Classroom, Sustainability-Focused Programs & Courses and units such as AGU Technology Transfer Office, AGU Youth Factory, AGU Career & Employability Office and AGU SDG Student Hub. AGU has also joined the SDG Academy, the education leg of the initiative. AGU created Non-Academic Transcript (NAT), to ensure easy recognition of our students' competencies.

AGU hosts multiple educational programs and courses open to the general public, such as executive education programs and/or vocational trainings.

AGU Global Challenge Curriculum (GLB)

AGU – as a research university seeking solutions to global challenges and aiming at developing citizens who can contribute to societies and shape the future (AGU Mission Statement) – 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 UN SDGs.

AGU Global Courses Objectives: To help students comprehend and seek solutions to current and future world challenges in an innovative and stimulating class environment, to help students develop and improve soft and hard skills that are relevant to today's job market, to establish a culture of dialogue, debate, "Learning by Doing", teamwork, empathy and participatory learning, to enable progress through the blending of all 3 Contemporary University Missions: Education, Research and Societal Impact. Please see for more information about AGU Higher Education Curriculum for SDGs.

Online Global Classroom

AGU co-organises “Online Global Classroom: SDG” sessions as part of its membership in the ATU-Net (Asia Technological University Network) Association. Several AGU students and instructors joined the different lectures and group projects organised.

Sustainability-Focused Programs & Courses

AGU’s focus on the SDGs is the programs that AGU is launching, integrating key topics of the SDGs. One such program is the Master program in Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Engineering, where students address courses such as Clean Water Access Infrastructure in Developing Countries, Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering, Water and Wastewater Treatment Engineering, Engineering for Sustainability, Sustainable Tourism and Sustainable Agriculture.

Some lectures and workshops/seminars organised within the frame of this program are open to the general public. Regularly, and in collaboration with its international partners, AGU educates and promotes topics such as the use of 100% renewable energies.

Creative Hub Training Program

Creative Hub, which encourages creative and innovative thinking of young entrepreneurial people, enables entrepreneurs from different disciplines to work together, and produces a new solution to the commercialization problem in the United States, the United Kingdom, and the leading countries of Europe, was implemented in Kayseri at AGU.

Within the project “Creative Hub: From Local to Global,” prepared by the AGU TTO and Youth Factory teams and submitted to the US Embassy Grant Programme, a centre was established as it became one of the grant recipients. This centre hosted workshops and competitions. In addition, long-term training programs were organized to increase entrepreneurs’ knowledge of design and software. Creative Hub’s training sessions were open to everyone, regardless of ethnicity, religion, disability, refugee status, or gender, within the scope of AGU’s equality and freedom policy. Participants were given certificates at the end of each training. Please see the final report for the Creative Hub Project for more details.

AGU Technology Transfer Office

AGU Technology Transfer Office was established to encourage young entrepreneurs’ creative and innovative thinking, in which the participants can get free training sessions and workshops. AGU has launched a Social Entrepreneurship Network in Turkey, which includes programs supporting and guiding active citizens and social entrepreneurs by giving them access to training. Please see AGU Technology Transfer Office’s SDG Awareness Training Series within the scope of Contribution to Society.

AGU Youth Factory

Moreover, the AGU Youth Factory collaborates with numerous international NGOs and therefore enables the university to create or join Erasmus+ funded projects dedicated to youth employability, social inclusion, innovation/entrepreneurship, cross-sectorial cooperation etc. These

projects include research activities and the creation of best practices. These activities entail research, non-formal education practices and student volunteering on topics related to SDGs. AGU is the organiser of the young workshop program where experts in the field share their experiences for dialogues on (Inter)national Trends and Challenges. There were various projects run by the students and in the end our students initiated a Volunteer Bank gathering national wide NGOs and also clubs dedicated to global issues. AGU has AGU Young TEMA (Turkish Forestry Foundation) Club. TEMA is a national wide NGO. Please see AGU Youth Factory's 2021 activity report.

AGU Career & Employability Office

AGU Career & Employability Office organises all events open to the public. All the educational events, conferences and seminars are organised and calls are published on social media which the public has access to. The webpage of the career office also includes data open to all about platforms to find internships, scholarships and jobs both domestically and internationally. Platforms to find jobs, scholarships and internships shared with the public:

- [Opportunities in Turkey](#)
- [International Opportunities](#)
- [Master and Doctorate Programmes](#)

AGU SDG Student Hub

AGU SDG Student Hub is established at AGU as part of the SDG Students Program which is an initiative of SDSN Youth that aims to engage students in higher education in the global effort to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, as well as empower them with the knowledge, skills, and pathways to action to be effective agents of change today. We are a family who is devoted to raising awareness and working for a better world in line with the UN SDGs.



SDG Student Hub

Abdullah Gül University

SDG Academy

AGU has joined the [SDG Academy](#), the education leg of the initiative. The SDG Academy is an online education platform that creates and delivers Massive Online Open Courses (MOOC) on interdisciplinary issues concerning 17 sustainable development goals determined by the United Nations. Course contents are being prepared by academics, practitioners and experts working on sustainable development.

With the application process led by Industrial Engineering Chair Prof. İbrahim Akgün and Architecture Chair Assoc. Prof. Burak Asiliskender, AGU presented its work towards the sustainable development goals and joined the SDG Academy. AGU, particularly the Industrial Engineering and Architecture departments, will access all course materials of the SDG Academy, use them in classes and create new contents with the SDG Academy's team of experts.

NAT

With the coordination of the AGU Youth Factory and Dean of Students Office the Non-Academic Transcript ([NAT](#)) was created by the AGU, to ensure easy recognition of our students' competencies.

The academic achievement of the students is recognized by the diploma and the diploma appendix they receive when they graduate from their respective universities. By means of NAT, students will make the extracurricular activities they took part in and the competencies (soft skills) they acquired recognizable.

Competence is the combination of knowledge, skill and attitude necessary to succeed. Young people have the opportunity to develop the skills they need by experimenting, doing and learning along with many different activities during their university education. By having awareness regarding this process, they can improve learning efficiency to a very high degree.

As AGU, we aim to enable our students to translate all activities into the learning process with this awareness, or to participate in activities in accordance with the competencies they need during the learning process. The seven competencies listed below have been identified as the synthesis of the competencies stated in the sources of UN, World Economic Forum, ILO (International Labour Organization), European Union and Pearson and the competencies determined in line with the AGU Vision.

NAT Competencies

- Communication
- Collaboration and Teamwork
- International and Multicultural Awareness
- Leadership and taking initiative
- Creativity, Innovation and Flexibility
- Planning and Organization
- Discipline and Motivation



COOPERATION AND EVENTS

AGU emphasises the significance of the cooperation and events conducted in relation to SDG 17. Some of the cooperation and events made in this regard are as follows.

Cooperation

1- ATHENA

AGU signed a cooperation agreement for ATHENA (Advanced Technology Higher Education Network Alliance), one of the federations of higher education institutions within the scope of the European Union's European Universities Initiative. Within ATHENA, universities combine their capacities, develop innovative solutions in education, research, and social contribution, and form working groups involving students, academics, and administrative staff from different departments and divisions as well as external stakeholders. AGU will take its place in these groups with its innovative approach to education, research, and social contribution and help build a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment for addressing and solving social problems.

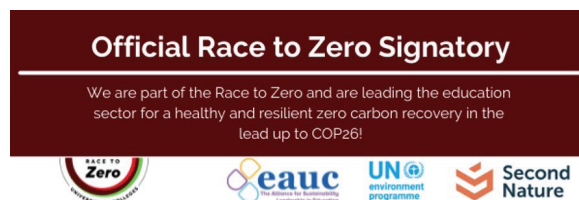
AGU will collaborate with the Polytechnic Institute of Porto (Portugal), Hellenic Mediterranean University (Greece), University of Siegen (Germany), University of Maribor (Slovenia), University Niccolò Cusano (Italy), University of Orléans (France), and Vilnius Gediminas Technical University (Lithuania) within ATHENA, a federation of higher education universities and one of the European Universities Initiative.

2- SDG Academy

AGU has joined the SDG Academy, the education leg of the initiative. The SDG Academy is an online education platform that creates and delivers MOOC on interdisciplinary issues concerning 17 SDGs determined by the UN. Course contents are being prepared by academics, practitioners and experts working on sustainable development.

3- Race to Zero

AGU has joined the “Race to Zero” campaign, which is carried out jointly by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP), the Second Nature organisation and the Alliance for Sustainability Leadership in Education (EAUC), an association aiming at sustainability in education. The campaign, which is a global initiative for zero carbon emissions and is open to universities from all over the world, includes 832 institutions from different regions of the world. The campaign, in which universities are expected to create strategies and plans for “zero carbon emission” targets in the future, aims for a healthy and zero carbon emission recovery that prevents threats to the future, provides decent job opportunities and paves the way for inclusive sustainable development.



4- SDG Universities (SDGsUni)

AGU has a partnership with SDGsUni to achieve its SDGs.

SDGsUni 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. SDGsUni will therefore help universities and research institutions to play a critical role as recommended by the World Bank's World Development Report 2016 enabling their countries to reap the benefits from the global growth in the knowledge economy particularly for the country's Digital Natives (Youth). SDGsUni aims to critically examine several issues relating to the role and relevance of universities and research institutions to the contemporary discourse of countries' sustainable inclusive knowledge-based development such as the role of universities in supporting and enhancing the process of economic and social development in their country; identify all major obstacles that universities face in their countries including any governments components and most importantly how can these obstacles best be overcome; and what is the new role(s) of universities in the post-COVID-19 era.

5- Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

AGU signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the GSI.

"The GSI is a globally collaborative enterprise to propose policy responses to major global problems, addressed by the G20, the G7 and other global governance fora. The policy recommendations and strategic visions are generated through a disciplined research program by leading research organisations, elaborated in policy dialogues between researchers, policymakers, business leaders and civil society representatives." AGU and GSI partnered formally in the following fields: AGU Faculty members' participation in GSI group research, discussions, networks, workshops, research and exchange programs, AGU members' active participation in the GSI Annual Summit, AGU students' involvement in the Young Global Changers program, AGU members' involvement in the co-creation of training courses or camps for participants in the Young Global Changers program, Joint commitment and efforts towards aligning the business sector with societal needs to enable a symbiotic economic and social progress. Recoupling economic and social prosperity. The agreement also leaves the door open for further potential collaboration projects both AGU and GSI would like to pursue.



Global Solutions Initiative the World Policy Forums

6- Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) Global

AGU is an official partner of the [SDSN Global](#). As such, AGU is committed to supporting the implementation of the SDGs at all scales. This partnership also contributed to the [AGU Global \(GLB\) Courses](#). AGU developed an innovative Global Challenge Curriculum composed of one mandatory course and several elective courses such as “[Clean Water Access Infrastructure in Developing Countries](#)”, Hydrology and Water Resources Engineering, Materials for Sustainable Built Environment, Construction Waste Management, Sustainable Concrete Technology, Sustainable Energy Resources, Engineering for Sustainability, Water and Wastewater Treatment Engineering etc. taught throughout the four undergraduate academic years. These courses focus on global topics such as the ones tackled by the UN SDGs. In addition, the student graduation thesis must be linked to at least one SDG. Every year, AGU starts its mandatory GLB course set, with introductory sessions by SDSN-Turkey Coordinator Bahar Özay (PhDc) for a [dialogue](#) on Global Challenges and SDGs.

7- SDG Accord

AGU is a member of the “[SDG Accord](#)” and participated in SDG Accord data collection campaigns to analyse and evaluate Universities’ commitment to UN SDGs.

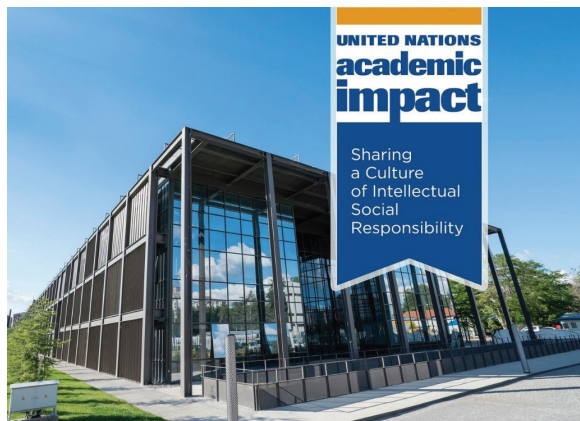


AGU has signed the SDG Accord in 2021 (see AGU listed among the Reporting Signatories in the 2022 SDG Accord Report [here](#)) to highlight the work that has been done in our institution to integrate the UN SDGs in all aspects of our teaching and university life, as well as to commit to continuing further interweaving SDG objectives into our activities at all levels. AGU also participated in SDG Accord data collection campaigns to analyse and evaluate Universities’ commitment to UN SDGs.

8- UN Academic Impact

AGU became a member of the UN Academic Impact (UNAI) initiative, launched by the UN to support the realization of its goals, increase awareness about the protection of human rights, advance educational opportunities for all, and support the realization of SDGs.

The UNAI is an initiative that aligns institutions of higher education with the UN in supporting and contributing to the realization of UN goals and mandates, including the promotion and protection of human rights, access to education, sustainability and conflict resolution. Since 2010, UNAI has created a vibrant and diverse network of students, academics, scientists, researchers, think tanks, institutions of higher education, continuing education and educational associations. There are over 1400 member institutions in more than 147 countries that reach over 25 million people in the education and research sectors around the world representing a global diversity of regions and a thematic wealth of disciplines.



The work of these institutions is vital to achieving SDGs as they serve as incubators of new ideas and solutions to the many global challenges we face. UN Academic Impact provides an integral link to these stakeholders to ensure that the international community harnesses the energy and innovation of young people and the research community in service to humanity.

AGU carries out many activities to achieve SDGs. These include collaboration with the UN Academic Impact. In this context, AGU gathered 2021 data for the UN Academic Impact 2022 report.

9- International City/County Management Association (ICMA)

AGU is accepted as a member of the ICMA student chapter. ICMA, an NGO, is the leading organisation of local government professionals dedicated to building and sustaining thriving communities worldwide. ICMA identifies long-term trends and policy issues affecting local governments. It works with state and national organisations representing cities and counties, brings the professional management voice to national policy debates, regulatory issues and problem-solving discussions with federal government leaders, and provides educational and networking opportunities for its members. Faculty students have also been officially accepted into the ICMA university student chapter.

10- Anatolian Tigresses Mentorship Programme

The partnership between AGU and Anatolian Tigresses Mentorship Programme, initiated in 2014 and still ongoing, has resulted in the organisation of several training and networking sessions where AGU students met with prominent CEOs, who provided valuable insights on their career trajectories and facilitated interactive workshops focusing on bolstering students' ambitions and employability. All participants have the opportunity to apply to Anatolian Tigresses Mentorship Programme.



Anatolian Tigresses Mentorship Programme

11- Association for Developing Women Collaboration (KIGDER)

AGU and KIGDER signed a Mentorship (Career Consultancy) Cooperation Protocol. The protocol states that KIGDER members will be career consultants for AGU students. Speaking at the meeting, KIGDER President Dr Sema Karaoğlu said their purpose is to improve women legally, socially and politically first in Kayseri and then in all countries and help them produce added value. Dr Karaoğlu also added that they do not discriminate based on gender, but it is extra important for them to offer career consultancy to female students and they will offer the same service to male ones as well.



Career Consultancy Cooperation Protocol

Events

1- The 4th International Symposium on Youth Employment Challenges (ISYEC) 2021 Symposium

The 4th International Symposium on ISYEC, which deals with the employment problems of the youth around the world and solution proposals, was held in Istanbul. AGU Rector Prof. Dr Cengiz Yılmaz attended the symposium as an invited speaker.

The symposium, which was hosted by AGU 3 times before, was held in Istanbul this time with the partnership of SALTO-Youth Euromed Resource Centre and Turkish National Agency and Youth@Work, of which 16 Erasmus+ national agencies are members. Rector Prof. Dr Cengiz Yılmaz, who attended the symposium as an invited speaker, said that the symposium is one of the promising projects to develop creative, proactive, practical solutions and ideas to deal with youth unemployment. The symposium was attended by 150 people including policymakers, academic researchers, employers, technology transfer offices and youth workers.

After the opening speeches, various sessions, panels and workshops such as the power of non-formal education, European opportunities for young entrepreneurs, cross-sectoral good practice examples and workshops were organised.



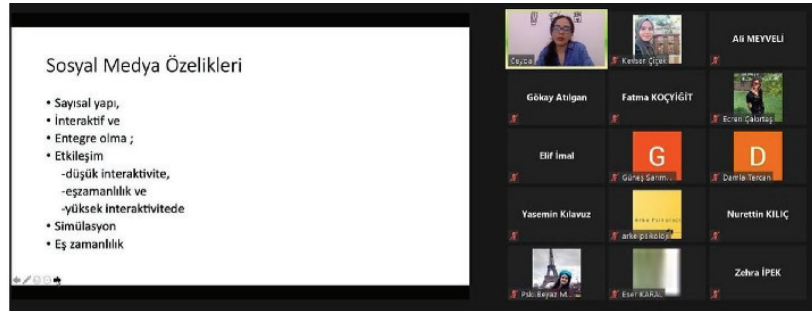
The 4th ISYEC 2021 Symposium

2- Hold on to the Counselling Network in Combating Suicide (I.M.D.A.T.) Project Social Media and Suicide Training

Ceyda Cihan Aydođdu, a research assistant in the Department of Psychology at AGU, was selected as the Kayseri province coordinator of the I.M.D.A.T. project, a regional NGO which is supported by the Ministry of Youth and Sports within the scope of the Youth Projects Support Programme (2020-1 and implemented through the Mental Health Association.

Within the scope of the project, experts who have been trained for nearly 1 year on topics such as therapy approaches to suicide, suicide-related law, sociology, etc. will carry out activities to prevent suicide in society and psychosocial support to cases as project representatives

in their provinces. In the project, which will be carried out between 2020-2022, Ceyda Cihan Aydođdu contributed to the project with her training on ‘Social Media and Suicide’ with the training support of academicians working in universities in our country.



“İ.M.D.A.T.” Project Social Media and Suicide Training

3- The EU-Turkey Youth Climate Forum

“The EU-Turkey Youth Climate Forum” was held in partnership with the Kayseri Chamber of Commerce, EU Information Centre and AGU. At the Forum held at the Kayseri Chamber of Commerce, after the informative presentations of AGU Academics on climate change, carbon emissions, drought, and Green Deal, which are among the important topics of the SDGs, ideas were exchanged about climate change in 4 workshops with the students participating in the Forum. During the forum, participants were also asked about their suggestions to political leaders related to climate problems. As part of the EU Climate Diplomacy Week, the “Climate Youth Forum” was held in 19 provinces in Turkey. Kayseri Climate Youth Forum was held at the Kayseri Chamber of Commerce in partnership with the EU Delegation to Turkey, the Kayseri Chamber of Commerce, AGU and the Kayseri EU Information Centre.



EU-Turkey Youth Climate Forum

The topics for which solutions were sought in the workshops were Climate Change and Water, Climate Change and Energy, Climate Change-Economy and Cities, Climate Change and Migration, and Climate Change and University. AGU Academics, Prof. Dr Nigmet Uzal, Prof. Dr Evren Mutlugun, Assoc. Dr Umut Turk, Assoc. Dr Ahmet Çoymak and Dr Fatma Şener Fidan sought solutions to the problems with the participants in the forum. Participants gained awareness about climate change through workshops.

Moreover, it was ensured that they gained knowledge and experience through group discussions by exchanging ideas. In the last part of the forum, participants explained their work and solutions for climate change with their presentations.

As a result of the workshops on climate in the afternoon, the young people discussed climate problems and solution proposals in four different workshops. The following reports were prepared by the AGU faculty members for the findings obtained as a result of the workshops, contributing to the development of the SDGs.

4- Support Work for Disaster Victims in Manavgat

AGU Counselling & Student Development Centre Specialist Clinical Psychologist Özge Tok participated in the support work for disaster victims in Manavgat with the psychosocial support team consisting of the Ministry of Family and Social Services and Eye Movement Desensitisation and Reprocessing Association (EMDR) Trauma Recovery Group volunteers after the disasters in our country.



Support Work for Disaster Victims in Manavgat

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5- Workshop on SDGs in Education

AGU Faculty of Architecture and Avanos District Governorship held a “Workshop on SDGs in Education” at Avanos Güray Museum within the scope of the “Düşyeri Avanos” project. In the workshop attended by Prof. Dr Burak Asiliskender, Head of the Department of Architecture, Lect. Sinan Akyüz and Dr Sümeyra Ayık, the UN SDGs were discussed through the subject of education.



Workshop on SDGs in Education

UN SDGs implemented by the UN are characterised as a universal call to action to eradicate poverty, protect our planet and ensure that all people live in peace and prosperity. The 17 goals address universal needs with a holistic approach, building on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals, while incorporating new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities.

6- 1st Learn and Transform Project Launch Meeting from Kayseri Model Factory

The 1st Learn-Return Project launch meeting of Kayseri Model Factory, which was established in partnership with AGU, Kayseri Chamber of Industry (KAYSO) and Kayseri Chamber of Commerce (KTO) in cooperation with the Ministry of Industry and Technology and UN Development Programme (UNDP), was held.

Speaking at the meeting, Rector Prof. Dr Cengiz Yılmaz pointed out that a good example of 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.



1st Learn and Transform Project Launch Meeting from Kayseri Model Factory

Louisa Vinton, UNDP Resident Representative in Turkey, said: “Increasing productivity is a national priority for Turkey. We continue our efforts to increase the competitiveness of the manufacturing industry in global markets in the Model Factories we have established with strong partnerships.” Klaus Müller, KfW Director for Southeast Europe and Turkey, also attended the meeting with a video explaining the purpose of the programme.

7- UN Delegation Visited AGU

Philippe Leclerc, Representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Turkey, and the accompanying delegation visited AGU. Firstly, a round table meeting on “Urban Economy and Asylum System” was organised at the Presidential Abdullah Gül Museum and Library in Sümer Campus.



UN Delegation Visited AGU

In addition to Philippe Leclerc, UNHCR Turkey Representative Philippe Leclerc, Deputy Governor Mehmet Sadık Tunç, AGU Vice Rector Prof. Dr Erk Hacıhasanoğlu, UN Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Louisa Vinton, representatives from Metropolitan Municipality, Chamber of Industry, Chamber of Commerce, Chamber of Agriculture, İŞKUR, Migration Management and Provincial Health Directorate attended the meeting.

The opening speeches of the meeting were made by Vice Rector Prof. Dr Erk Hacıhasanoğlu, UNHCR Turkey 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 the 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 Turkey, 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, UNHCR Representative in Turkey, 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, UNHCR Turkey Representative, who met with Rector Yılmaz for a while, stated that they were very pleased that the “Urban Economy and Asylum System” round table meeting was held at AGU.

8- Presentation on Environment

Prof. Dr Niğmet Uzal and Res. Assist. Sedat Gülçimen visited Santiago de Compostela University in Scotland within the scope of Erasmus+ staff mobility. Prof. Dr Niğmet Uzal made a presentation titled “Environmental Labelling and Environmental Labelling System in Turkey”. In the presentation, information about our university and our department was also shared.



Presentation on Environment

9- Game Activity for Sustainable Culture

ArtsMap's two-day event titled "Let's Play Sustainable Culture!" within the scope of the Training of Trainers programme was held at AGU. The opening speeches of the event, which was held in cooperation with AGU, Dutch Culture and Prince Claus Fund and moderated by Prof. Dr Burak Asiliskender, Head of AGU Architecture Department, were made by AGU Rector Prof. Dr Cengiz Yılmaz and İpek van Dijk, Chief Cultural Counsellor of the Consulate General of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

The "Let's Play Sustainable Culture!" event organised by ArtsMap, aims to create a sustainable culture and arts ecosystem that will be formed through capacity building, seed money micro support, networking, training of trainers, information sharing and joint projects, continued with the session titled "ArtsMap and the Future of Speed Dating" after the opening speeches. The future of interdisciplinary and cross-border networks was discussed by İpek van Dijk, Chief Cultural Counsellor, and Dilara Jarıng-Kanik from Prince Claus Fund. In the panel discussion that followed, speakers Aktan Acar from TOBB-ETU, Aysun Demirdöğen Şener from Hack4Art and Ahmet Erdem Tozoğlu from AGU discussed the important role of the gaming and innovation industry in sustainable dialogues and potential new connections in the arts and culture sector and the new tools that can be used for this.

Professionals from the Netherlands and Turkey shared their different experiences and perspectives on the ways of sustainability of culture and arts in the future of technology with the participants under the title "Good Practice Methods".



Game Activity for Sustainable Culture at AGU

10- NGOs for Sustainable Development Project Online Training

“NGOs for Sustainable Development” project’s 3rd day online training for Turkish Construction Material Industrialists’ Association (İMSAD) and Eco-Friendly Green Buildings Association (ÇEDBİK) member associations was held on 2 December. The 3rd day online of training for Türkiye İMSAD and ÇEDBİK member associations of the “NGOs for Sustainable Development” project carried out by Türkiye İMSAD and ÇEDBİK within the scope of the Civil Society Sector was held on 2 December with the presentation of Tuğçe Zeynep Çiftçibaşı Güç from AGU and Prof. Dr Burak Uzal, Head of Civil Engineering Department, under the title of “Advocacy”. In the training, where the theory of change on behalf of the city through inter-sectoral dialogue was adopted as the main point, analysis and evaluations were made on advocacy, stakeholder analysis and communication with sector representatives.



NGOs for Sustainable Development Project Online Training

11- European Solidarity Corps (ESC) mobility project in Portugal

Volunteer students participated in the European Solidarity Corps (ESC) mobility project in Portugal for 2 months within the scope of the “From Youth Factory to Europe for Volunteerism and Solidarity” project, the first project implemented by AGU and funded by the Turkish National Agency as a sending organisation.



European Solidarity Corps (ESC) mobility project in Portugal

Ertuğrul Öztürk, a 4th-year student of Mechanical Engineering, Beyza Çetindağ, a 2nd-year student of Architecture, and Dilanur Kök, a 1st-year student of Computer Engineering took part in the mobility project in Viseu, Portugal.

The students completed the mobility project by acting as volunteer employees of the youth centre of Viseu Municipality and organising various activities such as language courses, dance courses, cultural cohesion days and games, theatre/drama activities, sports events, etc. for different youth groups.

12- The 3rd SDGs Workshop for Children Scope of Disaster Preparedness Day

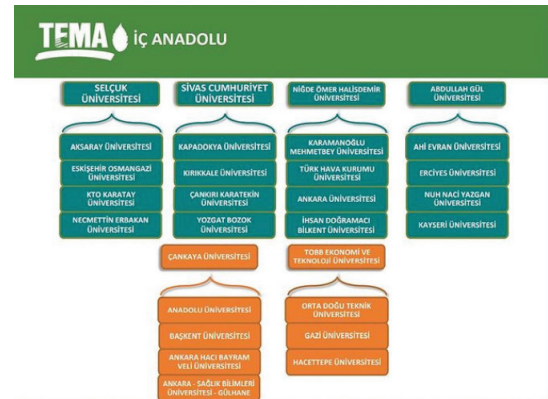
Under the leadership of AGU, Faculty of Architecture; The 3rd SDGs Workshop for Children was held within the scope of Disaster Preparedness Day on Friday, 12 November 2021, with the participation of AFAD and the Turkish Red Crescent. The thematic games and workshops were organised within the scope of “Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure”, which is the 9th title of the UN SDGs. AGU Architecture would like to thank AFAD and Turkish Red Crescent trainers, coordinators; Dr Sümevra Ayık, Lect. Sinan Akyüz, Res. Assist. Dr Özlem Kevseroğlu, Res. Assist. Gülsüm Polat and moderators; Melike Tuna, Buse Nur Yılmaz, Melike Akyüz, Fatma Nur Kayaalp and Hilal Sevim, who are also AGU students.



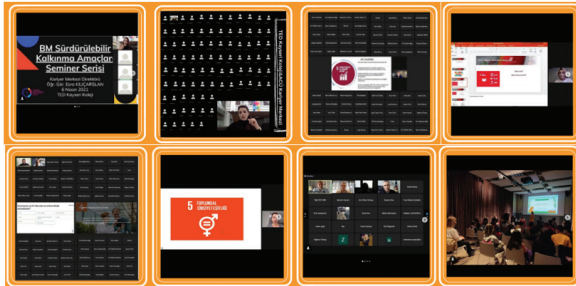
The 3rd SDGs Workshop for Children Scope of Disaster Preparedness Day

13- AGU Youth TEMA became one of the 27 leading Young TEMAs (Turkey Combating Erosion, Afforestation and Protection of Natural Assets Foundation)

AGU Youth TEMA became one of the 27 leading Young TEMAs selected among the Young TEMAs in the volunteer recruitment committee formed by TEMA Foundation to reach the target of 1 million volunteers. AGU Youth TEMA would like to thank TEMA Foundation for its trust in us for this task and our Rector Prof. Dr Cengiz Yılmaz and our university for the opportunities they provided AGU Youth TEMA.



The team includes Ahi Evran University Young TEMA, Erciyes University Young TEMA, Kayseri University Young TEMA and Nuh Naci Yazgan University Young TEMA.



United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Trainings

14- UN SDGs Trainings

In 2021, AGU Career Centre organised the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Trainings for primary-secondary and high school students. In this context, 21 trainings were carried out in 2021.

