



Sustainable KTU

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



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Sustainability is one of the most important areas of responsibility shaping our future through its environmental, economic, and social dimensions. Universities are not only institutions that produce knowledge, but also pioneering structures that guide sustainable development and contribute to social transformation.

In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the development objectives of our country, and the vision of sustainability in higher education, we, as Karadeniz Technical University, place sustainability at the core of our education, research, social contribution, and institutional governance processes.

Throughout 2025, our university carried out significant initiatives in many areas, including quality education, climate action, energy efficiency, scientific research, social inclusion, and regional development. Through projects focused on scientific knowledge production and societal contribution, we continued to support the achievement of sustainable development goals.

This report presents our university's activities in the field of sustainability and our commitment to the future. Guided by science and in collaboration with our stakeholders, we believe that we will continue working towards a more sustainable future.

Prof. Dr. Hamdullah ÇUVALCI

Rector, Karadeniz Technical University



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development highlights the importance of collective action in building a sustainable future on a global scale. Within this framework, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals identifies institutional cooperation, knowledge sharing, and multi-stakeholder approaches as essential requirements for achieving sustainable development goals. In line with this understanding, Karadeniz Technical University (KTÜ) shapes its education, research, and community engagement activities by prioritizing the development of strong national and international partnerships.

Through collaborations with public institutions, local governments, private sector organizations, non-governmental organizations, and international academic networks, the university contributes to sustainable development efforts. Joint projects, research activities, and knowledge-sharing processes not only support academic development but also contribute to increasing social benefit and strengthening regional development. Student and academic exchange programs, international research partnerships, and interdisciplinary collaborations are among the key practices supporting the university's partnership-oriented approach.

KTÜ strengthens the culture of partnership through research projects, social responsibility initiatives, and practices that support sustainable development. Beyond being an institution that develops solutions for regional needs, the university continues its efforts as a higher education institution contributing to global sustainable development goals through the sharing of knowledge, technology, and experience.

This report aims to provide a comprehensive evaluation of the collaborations, practices, and strategic approaches developed by KTÜ within the scope of SDG 17. At the same time, the report emphasizes that partnerships are not limited to institutional cooperation alone, but also represent a strong culture of solidarity, shared responsibility, and commitment to a sustainable future.

KTU's Membership in International Networks and Contribution to Global Partnerships

KTU continues to enhance its global visibility as an active member of international networks in the fields of quality in higher education, research collaboration, academic mobility, and institutional development.

The University's active presence in structures such as the European University Association, the Union for the Mediterranean Universities, and the Black Sea Universities Network provides important opportunities for knowledge sharing, joint project development, and multilateral academic interaction. These memberships strengthen not only the University's academic output but also its capacity to build partnerships aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.



European University Association (EUA)

Within the framework of the EUA, our University participates in joint initiatives with higher education institutions across Europe for the exchange of knowledge and the dissemination of good practice examples, thereby fostering institutional development and promoting international collaboration.



Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU)

Through its CMU membership, KTU develops scientific, cultural, and academic collaborations with universities across the Mediterranean basin within the framework of joint projects on themes such as environment, energy, migration, youth, and peace.

Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN)

Through its BSUN membership, KTU engages in joint research, conferences, and student exchange programmes aimed at regional development by facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience among universities in the Black Sea region. Initiatives developed under the BSUN framework also contribute to multilateral efforts to address the social, economic, and environmental challenges faced by countries in the region.



[European University Association](#)
[Mediterranean Universities Union](#)
[Black Sea Universities Union](#)



International Research and Education Partnerships

In 2025, KTU further strengthened its international research and education partnerships in a multidimensional manner, thereby enhancing its capacity for sustainable internationalisation. The University continued its international cooperation activities under programmes such as Erasmus+ KA171, KA131, KA154, KA220-HED, and KA220-ADU, while also assuming the role of coordinating institution in several projects. Within this framework, multi-stakeholder research and educational partnerships were developed in areas such as artificial intelligence, youth employment, reduction of water footprint, climate adaptation, aquatic environmental awareness, and biodiversity conservation.

Through bilateral agreements (MoUs) and Erasmus+ mobility programmes established with universities across different continents, particularly in Europe, KTU has continued to provide international mobility opportunities for students and academic staff. The University maintained its collaboration with higher education institutions in countries including South Korea, Japan, Indonesia, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Poland, India, and North Macedonia, focusing on education and scientific cooperation, student and staff exchange, joint research, dual degree opportunities, internship mobility, and joint curriculum development. As part of these efforts, new MoUs, cooperation protocols, and student exchange agreements were signed.

KTU's global cooperation network was further reinforced by the increase in the number of newly signed protocols from 20 in 2024 to 47 in 2025, demonstrating that the University's internationalisation vision has gained a concrete and steady momentum.

KTU Global Engagement Map



[Erasmus KA171 Partner Universities](#)
[Erasmus KA131 Partner Universities](#)
[Universities with MoU Agreements](#)



KTÜ's International Project Partnerships: Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Programme

Under the Interreg VI-B NEXT Black Sea Basin Programme, for which the Presidency for European Union Affairs serves as the National Authority, the projects entitled "Raising Awareness for the Black Sea People to Recognize and Protect Black Sea Biodiversity," "Non-Invasive Fish Monitoring Network for Reef Fishes in the Black Sea Basin," and "Quadruple Helix-Based Enhancement of Stakeholders at Black Sea Territory" were awarded funding. These projects demonstrate KTÜ's active international contribution in the Black Sea Basin in the areas of biodiversity conservation, environmental sustainability, enhancement of research capacity, and the strengthening of multi-stakeholder cooperation.



International Academic Cooperation Support under TÜBİTAK 2542

The project entitled "Religious and Cultural Interactions between Caucasian Albania (Karabakh and Eastern Zangezur) and Eastern Anatolia (Van, Muş, Ağrı, Kars): Similarities and Differences" has been awarded support under the TÜBİTAK 2542 Bilateral Cooperation Programme with the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS). The project contributes to SDG 4: Quality Education by supporting academic knowledge production and is also associated with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



Erasmus+ Support for the AI-Assisted Climate Adaptation Project



The project "Strengthening Climate Adaptation of Local Governments through Artificial Intelligence Supported Digital Capacity Building" has been awarded support under the Erasmus+ KA2 Cooperation Partnerships in Adult Education programme. Coordinated by Karadeniz Technical University, the project will be implemented in partnership with University St. Kliment Ohridski, Tulcea Municipality, Kavala Municipality.



KTU's Contribution to Sustainable Development through National Collaborations

KTU carries out collaborations at various levels with public institutions, local authorities, non-governmental organisations, and the private sector in alignment with Türkiye's development goals. In 2025, KTU approached sustainable development not only as an academic objective, but also as an area of institutional responsibility advanced through multidimensional partnerships with public bodies, local administrations, industry, educational institutions, and civil stakeholders.

Through projects and protocols implemented in areas such as disaster management, environmental sustainability, health, education, child development, urban planning, technology development, research and development, and innovation, the University contributed to the social, environmental, and economic dimensions of sustainable development. In this context, university-industry projects supported by TÜBİTAK and KOSGEB, implementation- and planning-oriented protocols signed with local authorities, socially oriented initiatives developed in cooperation with the Provincial Directorates of National Education and Health, as well as disaster- and infrastructure-focused partnerships carried out with the State Hydraulic Works (DSİ) and municipalities, demonstrate that KTU's 2025 performance was characterised by an applied, solution-oriented, and stakeholder-driven approach.

In this respect, KTU consistently maintained in 2025 a university vision that integrates knowledge production with social contribution, responds to regional needs, and remains aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2025, KTU made significant contributions to sustainable development through its multidimensional collaborations with public institutions, local authorities, professional organisations, educational institutions, and the private sector.

- Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality
- Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA)
- Hopa Municipality of Artvin
- General Directorate of State Hydraulic Works (DSİ)
- Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects (TMMOB), Trabzon Provincial Coordination Board
- Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Family and Social Services
- Trabzon Arsin Organized Industrial Zone
- Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Health
- Trabzon Provincial Directorate of National Education
- Küçükarslanlar Copper-Zinc Industry and Trade Inc.
- Global Bilgi Marketing Consultancy and Call Center Services Inc.
- Trabzon Shipyard Shipbuilding, Maintenance and Repair Industry and Trade Inc.
- 3K Electromechanics Industry and Trade Ltd. Co.
- Minty Software Technologies Ltd. Co.
- Lokma Tatlı Ltd. Co.
- Eryiğit Medical Devices Inc.
- Çamsan Ordu Wood Industry and Trade Inc.
- Turkish Aerospace Industries (TUSAŞ)
- Trabzon Arms Industry Inc.
- Amber Tea Inc.
- POLIFISH
- Turkcell Technology Inc.



National Protocols





Cybersecurity Training Cooperation between KTU and DOKA under the Türkiye Cyber Homeland Programme 2026

The protocol was signed by the parties at a ceremony held at the KTU Rectorate and aims to increase university students' awareness of cybersecurity, identify those with interest and aptitude in this field, support them through qualified training, and encourage their career development. In this respect, the protocol is associated with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Comprehensive Cooperation Protocol Signed between KTU and Machinery and Chemical

Industry Inc. cooperation protocol sets out the principles governing institutional communication, coordination of activities, confidentiality, intellectual property management, financial obligations, project approval procedures, funding mechanisms, and the use of shared infrastructure. It also covers provisions related to scientific and academic cooperation, in-service training, internships, academic consultancy, the involvement of postgraduate and doctoral students in research activities, as well as the fulfilment of security, logistics, and operational needs.

In this respect, the cooperation aims to strengthen university-industry interaction on an institutional basis, enhance joint research and implementation capacity, contribute to the training of qualified human resources, and support the translation of knowledge production into practice.



Cooperation between KTU and Trabzon Arsin

Organized Industrial Zone

A comprehensive protocol was signed between KTU and the Trabzon Arsin Organized Industrial Zone (OSB) with the aim of strengthening practice-oriented university-industry cooperation by bringing together the University's academic expertise and the industrial infrastructure of Trabzon Arsin OSB. The protocol covers education and training, research and development, internship opportunities, student projects, and broader forms of university-industry collaboration.



Cooperation between KTU and Hopa Municipality for University–City Interaction

Under the cooperation protocol entitled “University–City Interaction: Vision–Strategy–Action Planning/Project Development” signed between Hopa Municipality and Karadeniz Technical University, it is aimed to evaluate urban–rural relationships, address transportation and land-use decisions through an integrated approach, develop planning strategies for the protection of environmental values and natural and historical assets, and formulate visions, strategies, and action proposals that will contribute to sustainable development at the regional level.

Education and Career–Oriented Cooperation between KTU and the Trabzon Provincial Directorate of National Education

A protocol entitled “Department, Programme and Profession Promotion, Academic Counselling, Career Development and Social Cooperation Protocol” was signed between our University and the Trabzon Provincial Directorate of National Education with the aim of fostering students' awareness of university life, career choices, and career development from an early age. Within the scope of the protocol, it is envisaged that the departments and programmes affiliated with KTU's faculties, institutes, schools, and vocational schools will be introduced to school administrators, teachers, students, and parents; that students will be provided with career guidance and profession-oriented counselling; and that the University's research and development infrastructure will be shared with the education community. This cooperation contributes to students' ability to make more informed decisions regarding their educational and career pathways, while also establishing an important foundation for strengthening institutional collaboration between the university and schools. In this respect, it may be associated with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.



[University–City Interaction Cooperation Protocol](#)
[Cooperation Protocol with the Provincial Directorate](#)
[of National Education](#)





Research Cooperation Protocol Signed between KTU and Venomx

The protocol covers the principles of cooperation in relation to the design of joint research projects, the conduct of routine experiments and testing activities within the revolving fund framework, the provision of academic consultancy services, and key aspects of R&D and project development processes, including work packages, budgeting, and intellectual and industrial property rights. This cooperation reflects KTU's approach to strengthening university-industry interaction, extending its research capacity into application-oriented fields, and supporting value-added scientific production.

Strategic Partnership in the Field of Agriculture in Trabzon: Women's Hand in Agriculture

A "Women's Hand in Agriculture Project Inter-Institutional Cooperation Protocol" was signed between Karadeniz Technical University, Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the TOBB Trabzon Women Entrepreneurs Board, Trabzon University, Trabzon Bar Association, the Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Agriculture and Forestry, the Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Health, and the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency. The protocol aims to increase women's active participation in the agricultural sector in Trabzon, strengthen their involvement in value-added production processes, and enhance their entrepreneurial capacities.

With its multi-stakeholder structure, the project constitutes an important example in relation to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. It is also associated with SDG 5: Gender Equality through its support for women's stronger participation in economic and social life, SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through its focus on entrepreneurship and production, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure through its emphasis on value-added production, and SDG 2: Zero Hunger through its contribution to strengthening local production capacity.



R&D and Product Development Cooperation between KTU and GOOGLİS Land Snail Farm

A cooperation protocol was signed between Karadeniz Technical University and GOOGLİS Land Snail Farm with the aim of evaluating the industrial use potential of mucus obtained from naturally raised land snails. This cooperation reflects KTU's approach to bringing its applied research capacity together with the private sector, supporting innovative product development processes, and strengthening university-industry collaboration.



Education and Employment-Oriented Cooperation between KTU and the Boat Builders Cooperative

A protocol was established between Karadeniz Technical University and the Small Industrial Cooperative of Sheet Metal Ship, Wooden Boat and Cutter Manufacturers in order to define the principles of cooperation in the fields of education, internships, science, employment, as well as social and cultural activities. This cooperation provides an institutional framework for joint initiatives to be carried out between the vocational school and the cooperative member enterprises.

Within the scope of the protocol, it is aimed to provide students with education and internship opportunities, support and improve infrastructure, and contribute to relevant training activities, seminars, panels, conferences, exhibitions, and R&D activities deemed appropriate.





Academic Contributions

Karadeniz Technical University (KTÜ) continues its academic production and collaboration activities within the scope of SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals. According to data indexed in the Scopus database, a total of 22 scientific publications related to this sustainable development goal were produced in 2025. In addition, research and project activities conducted at undergraduate and graduate levels continue to contribute to sustainable development objectives. According to AVESİS records, 4 conference papers and 2 master's theses were completed in this field, supporting scientific production related to partnerships, sustainable development, and institutional cooperation.

KTÜ develops various national and international partnerships based on the understanding that sustainable development can only be achieved through strong and multi-stakeholder collaborations. Through partnerships with public institutions, private sector representatives, non-governmental organizations, and academic stakeholders, the university aims to strengthen knowledge sharing, joint production, and community engagement. These academic and institutional collaborations contribute to supporting sustainable development goals at local, regional, and global levels.

Within this framework, KTÜ considers the culture of partnership as an important component of its institutional structure and continues its collaboration-oriented approach in research, education, and community engagement processes. Through the strategic partnerships it develops in line with SDG 17, the university continues to contribute to building a more sustainable future.



[Academic Publications-2025](#)





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