



Sustainable KTU

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



www.ktu.edu.tr/sustainability



surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr



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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



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reducing Inequalities aims to decrease economic, social, and opportunity-based inequalities both within and among societies. In this context, empowering disadvantaged individuals, ensuring equal participation in social life regardless of gender, age, ethnicity, disability status, or socioeconomic background, and eliminating discrimination are of great importance. In order to combat increasing income inequality, it is essential to implement sustainable policies that support vulnerable groups, promote inclusive growth, and ensure equal opportunities for all. In addition, supporting developing regions, improving safe and orderly migration policies, and creating fairer economic systems are among the key components of this goal.

Higher education institutions contribute directly to reducing inequalities through their roles in knowledge production and social transformation. Universities support the development of a more equitable and accessible society through scientific research, innovative solutions, inclusive educational opportunities, and community-oriented initiatives. In this regard, universities organize courses and training programs focused on equality and inclusiveness, develop social responsibility projects for disadvantaged groups, incorporate equal opportunity principles into institutional policies, and contribute to raising social awareness through collaborations with stakeholders.

This report has been prepared to present the equality-, inclusiveness-, and social justice-oriented efforts of Karadeniz Technical University. The report evaluates the university's activities across various areas, including education, research, social contribution, and institutional practices, and emphasizes that KTÜ is a higher education institution that assumes responsibility for reducing social inequalities not only at the regional level but also at the national and international levels.



Institutional Structure

At Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), the Office for Students with Disabilities (Disadvantaged Groups Unit) plays an active role in promoting social equity and inclusiveness. Operating under the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports, this unit works to ensure the full and equal participation of students with disabilities in university life, carrying out activities such as improving accessibility conditions on campus, providing counseling, and raising awareness.

The establishment, duties, and functioning of KTU's Office for Students with Disabilities are regulated by the Directive on the Office for Students with Disabilities. Acting in line with relevant national regulations (such as the Regulation on Advisory and Coordination for Disabled Individuals in Higher Education Institutions), the university develops policies aimed at reducing physical barriers on campus and ensuring equal opportunities. KTU has continuously improved its infrastructure with the goal of becoming an "Accessible University."



Disadvantaged Groups Unit Activities for 2025



During the 2025 performance period, the Unit for Students with Disabilities (Disadvantaged Groups Unit) implemented strategic projects aimed at transforming campus accessibility and social inclusion into an institutional standard. The "KTU Awareness Journey" event, spearheaded by the unit, fostered a strong culture of empathy across campus regarding the spatial and social experiences of individuals with disabilities and helped overcome physical barriers. Furthermore, through the "KTU Disability Unit 8 March International Women's Day Awareness" initiatives, the rights and participation of women with disabilities were brought to the forefront of the institutional agenda through an intersectional approach, advocating for equal opportunities from a multi-dimensional perspective.

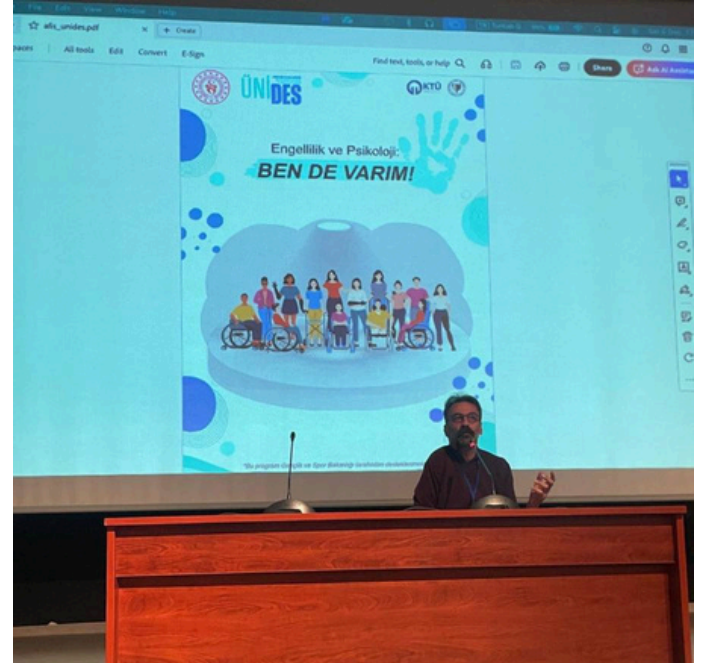


[KTU Awareness](#)

[KTU Disability Unit Organizes Awareness Event for International Women's Day, March 8th](#)



Disadvantaged Groups Unit Activities for 2025



The unit, assuming a central coordination role, has carried out integrated activities with academic and administrative units to spread the vision of an accessible campus to all levels of the university. The social integration process has been supported through academic events themed "Disability and Psychology: I Am Also Here" and "Sports Activities for Disadvantaged Groups." The "Meeting of Personnel with Disabilities" and "Orientation for Disadvantaged Groups" initiatives, implemented in line with the unit's vision, demonstrate that discrimination is prevented at our university and that social protection networks are established in an inclusive manner for every stakeholder.



We met with our disabled employees!

"Disability and Psychology: I Am Also Here" Event



Corporate Strategy and Accessibility Infrastructure

In line with its 2025 sustainability vision, Karadeniz Technical University continued its efforts to establish an inclusive, accessible, and internationally aligned university ecosystem. Within this framework, the university prioritized practices that support the academic and social integration of students from diverse cultural backgrounds, place equal opportunity at the center of institutional policies, and integrate social sustainability awareness into institutional processes.

In order to strengthen internationalization policies, comprehensive “Internationalization Strategy” meetings were organized within the Faculties of Engineering and Science. During these meetings, topics such as improving the experiences of international students and researchers, promoting cultural diversity, expanding inclusive campus policies, and developing sustainable international collaborations were discussed. Thus, the university’s internationalization processes were evaluated not only in terms of academic visibility but also from the perspectives of social inclusion and equality.



In order to strengthen the physical and administrative infrastructure in line with the principles of inclusiveness, a “Disadvantaged Student Support Unit” was established within the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics. Through this unit, individualized guidance services were provided to address the academic, social, and psychological needs of students with special needs, while solution-oriented support mechanisms were developed to promote their active and equal participation in university life.



Disabled Ramp



Equal Opportunities in Education and Academic Support

Within the 2025 academic calendar, announcements for the Turkish International Student Admission Examination (TR-YÖS) were published at both central and academic unit levels to reach a wide audience of candidates, aiming to standardize and facilitate access to higher education for international candidates. The transparent conduct of the examination processes and the announcement of application schedules via digital platforms allowed for the objective evaluation of the academic competencies of candidates from diverse geographical backgrounds. This systematic approach created a fair gateway for all candidates, regardless of their socio-economic background, ensuring that equal opportunity in access to education became an institutional standard.



The international student placement processes, implemented to maximize inclusivity in education, ensured the efficient use of quotas to include disadvantaged groups. These processes, completed with the public announcement of placement results, increased diversity at the higher education level, while the "International Student Academy" applications supported students' academic adaptation processes. This academy program, focusing on students' academic development after admission, aimed to minimize inequalities in achievement that might arise from language and curriculum differences and to ensure that all students have an equal chance of success in their educational lives.



[Turkish Student Admission Exam for International Students \(TR-YÖS\)](#)



Equal Opportunities in Education and Academic Support



In 2025, in order to facilitate access to education for international candidates, all information regarding student applications, tuition fees, and placement processes was shared transparently through digital channels.

The Turkish Proficiency Exams organized within the KTU TÖMER (Turkish Language Teaching Center) and the exemption exam announcements published by different academic units allowed for the fair determination of students' academic levels and ensured that language barriers did not constitute an obstacle to the right to education. This systematic approach, within the framework of our university's internationalization vision, has provided equal opportunities for academic development to each candidate under equal conditions, thus institutionally guaranteeing equal access to education.

The "Orientation Meeting for Newly Enrolled International Students" and informative seminars, conducted to support social and academic integration processes, aimed to ensure the full and effective participation of international students in campus life.

Through special announcements and orientation activities by academic units such as the Institute of Social Sciences, students' awareness of their rights, responsibilities, and university opportunities was increased, minimizing the risk of social exclusion. These inclusive orientation programs ensured that students integrated into the institutional system not only academically but also culturally and socially, reinforcing the foundations of a multicultural educational environment where diversity is considered a richness.



[Orientation Meeting for Newly Registered International Students](#)





Social Integration and Cultural Inclusion

Our university has embraced multiculturalism on campus as an institutional asset and has hosted widely attended events such as "Cultures Meet" and "International Student Culture Night" to strengthen social inclusion. These events, where students from different geographical regions share their cultural heritage, reinforce a climate of mutual understanding and tolerance throughout the campus; while the special graduation ceremony organized for international students has been recorded as an institutional success story documenting the successful achievement of equal opportunity in education. These organizations have marked a strategic step towards social integration by confirming that each of our students' cultural identities are an integral part of campus life.

Viewing social solidarity as an institutional responsibility, our university has strengthened the sense of belonging of its stakeholders through Iftar gatherings and special solidarity programs organized for vulnerable groups, particularly Palestinian and Sudanese students from crisis regions. Through cultural exchange activities themed "Let's Talk in English" and organized international student friendship matches, channels of social and sporting interaction have been opened beyond academic barriers, encouraging the coexistence of different languages and cultures. These targeted integration activities have minimized the risk of social exclusion for students, establishing a campus-wide social protection network where every stakeholder feels safe and equal.



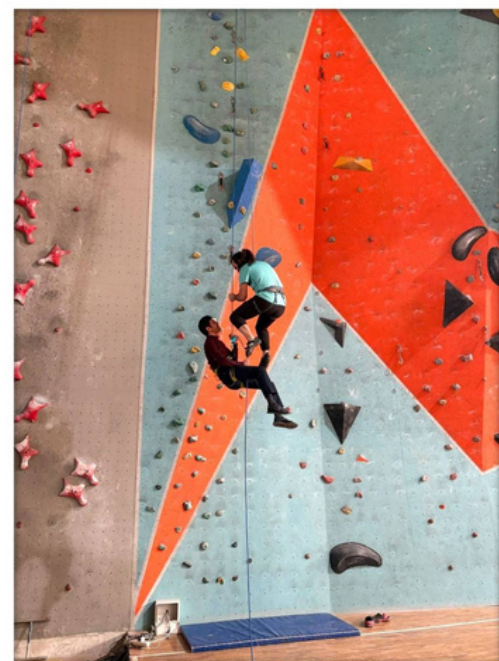
At our university "Cultures" Meet Night





Social Integration and Cultural Inclusion

Our university, which does not limit social integration to cultural ceremonies alone, has placed the unique needs and expectations of each stakeholder at the center of the institutional agenda by opening targeted dialogue channels such as the "African Students Meeting". Student representation, strengthened through activities themed "Our Department Through the Eyes of Our International Students", has ensured that international students find their place as active stakeholders in the education process, reflecting equal opportunity in decision-making mechanisms. In addition, organizations such as sport climbing events, which combine social interaction with physical activity, have encouraged young people from different backgrounds to meet in a common campus culture, minimizing the risks of social exclusion and reinforcing the sustainable structure of social cohesion.



Sport Climbing Event with International Students





Social Integration and Cultural Inclusion

To celebrate the cultural diversity on campus and strengthen the sense of belonging among different language groups, the university has highlighted multiculturalism as an institutional value by organizing widely attended events such as "World Arabic Day" and "Nowruz Spring Festival." These events provide an inclusive social environment where international students can freely express their cultural heritage;

"International Student Gatherings" held in various disciplines such as Finance, Labor Economics (ÇEKO), and the Institute of Social Sciences (SABE) have maximized internal social integration.

Periodically organized introductory breakfasts and unit-focused meetings at the institutional level have played a critical role in overcoming social barriers on campus life and strengthening institutional belonging by enabling students to interact directly with academic management.

KTÜ 1955
KARADENİZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ
Sağlık Bilimleri Enstitüsü **SABE**

ULUSLARARASI ÖĞRENCİ BULUŞMASI

26 Şubat 2025
Saat : 10:00

KARADENİZ ULUSLARARASI ÖĞRENCİ DERNEĞİ

Yer : KTÜ OLİMPİYAT CAFE



Meeting with International Students



Social Integration and Cultural Inclusion

Organized in collaboration with the General Coordination Office for International Relations and the Health, Culture and Sports Department (SKS), these comprehensive holiday events provided a democratic platform where stakeholders from different geographical regions could freely showcase their cultural heritage. These organizations reinforced a culture of mutual respect and coexistence across the campus, serving as an institutional model for preventing discrimination and ensuring social integration.

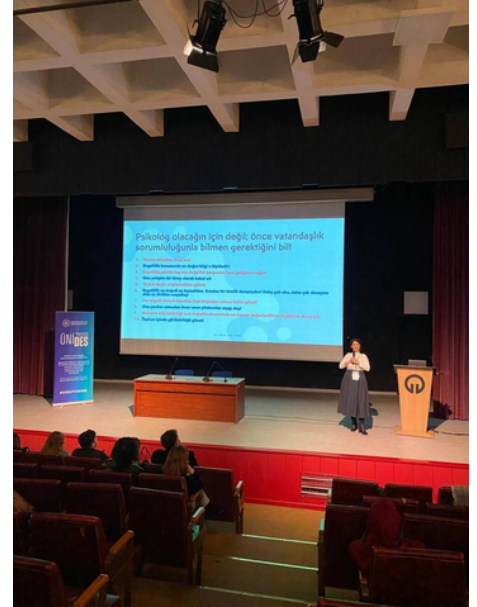
To spread the vision of reducing inequalities at the grassroots level, the "Gate International" event, implemented by the International Student Club, and the "International Culture Sharing" events, conducted at the level of academic units such as Arsin Vocational School and the Department of Surveying Engineering, eliminated social barriers between local and international students. Periodic gatherings and unit-focused cultural interaction activities, spearheaded by student clubs, strengthened students' sense of belonging to campus life and minimized the risk of social exclusion. These targeted integration efforts ensured the sustainability of an inclusive university climate where diversity is accepted not as a source of division, but as a common ground for development.



"Gate International" Event from the International Student Club



Vulnerable Groups, Gender and Elderly Rights



Our university has adopted gender equality as an institutional priority in its 2025 activity period and has taken pioneering steps to transform academic knowledge into strategic social benefit. Within the framework of its vision to improve the quality of life and social representation of vulnerable groups, the "aging in place" processes of older individuals and the design of "Age-Friendly Spaces" have been addressed from a technical and social perspective by the Architecture and Interior Architecture departments. The social protection network has been strengthened through Farabi Hospital's preventive information programs on elderly health and organizations promoting intergenerational solidarity; while the scope of the fight against inequality has been expanded through the Sociology Department's studies on financial inclusion among immigrants. Events such as ADHD awareness meetings and "Disability and Psychology: I Am Also Here" have demonstrated our university's commitment to sustainability goals in creating an inclusive and egalitarian ecosystem where every individual can realize their potential.

The "Specialized Women's Shelter Service Model" project, supported under the TÜBİTAK KAMAG 1007 program, laid the foundations for a unique and inclusive social service model specific to Turkey; institutional awareness was reinforced through panels and poster presentations emphasizing academic and societal responsibility against violence against women. Furthermore, the Disabled Student Unit's March 8th awareness activities and projects focusing on disadvantaged individuals within the School of Health Sciences have placed women's rights and equal opportunities at the center of the institutional culture through an intersectional approach to inclusivity.

KTÜ MİMARLIK BÖLÜMÜ 2024-2025 BAHAR YARIYILI



Yaşlı Bireyler ve Yaşlı Dostu Mekanlar

KTÜ MİMARLIK BÖLÜMÜ

SEMİNER

Kadirhan ÖZDEMİR
Doç. Dr.

TARİH
27 Şubat 2025
perşembe

SAAT
10.00



ETKİNLİK YERİ: Seminer, Mimarlık Bölümü Erdem Aksoy Deneysel Tasarım Laboratuvarında yüzüze olarak ve QR kod üzerinden ulaşılan katilim linki ile çevrim içi olarak izlenebilmektedir.

KARADENİZ TEKNİK ÜNİVERSİTESİ MİMARLIK BÖLÜMÜ İLETİŞİM VE MEDYA KOMİSYONU



"Disability and Psychology: I Am Also Here" Event

TÜBİTAK KAMAG 1007 Call for Proposals for the Development of a Specialized Women's Shelter Service Model





Vulnerable Groups, Gender and Elderly Rights

With the goal of creating an inclusive climate for all segments of the campus, strategic meetings have been held both at the academic unit level and through central units. The "Disadvantaged Student Meeting" held in the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics directly involved the needs and proposed solutions of students in academic processes into the management processes; and the "Meeting of Personnel with Disabilities" held within the Faculty of Science ensured the rights and well-being of employees in the workplace through institutional guarantees.

Innovative awareness events such as the "KTU Awareness Journey" and sporting activities organized by the Health, Culture and Sports Directorate have promoted the full integration of disadvantaged groups into campus life, extending equal opportunities to every aspect of the physical and social sphere.

In line with its vision of social responsibility, our university has carried out social awareness activities across a wide range of areas, from the rights of people with disabilities to the welfare of the elderly. Through social responsibility projects themed "Let's Overcome Obstacles," a culture of mutual assistance with high stakeholder participation has been established; while the "Aging in Place and Living Environment Design" content, prepared in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and KTU Radio-TV, has supported the participation of elderly individuals in social life from an academic perspective. Respect for the Elderly Week events and educational activities focused on combating addiction and violence symbolize our university's commitment to strengthening social protection and safety networks not only within the campus boundaries but also in society as a whole.



[Meeting with Disadvantaged Students in Our Department](#)

[We met with our disabled employees!](#)





International Mobility and Volunteering

With the aim of increasing global academic interaction and equal opportunities, the university has managed Erasmus+ and international researcher programs with a strategic approach. Through Erasmus+ KA171 doctoral traineeship mobility and KA152 youth exchanges, our students at different academic levels have been offered the opportunity to gain international experience and develop their competencies on a global scale. Academic mobility is supported through applications for the "International Researcher Programs 2025," and thanks to these global networks and exchange programs, access to world-class knowledge and experience for all our stakeholders, regardless of their socio-economic background, has been registered as an institutional standard.

Blending social responsibility and volunteerism with an international vision, our university has promoted intercultural solidarity by enabling our students to participate in projects carried out in countries such as Poland and Spain under the European Solidarity Program (ESC). Organizations such as UNIDES volunteer awareness meetings and the UNI-DOKAP Amasya camp, organized for international students, have strengthened the social integration and leadership skills of our foreign students. Supported by youth awareness camps and Erasmus+ youth projects, these processes have increased young people's social awareness, minimized the risks of social exclusion, and ensured active and equal participation in a multicultural campus environment.



UNIDES Volunteer Activities for International Students Introductory Meeting





Academic Contributions

Karadeniz Technical University continues to carry out inclusive and equality-oriented activities in the fields of education, research, and community engagement in line with SDG-10: Reduced Inequalities. Our university contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals through its activities aimed at promoting social justice, equal opportunities, accessible education, support for disadvantaged groups, and strengthening social inclusion.

Within this scope, in 2025, academic outputs related to SDG-10 included 7 full-text articles, 5 conference papers, 1 book chapter, 1 visual arts work, and 1 academic award. In addition, interdisciplinary research on reducing inequalities is being conducted through 3 research groups operating within the university. In the field of education, 6 undergraduate and 3 graduate-level courses provide students with academic awareness on social equality, inclusion, and social responsibility. Furthermore, knowledge sharing on this topic has been supported through the contributions of 2 invited speakers and various academic participations in scientific events. Scientific projects conducted at both undergraduate and graduate levels are also actively ongoing.

KTU considers reducing inequalities not only as an area of social responsibility but also as a fundamental component of its academic and institutional development. Through practices that strengthen equal opportunities in education, accessibility initiatives for individuals with special needs, activities supporting the adaptation processes of international students, and projects aimed at increasing social awareness, our university seeks to establish an inclusive university ecosystem.





Sustainable KTU

Prepared by

Asst. Prof. Gülaycan AKGÖZ
Res. Asst. PhD Seyhan SEYHAN

This publication has been prepared by KTU Office of
Research Coordination