



Sustainable KTU

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025

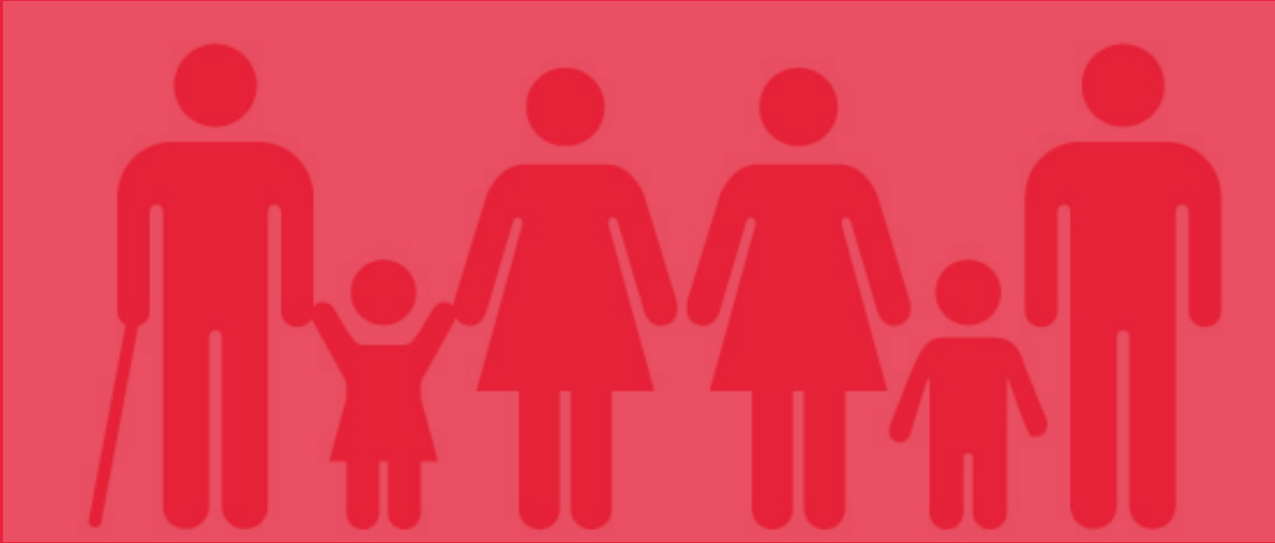
1 NO
POVERTY



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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



1 NO POVERTY



The first of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 1: No Poverty, aims to eradicate poverty in all its forms and ensure decent living conditions for all. Poverty is not limited solely to economic deprivation; it is also a multidimensional social issue that affects access to fundamental rights such as education, healthcare, housing, and participation in social life.

Karadeniz Technical University regards strengthening social justice, supporting equal opportunities, and empowering disadvantaged individuals among its primary priorities in line with its sense of social responsibility. Through scholarship and support programs for economically disadvantaged students, social assistance practices, accessible education opportunities, and community engagement projects, our university contributes to the fight against poverty.

In addition, our university supports regional development through scientific research activities and stakeholder collaborations, while also carrying out studies that contribute to the development of sustainable social policies. Practices that support students' equal access to educational processes constitute an important part of our university's inclusive and sustainable understanding of education.

This report has been prepared to present the activities, practices, and societal contributions carried out by KTÜ within the scope of SDG 1. Our university remains firmly committed to contributing to the fight against poverty and developing policies that strengthen social solidarity in line with the Sustainable Development Goals.



Institutional Structure

Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) has established a comprehensive support mechanism to support the “SDG-1: No Poverty” goal under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to ensure the social and academic needs of target groups by meeting their basic needs.

Within our university,

- the Directorate of Health, Culture, and Sports,
- the Karadeniz University Empowerment Foundation (KUGVA)
- the Career Development Application and Research Center

and external funds provide scholarships and assistance to students who need support and maintain their academic performance. At the same time, training, internship programs, and job placement services are offered to facilitate our students' access to decent job opportunities and support their career development. This multifaceted approach reflects KTU's commitment to empowering its students both financially and professionally by embracing the goal of “ending poverty” at the local level.



[KTU Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate](#)





SAĞLIK, KÜLTÜR VE SPOR DAİRESİ BAŞKANLIĞI



Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate

Under the programs run by the Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate, our students are provided with the opportunity to earn income by working on campus through “Part-Time Work,” a “Meal Grant” to meet their nutritional needs, and a “Financial Support Grant” to assist with their educational expenses. Additionally, our university offers accommodation options for students, meeting their housing needs with safe and affordable dormitory choices.

Meal Grant

KTU provides free meal scholarships for students. In 2025, meal scholarships were granted to 31,249 students in need studying at our university. This support contributes to students' academic success by meeting their basic nutritional needs. Scholarships are funded by the Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate budget; applications are accepted by the Scholarship and Aid Office at the beginning of each academic year. Students who are deemed eligible based on a social and economic status assessment are provided with one free lunch per day. This program directly contributes to the university's goals of increasing equal opportunity and alleviating the effects of poverty.



[KTU Scholarship and Financial Aid Services](#)





Part-Time Work

KTU supports students enrolled at KTU by employing them in temporary jobs during their free time outside of class hours, in line with their interests and abilities. This helps them develop their personalities and skills, fostering work discipline and contributing to their growth as productive individuals, in accordance with the KTU Part-Time Student Employment Guidelines.

Financial Support Scholarship

Another important type of support for students at KTU is financial support scholarships provided by individuals or legal entities. These scholarships facilitate students' academic lives and contribute to reducing social inequalities. Students who will benefit from the scholarships are determined through an evaluation process conducted by the Health, Culture, and Sports Directorate, and the final decision is made with the approval of the person or institution providing the scholarship. This practice stands out as an effective mechanism that encourages different segments of society to contribute to social solidarity in higher education.



[KTU Scholarship and Financial Aid Guidelines](#)
[KTU Part-Time Student Employment Guidelines](#)





Student Dormitories

KTU students are provided with comprehensive accommodation facilities by the Student Credit and Dormitories Institution (KYK). Located on the Central Kanuni Campus, the Eastern Black Sea Student Dormitory consists of eight blocks and offers rooms for 1-3 people. There is another KYK dormitory complex consisting of four blocks on the same campus. In addition, there are KYK-affiliated student dormitories in Trabzon city center and the districts of Akçaabat, Yomra, Sürmene, Of, and Maçka. This extensive accommodation network supports equal access to education by meeting students' needs for safe and affordable lodging.

Located within the Kanuni Campus, the KTU Student Dormitory serves students attending our university.



[KTU Accommodation Services](#)
[KTU Social Life](#)





Karadeniz University Enhancement Foundation

The Karadeniz University Enhancement Foundation (KUGVA), which has been operating for approximately 40 years with the aim of contributing to the educational, research, and infrastructure development of Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), is a well-established solidarity network created through public-private sector cooperation. The Foundation supports equal opportunities in education by providing the "Karadeniz University Enhancement Foundation Scholarship" to our university's successful students who need financial support. Scholarship applications are conducted through the KTU Information Management System (BYS) in a transparent and accessible process, and candidates can easily apply via the KUGVA Scholarship Application Portal. Through these programs, KUGVA not only meets the financial needs of our students but also strengthens our university's social mission.



[KU Foundation](#)
[KU Foundation Scholarship Application](#)





Career Development Application and Research Center

The Career Development Application and Research Center, operating within KTÜ, offers multifaceted services to support students and graduates in entering the workforce as well-equipped individuals. Through career planning, the development of employment skills, and the establishment of effective links with the labor market, it makes an indirect but powerful contribution to reducing socioeconomic inequalities and structurally preventing poverty. The activities carried out by the Career Development Application and Research Center aim to ensure that students graduate not only as diploma holders but as individuals with sustainable careers who can generate income, thereby making a concrete contribution to the long-term fight against poverty.



[KTU Career Center and the Services It Offers](#)





External Support Received

Scholarships provided from external funds widely used within KTU are considered one of the university's structural contributions towards the SDG-1 goal within the framework of its social justice principle. Our university provides detailed information and access to comprehensive scholarship and support programs offered by institutions such as the Higher Education Council (YÖK), TÜBİTAK, and TÜSEB, with the aim of providing socio-economic equality to our students. These supports not only encourage academic achievement but also serve as an important social tool in the fight against poverty.

For example, TÜBİTAK 2209-A and 2209-B undergraduate research scholarships support students' active participation in scientific projects, while the 100/2000 YÖK Doctoral Scholarship and TÜBİTAK 2210/2211 master's-doctoral programs facilitate the participation of disadvantaged students in research processes.

Thanks to these programs:

- Students in need of financial support can participate in high-quality research and continue their academic progress.
- Students are involved in socially impactful projects conducted within the university, enabling them to contribute to society.
- The retention of students from low-income backgrounds in higher education increases, expanding opportunities for social mobility.





Social Assistance and Inclusive Policies

Food and Nutrition

In alignment with SDG-1 goals, KTU provides comprehensive nutritional support to alleviate students' living costs. While mass food aid is provided to students through the "Iftar Like My Mother's" (Annem Gibi İftar) initiative and traditional campus iftars organized by the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports, the social protection shield has been expanded to cover the most vulnerable groups through special programs specifically for Sudanese and Palestinian international students. This food aid network, which has evolved into a multi-stakeholder structure with contributions from the Maçka Municipality, the Class of 2011 alumni, and academic units such as Forest Industrial Engineering, embodies the university's culture of social solidarity against the risk of poverty.



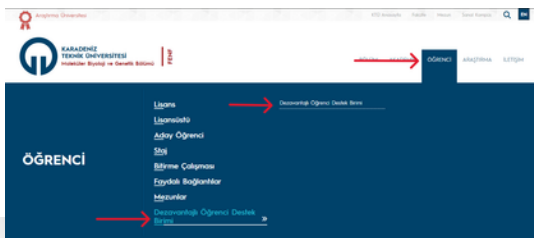
[Iftar Like My Mother's](#)
[Iftar Program](#)





Social Assistance and Inclusive Policies

Under the framework of SDG-1, KTU has launched the "Disadvantaged Student Support Unit," establishing an institutional safety net for vulnerable student populations. While institutional inclusivity is strengthened through educational protocols and panels dedicated to social projects, charity bazaars organized for the benefit of students with disabilities and those in need serve to disseminate the culture of social aid to the grassroots. Furthermore, the "GÜVEN Project," which targets the economic and social integration of women, and alumni-led activities supporting development in regions like Lebanon, attest to the local and global reach of the university's vision for social solidarity.



[Office of Disadvantaged Student Support](#)
[Protocol on Support for Social Projects and Organization of Training Seminars](#)
[Charity Bazaar Event - KTU TIP Oyuncuları Club](#)



Social Assistance and Inclusive Policies



In line with SDG-1 (No Poverty) goals, KTU implements essential social supports and inclusive policies that make campus life economically accessible. Among the university's direct intervention tools are the economic pricing policies applied in canteens and cafeterias to alleviate the financial burden on students and staff, as well as the accommodation support provided to patients and their companions in need. By combating the risk of poverty through charity bazaars that foster social solidarity and social sustainability training, an inclusive social welfare network is established within the university.



In alignment with SDG-1 (No Poverty) goals, KTU has developed mechanisms for in-kind assistance and institutional social solidarity to alleviate the living costs of its students. Direct economic support has been provided to students through free campus shuttle services, which completely eliminate intra-campus transportation expenses.



[Free Iftar Meal](#)
[Charity Bazaar Event](#)



Scholarships, Financial Aid, and Financial Incentives

Project Writing and Grant Information Trainings



KTU organizes comprehensive "Project Writing and Grant Information Trainings" campus-wide to empower students to manage their own research budgets and support their financial independence. These training sessions, covering national and international funding programs such as TÜBİTAK 2209-A/B, COST, and Erasmus, enhance students' ability to access the financial resources required during their education, enabling them to overcome the risk of poverty through academic achievement.



This educational mobilization, spanning all faculties and Vocational Schools (MYO) across the university, is enriched with Scientific Research Project (BAP) support presentations, youth project writing workshops, and form preparation training for undergraduate and graduate researchers. Incentive ceremonies for accepted projects and TÜBİTAK 3501 experience-sharing meetings for early-career researchers contribute directly to building a sustainable economic future by enhancing students' financial literacy and fund management competency.



[COST ve Erasmus Projects](#)
[Faculty and Vocational School Training](#)





Employment, Internships, and Career Development

İŞKUR and Official Employment Channels



KTU actively utilizes İŞKUR and various internship programs to facilitate students' entry into the professional world before graduation, aiming to mitigate the risk of poverty. Through its collaboration with İŞKUR, the university provides students with opportunities to gain both professional experience and financial support during their academic tenure. The early integration of students into the labor market is promoted via the İŞKUR Youth Program and department-specific vocational training initiatives, while these processes are institutionalized through lottery selections, booth visits, and informative meetings.



Gençler İçin
Hayata Geçirdiğimiz
İŞKUR Gençlik
Programı
Hayırlı Olsun!

Devlet Üniversiteleri ile iş birliği içinde geleceğimiz olan öğrencilerimizi iş gücü piyasasıyla tanıştırıyoruz.



İŞKUR Trainings



Employment, Internships, and Career Development

Alumni Mentorship and Career Planning



KTU directly supports students' preparation for the labor market through career planning events and the mentorship network established between its alumni and current students. Through programs such as "Experience Speaks" (Tecrübe Konuşuyor) and "Our Alumni Speak" (Mezunumuz Anlatıyor), students leverage the field experiences of graduates to develop concrete strategies for their professional lives, thereby enhancing their post-graduation employability and minimizing the risk of poverty.

Career Days

To enhance students' competitiveness, the university also organizes programs for core competencies such as CV preparation, Excel, and LinkedIn usage, alongside specific sectoral expertise programs like engine officer training and certified welding training. Through Vocational Promotion Fairs and Career Days, students are brought together with potential employers, while certified applied training opportunities help establish secure career paths that enable students to achieve financial independence.



[Our Alumni Talk About the Department
CV Preparation Techniques](#)



Employment, Internships, and Career Development

KTU implements an intensive training schedule for technical and soft skills to ensure students adapt to the requirements of the digital age and are employed in high-added-value jobs. Alongside modern digital competencies such as Basic SQL, Power BI, Git/GitHub, and Artificial Intelligence (AI) training, workshops on Excel, project preparation with AutoCAD, and interview techniques are organized to increase direct job placement success. Guidance activities—including self-assessment via SWOT analysis, Europass CV creation, and effective LinkedIn usage—professionalize students' job-seeking processes, thereby reducing the risk of post-graduation unemployment and accelerating the path toward economic independence.



The university also provides practical platforms that prepare students for the professional sector through industry collaborations and official employment channels. Technical expertise is certified through the promotion of long-term internship programs like Borda Academy and certified welding/material inspection (KEMM) training, while job-seeking strategies are taught through hands-on İŞKUR Job Club workshops. Major organizations such as DOKKAF-2025 (Eastern Black Sea Career Fair) and the Human Resources Career Congress facilitate direct contact between thousands of students and potential employers, supporting a campus-wide employment mobilization and contributing to social welfare.



[DOKKAF 2025](#)
[Human Resources Career Congress and Fair](#)
[Employment Club Workshop](#)



Employment, Internships, and Career Development

Sectoral Meetings and Career Talks

The university facilitates students' transition into the professional world through wide-ranging meetings that bridge academic knowledge and sectoral practice. Alongside well-established events such as the Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences' 20th Traditional Career Days and "Rotamız Gemi" (Our Route is the Ship), talks organized with the participation of sector representatives—including Isuzu, Martur Fompak, Türkiye Sigorta, and Trendy Hotels—offer students the chance to build direct professional networks across a broad spectrum, from automotive and tourism to energy and the pharmaceutical industry. By enabling alumni to share real-world field experiences with current students, these meetings accelerate the transformation of theoretical education into economic value and proactively reduce the risk of post-graduation unemployment.



Career Planning and Guidance

Professional career roadmaps are developed within the university framework to eliminate post-graduation uncertainties for students. Guidance activities, including public career examinations, graduate education introductions, and sessions themed "I Have Graduated, What's Next?" (Mezun Oldum Ya Sonra), empower students to make strategic career choices. These specialized counseling services—spanning diverse fields from capital markets to forensic medicine, and artificial intelligence to nursing and occupational safety—ensure that students are directed toward the most suitable positions to secure their economic independence, thereby making social welfare and individual employability permanent.



[20th Traditional Career Days](#)
[Great Black Sea Forum](#)



Employment, Internships, and Career Development

Internship Postings and Programs



The university facilitates students' transition into the professional world through comprehensive meetings that bridge academic knowledge and sectoral practice. Alongside events such as "Rotamız Gemi" (Our Route is the Ship), talks organized with the participation of sector representatives—including Isuzu, Martur Fompak, Türkiye Sigorta, and Trendy Hotels—provide students with the opportunity to build direct professional networks across a broad spectrum, from automotive and tourism to energy and the pharmaceutical industry. By enabling alumni to share real-world field experiences with current students, these meetings accelerate the process of transforming theoretical education into economic value and proactively reduce the risk of post-graduation unemployment.



Recruitment and Career Postings

KTU strengthens the bridge between academia and the business world by bringing the recruitment programs of major corporations such as Turkcell, Turkish Airlines (THY), and Migros to campus, while opening doors to qualified employment through initiatives like DOKKAF'25 and TÜBİTAK 2244. Viewing the fight against poverty as an "empowerment" process, the university provides a holistic foundation for students to build their economic independence through free certification programs and interview technique support, alongside artificial intelligence and language training offered in collaboration with UNESCO, Oxford, and Peking University.



[National Internship Program](#)
[Applications for the Career Pool](#)





Academic Contributions

KTU continues to carry out qualified studies under the theme of “Zero Hunger.” According to the Scopus database, 6 scientific publications related to this Sustainable Development Goal were produced in 2025. In addition, scientific projects aligned with this goal are actively continuing at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

As a result, the efforts we undertake as KTÜ to reduce poverty and eliminate social inequalities constitute a fundamental part of our understanding of social responsibility. The projects and strategies presented within this report aim to create sustainable impact at both local and national levels, while ensuring concrete actions in the fields of education, healthcare, employment, and social support. Looking ahead, we aim to continue developing innovative and inclusive approaches that contribute to the achievement of SDG 1 targets and to lead efforts to improve the welfare of all segments of society.





Sustainable KTU

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