



# Sustainable KTU

## SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



[www.ktu.edu.tr/sustainability](http://www.ktu.edu.tr/sustainability)



[surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr](mailto:surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr)



Sustainable development is not only a global vision, but also a shared responsibility that our country bears towards future generations. In this sense, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations, Turkey's 11th and 12th Development Plans, the Green Deal Action Plan, and the Higher Education Council's sustainability vision form a roadmap for higher education institutions.

As Karadeniz Technical University, we consider it our primary duty to contribute to these goals in line with our mission of education, research, and community service. Our university produces science-based knowledge, develops policies, and implements projects in interaction with the community across a wide range of areas, from quality education to climate action, from poverty reduction to the construction of innovative and sustainable cities.

In line with our country's national policies, our university leads regional development and assumes global responsibility through international collaborations, while also aiming to educate our students to become conscious individuals for a sustainable future. The report prepared in this context reflects not only the activities carried out but also our university's determination on its sustainability journey.

Our belief in the future is strengthened by the guidance of science and the dynamism of our youth. Karadeniz Technical University will continue to contribute to sustainable development goals and support our country's vision in this area.

Prof. Dr. Hamdullah ÇUVALCI  
**Rector, Karadeniz Technical University**



## 17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



The United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development serves as a universal roadmap guiding all countries and institutions worldwide toward shared goals. Within this roadmap, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals emphasizes that collaboration and solidarity are indispensable for achieving sustainable development. At Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), we recognize that, alongside the production of scientific knowledge and quality education, establishing strong partnerships with diverse stakeholders is one of our most important responsibilities.

Our university conducts multifaceted collaborations at local, regional, national, and international levels. Projects implemented with public institutions, local governments, civil society organizations, and private sector representatives not only contribute to scientific knowledge but also enhance societal benefits and serve sustainable development. Participation in international academic networks, promoting student and faculty exchange programs, and establishing joint research centers and laboratories are tangible indicators of KTU's collaboration-focused vision.

Through its research projects, social responsibility initiatives, and practices supporting regional development, KTU strengthens a culture of partnership. Our university acts not only as a contributor to the development of the Black Sea Region, but also as an actor addressing national and global challenges, supporting sustainable development goals through the sharing of knowledge, technology, and expertise. This report comprehensively presents KTU's strategies developed under SDG 17, its implemented collaborations, and its vision for the future. We believe that partnerships are not merely inter-institutional cooperation; they represent a culture of solidarity shaped around shared values, responsibilities, and objectives.

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

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Beyond being a knowledge production center, KTU also represents a vision of creating stakeholder-based, cross-border impact in line with sustainable development goals. Within the framework of policies focused on quality, interaction, and sustainable development in higher education, KTU is a member of numerous prestigious international networks. These memberships not only increase the university's global visibility but also enable it to contribute to the sustainable development goals, particularly the "Partnerships for the Goals" goal under SDG-17.

## European University Association (EUA)



KTU is an active member of EUA, an organization that has a voice in policy development, quality assurance, and research collaborations in European higher education. Within this framework, our university participates in joint efforts with European higher education institutions to share knowledge and disseminate best practices, which in turn fosters institutional development and international collaborations.

## Community of Mediterranean Universities (CMU)



Thanks to its membership in CMU, KTU develops scientific, cultural, and academic collaborations with universities in the Mediterranean basin. Joint projects, particularly on themes such as environment, energy, migration, youth, and peace, contribute to regional sustainability.

## Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN)

As a member of the BSUN, KTU facilitates the exchange of knowledge and experience among universities in the Black Sea region, conducting joint research, congresses, and student exchange programs aimed at regional development. Initiatives developed under the BSUN umbrella contribute to the search for multilateral solutions to the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing countries in the region.



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



# International Research and Education Partnerships

KTU provides mobility opportunities to hundreds of students and academics through bilateral agreements with universities in Europe and other continents, as well as through Erasmus+ exchange programs. In this context, 20 new cooperation protocols were signed in 2024.



## KTU Global Engagement Map



[Erasmus KA171 Partner Universities](#)

[Erasmus KA131 Partner Universities](#)

[Universities with MoU Agreements](#)





|  |             |                          |            |            |
|--|-------------|--------------------------|------------|------------|
| Quantum Orbit Labs A.Ş.                          | Türkiye     | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 30.12.2024 | 30.12.2029 |
| Batna 2 Üniversitesi                             | Cezayir     | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 26.11.2024 | 26.11.2029 |
| Petre Shotadze Tiflis Medikal Akademisi          | Gürcistan   | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 19.03.2024 | 19.03.2029 |
| Uluslararası Turan Üniversitesi                  | Özbekistan  | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Bukhara Psikoloji ve Yabancı Diller Üniversitesi | Özbekistan  | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Exact and Social Sciences Üniversitesi           | Özbekistan  | MoU İş Birliği Protokolü | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Karakalpak Devlet Üniversitesi                   | Özbekistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Namangan Mühendislik Teknolojileri Enstitüsü     | Özbekistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Jizzakh Politeknik Enstitüsü                     | Özbekistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Samerkand Devlet Üniversitesi                    | Özbekistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Taşkent Devlet Teknik Üniversitesi               | Özbekistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.09.2024 | 28.09.2029 |
| Odesa Devlet Tarım Üniversitesi                  | Ukrayna     | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 01.07.2024 | 01.07.2029 |
| Saveetha Tıp ve Teknik Bilimler Enstitüsü        | Hindistan   | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 28.05.2024 | 28.05.2029 |
| Kazakistan Ulusal Tarım Araştırma Üniversitesi   | Kazakistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 21.05.2024 | 21.05.2029 |
| Dunarea de Jos Galati Üniversitesi               | Romanya     | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 08.05.2024 | 08.05.2029 |
| Tiflis Tıp Akademisi                             | Gürcistan   | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 19.03.2024 | 19.03.2029 |
| Batum Shota Rustaveli Devlet Üniversitesi        | Gürcistan   | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 15.02.2024 | 15.02.2024 |
| Amur Devlet Üniversitesi                         | Rusya       | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 07.02.2024 | 07.02.2029 |
| Kırgızistan -Türkiye Manas Üniversitesi          | Kırgızistan | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 07.02.2024 | 07.02.2029 |
| Malezya Putra Üniversitesi                       | Malezya     | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 31.01.2024 | 31.01.2029 |
| Uluslararası Bilişim Üniversitesi                | Kazakistan  | İş Birliği Protokolü     | 31.01.2024 | 01.01.2030 |



# KTU's Contribution to Sustainable Development through National Collaborations

KTU collaborates at various levels with public institutions, local governments, civil society organizations, and the private sector in alignment with Turkey's development goals. These national partnerships play a strategic role in localizing sustainable development goals, sharing knowledge, strengthening human resources, and increasing social impact.

Through projects carried out with public institutions such as TÜBİTAK, the Council of Higher Education (YÖK), the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment, Urbanization and Climate Change, the Ministry of National Education, and KOSGEB, KTU contributes to numerous sustainability areas, particularly in the areas of quality education (SDG-4), health and welfare (SDG-3), and industry, innovation, and infrastructure (SDG-9).

Furthermore, joint projects and practices developed with local stakeholders such as the Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality, the Trabzon Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Trabzon Technopark, and the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA) strengthen the university's role in regional development and social contribution. KTU achieves results that create impact at the local level through social responsibility projects, research and development studies, entrepreneurship support programs and vocational training activities carried out in collaboration with these institutions.

In 2024, KTU signed cooperation protocols with many institutions and organizations in the fields of education, research, social contribution, health and security.

- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks)
- Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality
- Artvin Çoruh University, Atatürk University, İğdır University, and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University
- TOBB Trabzon Women Entrepreneurs Board
- Dayneks Software Industry and Trade Inc.
- Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Labor and Employment Agency
- Akçaabat Municipality
- Republic of Turkey Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
- Trabzon Provincial Directorate of Social Security
- Turkish Industrial Property Assessment Engineering and Consulting Inc.
- Eastern Black Sea Municipalities Union
- Farmateks Pharmaceuticals Chemistry Industry and Trade Inc.
- The Scientific and Technological Research Council of Turkey, Space Technologies Research Institute (TÜBİTAK UZAY), Middle East Technical University, Space and Accelerator Technologies UYGAR
- 17th Commando Brigade Command



[National Protocols](#)

[International Protocols - 2024](#)





## **Collaboration Protocol for the Project on Determining the Relationship Between Risk Factors of Some Chronic Diseases and Global Climate Crisis Risk Perception among Individuals 18 Years of Age and Older Living in Trabzon Province**

Within the scope of the protocol signed between KTU and the Trabzon Provincial Health Directorate, studies will be carried out to increase the health level of the public in order to identify the risks to the health of our citizens living in Trabzon more comprehensively, to protect individuals and society from these identified risks, and to provide the best possible health care.

## **Disaster- and Education-Focused Collaboration Between KTU and Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality**

Within the scope of the protocols signed between KTU and the Trabzon Metropolitan Municipality, joint efforts are planned in areas such as disaster risk reduction, search and rescue drills, and in-service training, in collaboration with the Landslide Application and Research Center. Additionally, the Graduate School of Natural and Applied Sciences offers postgraduate and certificate programs to support the professional development of municipal personnel, while providing academic contributions in property valuation and zoning practices.

This collaboration demonstrates that university-public partnerships contribute directly to the achievement of sustainable development goals.



[Protocol with the Trabzon Provincial Health Directorate](#)

[National Protocols – 2024](#)





## Regional Interuniversity Research Collaboration on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

A collaboration protocol was signed between KTU and Artvin Çoruh University, Atatürk University, Iğdır University, and Recep Tayyip Erdoğan University to study medicinal and aromatic plant species identified in Trabzon, Artvin, Erzurum, Rize, and Iğdır provinces and their surrounding areas. The protocol aims to conduct content analyses, determine fractions and biological activities, perform cancer screenings, design pre-clinical studies for metabolites showing effects at the cellular level, and develop drug candidate molecules.

## Entrepreneurship Collaboration Between KTU and TOBB Women Entrepreneurs Board

A collaboration protocol was signed between KTU and the TOBB Trabzon Women Entrepreneurs Board, aiming to develop an entrepreneurial culture and generate sustainable projects.



[Interinstitutional Collaboration Protocol](#)

[Women Entrepreneurs Collaboration Protocol](#)





## Collaboration Between the Ministry of Family and Social Services and KTU's

KTU has launched the Tazelenme University Program in collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services (General Directorate of Services for Persons with Disabilities and the Elderly) to encourage individuals aged 60 and above to participate in lifelong learning. Tazelenme University contributes to combating social exclusion and loneliness by increasing access to knowledge for older adults, while also serving as a social support mechanism aimed at preventing age-related economic and social vulnerabilities.

## Strategic Partnership in Nature Conservation from KTU: Natural Trout Conservation Project

KTU develops effective collaborations with public institutions in line with sustainable environmental policies and biodiversity conservation goals. In this context, the "Natural Trout Production, Breeding, and Intra-Forest Waters Fish Project" was implemented within the framework of a protocol signed between KTU Sürmene Faculty of Marine Sciences and the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's General Directorate of Nature Conservation and National Parks. This collaboration, which aims to protect red-spotted trout, a native species in in-forest waters across Turkey, and to ensure the sustainability of natural habitats, is a significant indicator of the university's contribution to SDG-17 through ecosystem-based partnerships.



[National Protocols](#)  
[Protocol with the Ministry.](#)



# Cyber Security Training Protocol in cooperation with the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA)

KTU and the Eastern Black Sea Development Agency (DOKA) have signed a "Cybersecurity Training" cooperation protocol as part of the Development Agencies Cyber Homeland Program. This protocol aims to increase the training capacity of academic institutions in the region in the field of cybersecurity and train experts. The training programs organized as part of the project will contribute to strengthening the region's digital security infrastructure.



## KTU's International Project Partnerships: Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Program

KTU continues to strengthen international research collaborations and contribute to regional sustainability through projects implemented within the scope of the European Union-supported Interreg NEXT Black Sea Basin Cross-Border Cooperation Program.

As of 2024, various projects have been supported on the themes of environmental sustainability, biodiversity conservation, microplastic pollution, combating invasive species, technology transfer, and green innovation. These projects are carried out by various academic units at KTU, and effective collaborations have been established with regional countries such as Greece, Bulgaria, and Romania.

In this context, our university both develops its scientific capacity at the international level and contributes to common development goals in line with SDG-17.

| Partner                       | Project Name   | Project Description  |
|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Prof. Dr. Fatma TELLİ KARAHOÇ | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) |
| Prof. Dr. İsmail ERGÜZ        | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) |
| Prof. Dr. Fatma TELLİ KARAHOÇ | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) |
| Prof. Dr. Coşkun ERGÜZ        | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) | İSİRH ÖTESİ İŞ BİRLİĞİ PROGRAMI (INTERREG NEXT BLACK SEA BASIN PROGRAMI) |





## Academic Contributions

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KTU continues its high-quality academic work on partnerships for the goals. According to the Scopus database, the number of scientific publications related to this development goal, which stood at 18 in 2023, has doubled, with 36 publications completing 2024. Scientific projects related to this goal are also actively ongoing at the undergraduate and graduate levels. The AVESİS database lists four TÜBİTAK projects, five papers, one doctoral dissertation, and three master's theses as contributing to this field.

According to THE Impact Ranking data, KTU received a score of 43.6 (based on 2024 data) within the scope of SDG-17 in 2025. According to THE Impact Ranking 2025 data, KTU's 2025 scientific studies on the SDG-17 Partnerships for the Goals increased by 7.2 points compared to the previous year, achieving an indicator score of 72.

KTU acts with the understanding that sustainable development is only possible through strong, inclusive, and multi-stakeholder collaborations. By establishing strategic partnerships at both national and international levels, it expands areas for knowledge sharing, joint production, and social benefit. Our university's active membership in European and Black Sea regional networks, as well as its collaborations with public institutions, the private sector, local governments, and civil society, contribute to the local realization of global goals. In this context, KTU continues to assume responsibility for building a sustainable future by institutionalizing a culture of partnership in line with SDG-17.



[Academic Publications-2024](#)





# Sustainable KTU

This publication has been prepared by KTU Office of  
Research Coordination



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[surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr](mailto:surdurulebilirktu@ktu.edu.tr)