



Sustainable KTU

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024

10 REDUCED
INEQUALITIES



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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



10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reducing Inequalities aims to decrease economic and social disparities within and among countries. In this context, empowering the poorest segments of society, ensuring the full participation of everyone (regardless of gender, race, ethnicity, or disability status) in economic and social life, and eliminating discrimination are of great importance. To address growing inequalities, it is essential to implement strong policies that support the lowest income groups and provide equal opportunities for all. Considering that income inequality is a global issue, regulating financial institutions, directing development aid to developing regions, and ensuring safe migration opportunities are also integral parts of the solution.

Universities make significant contributions to the goal of Reducing Inequalities by generating and disseminating knowledge, developing innovative solutions, and educating future sustainability leaders. Indeed, through research (conducting projects on related issues, developing new solutions and technologies), education (offering courses, seminars, and lifelong learning programs on social equity and inclusiveness), practice/operations (implementing inclusive policies and decisions within their institutions), and leadership (community projects for disadvantaged groups, contributions to policy-making processes, and collaborative activities with stakeholders), universities stand as leading institutions in reducing social inequalities.

This report documents Karadeniz Technical University's (KTU) efforts to establish an equitable, inclusive, and sustainable academic ecosystem, while also demonstrating that our university assumes responsibility not only on a regional level, but also at national and global scales.



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." In addition, the Disability Support Hotline Project was launched in 2024.





In 2024, the KTU Office for Students with Disabilities organized numerous events across the university to raise awareness. In particular, on December 3, International Day of Persons with Disabilities, a large-scale event was held with the participation of the university administration, staff, and students. During this gathering, Rector Prof. Dr. Hamdullah Çuvalcı met with academic/administrative staff and students with disabilities. On this occasion, under the slogan “No barriers to sharing!”, he announced the launch of a new communication and support mechanism designed to facilitate the administrative processes of disabled staff. Thanks to this initiative, employees with disabilities can now access support through a single phone line and handle their personal administrative procedures via a designated staff representative appointed by the unit.

The seminar, held on December 30 at the Faculty of Science Nazım Terzioğlu Auditorium, was attended by academic and administrative staff as well as students. The challenges faced by individuals with disabilities were highlighted through short videos, and Hasan Gülbâl, Branch Director, provided information on the rights granted to individuals with disabilities in higher education.

A guest psychological counselor from the Trabzon Guidance and Research Center addressed the difficulties experienced by visually impaired individuals, while a sign language instructor discussed the challenges faced by hearing-impaired individuals, focusing on possible solutions.





In December 2024, the Office for Students with Disabilities broadcasted a radio program on KTU Radio under the theme “Barrier-Free Communication”, raising awareness about the rights of disadvantaged students and communication barriers.

The program shared information on educational practices and exam arrangements for students with disabilities at the university, introduced the academic unit advisors

In addition, in November 2024, the Meeting of Academic Advisors for Students with Disabilities was held. Advisors for students with disabilities from all faculties of the university came together to assess the current situation and discuss ways to expand accessible educational environments (KTU Department of Health, Culture, and Sports Announcement, November 27, 2024).

Through all these activities and initiatives, KTU demonstrated its commitment in 2024 to establishing an inclusive educational environment on campus and raising awareness within the community.

Organized by the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports at Karadeniz Technical University (KTU), a comprehensive city culture and history tour was arranged for international students coming to KTU for their studies. This initiative aimed to contribute to the goal of reducing inequalities and to support cultural integration.



[Let's Talk Without Barriers Program](#)
[Disabled-Student Advisor Meetings](#)





The event, attended by 83 international students enrolled at KTU TÖMER (Turkish and Foreign Language Teaching Application and Research Center), included visits to historically and culturally significant sites in Trabzon, such as the Seyir Terrace, Tunnel Aquarium, Kanuni House, İskenderpaşa Mosque, Trabzon City Museum, and Alacahan. The activity aimed to provide students with a closer understanding of Trabzon's historical heritage, while fostering social integration, cultural awareness, and a sense of belonging. Such initiatives contribute to reducing social inequalities and promoting intercultural dialogue, forming part of the university's efforts to integrate international students into social life.

In the event organized by the Department of Health, Culture, and Sports (SKS), 83 international students received training on "Residence Permits for International Students" through an expert from the Migration Administration. Cem Bahadır Savaşkan, Director of TÖMER, also contributed to the briefing.



[Trabzon Trip](#)





Activities Carried Out by the General Coordination of Foreign Relations for International Students

Palestinian international students studying at our university met at the General Coordination of Foreign Relations Event Hall to exchange views on the students' social adaptation, academic experiences, and the problems they face.

Chess Tournament with International Students

A “Chess Tournament” was organized to increase mental development and cultural interaction among international students studying at our university.



[Chess Tournament](#)





African International Students Gathering (ASTRA)

At the meeting organized in cooperation with the Trabzon African Students Association (ASTRA), African students introduced their activities and aimed to raise social awareness.

International Students Cultural Meeting

At the "International Student Cultural Meetings" event held as part of KTU Science, Culture, and Arts Week, international students promoted their countries, traditions, and cultures, increasing the visibility of cultural diversity. Local costumes, music, and cuisine were showcased, and social interaction was encouraged through activities such as folk dances, arm wrestling, and tug-of-war.



[African Students Meeting](#)
[International Students Cultural Meeting](#)





Azerbaijani International Students Quiz Competition

Azerbaijani students studying at KTU increased social solidarity among themselves by organizing a knowledge contest.

Trabzon African Students Association and Coordinators Meeting

Representatives of African international students and academic staff of the KTU International Student Coordination Office met to consult on the needs of the students and joint activity plans.



Supportive Training for International Students

In collaboration with the Trabzon International Student Association (TODER), Young MÜSİAD and KTÜ, courses on Revolutionary History, Turkish and Young Trade Ambassadors were organized for international students.



[Quiz](#)
[Coordinators Meeting](#)
[Supportive Trainings](#)





Academic Contributions

Karadeniz Technical University (KTU) continues to carry out qualified studies aimed at the goal of Reducing Inequalities. According to the Scopus database, 12 scientific publications related to this development goal were produced in 2024. Scientific projects targeting this objective at both undergraduate and graduate levels are also actively ongoing.

According to THE Impact Ranking data, KTU scored 50.3 in the goal of Reducing Inequalities in the 2025 results (based on 2024 data), placing the university within the 401–600 band. Moreover, THE Impact Ranking 2025 data indicate that KTU's scientific work in 2025 (based on 2024 data) achieved an indicator score of 66.4 for SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.

In conclusion, KTU approaches the reduction of inequalities not only as a social responsibility but also as a fundamental component of its academic mission. Through initiatives that strengthen equal opportunities in education, projects that enhance social awareness, and strategies that support international inclusiveness, the university makes significant contributions to achieving SDG 10. Moving forward, KTU is committed to continuing its leadership in promoting fair and sustainable development at both regional and global levels through equitable and inclusive approaches.





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