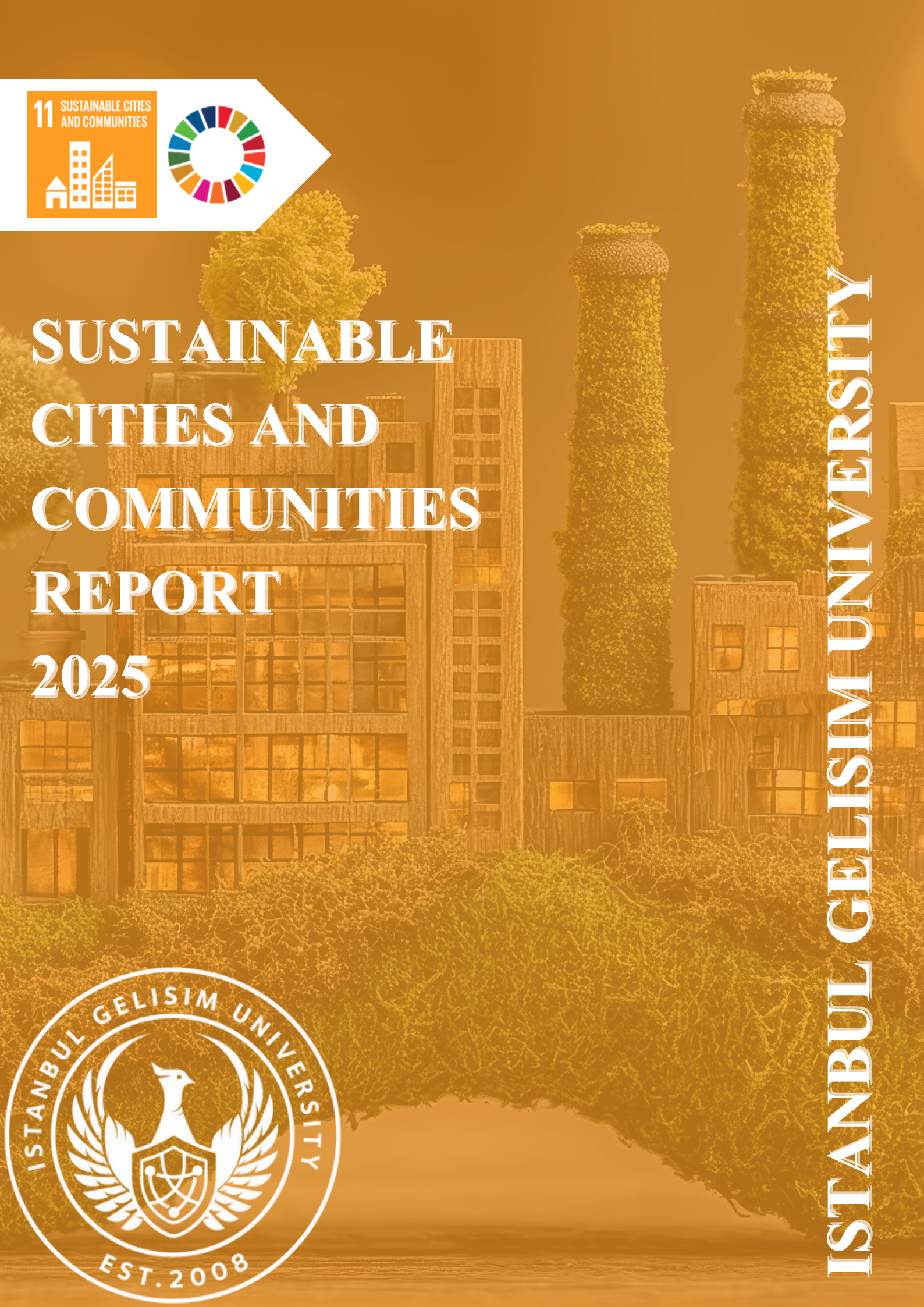

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES REPORT 2025

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY
EST. 2008

SDG 11

SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

ABOUT THE REPORT

With more than half of the world's population currently residing in urban areas and this proportion projected to reach 60% by 2030, cities are playing an increasingly significant role in achieving sustainable development. As major drivers of global economic growth, cities also face substantial challenges, including energy and resource consumption, carbon emissions, inadequate infrastructure, environmental pollution, and unplanned urbanization. These challenges have made the development of sustainable, inclusive, safe, and resilient cities a fundamental priority at the global level.

Recognizing the responsibility of higher education institutions in fostering sustainable cities and communities, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) is committed to advancing its educational, research, community engagement, and institutional practices in alignment with the principles of sustainable urban development. The University identifies the preservation of cultural and natural heritage, accessibility, inclusivity, environmental sustainability, and the enhancement of urban quality of life as key institutional priorities. In this context, particular emphasis is placed on translating academic knowledge into societal benefits and strengthening collaboration among public institutions, local authorities, universities, and industry.

This report presents the activities, institutional policies, and practices undertaken by Istanbul Gelisim University throughout 2025 in the areas of sustainable urban development, cultural and natural heritage preservation, public access, sustainable transportation, affordable housing, environmentally sustainable construction, and collaboration with local authorities.

The primary objective of this report is to assess the University's contributions to the development of sustainable cities and communities through relevant performance indicators, institutional data, and verifiable evidence. By documenting and highlighting existing practices, the report seeks to support the systematic monitoring, evaluation, and continuous improvement of sustainability initiatives at the institutional level.

IGU'S INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

VISION OF IGU

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) is a foundation university based in Istanbul, established in 2008 and granted university status in 2011. Since its foundation, IGU has operated with the mission of enhancing quality, accessibility, and diversity in higher education. The university considers education, research, and community service as its core areas of activity. IGU aims to educate students as internationally competent individuals who adhere to scientific ethical values, think creatively, and are conscious of sustainability. To this end, it continuously updates its student-centered educational programs and focuses on graduating qualified individuals who meet the needs of the modern era.

IGU's core values include respect for individual differences, openness and transparency, an interdisciplinary approach, the principle of sustainability, collaboration with the real sector, and a commitment to continuous improvement.
IGU contributes to knowledge production by conducting research activities both nationally and internationally and strengthens its societal impact through social responsibility projects and public-private partnerships. Within the framework of its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, IGU envisions generating a global impact in the field of higher education and contributing to societal development through qualified knowledge.

IGU'S INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY

Year of Establishment: 2008 (Vocational School), 2011 (University status)
Number of Faculties: 7
Number of Institutes: 1
Number of Schools: 1
Number of Vocational Schools: 2
Number of Research Centers: 22
Number of Laboratories and Workshops: 152
Total Number of Students (2025): 39,081
Total FTE (Full Time Equivalent) Number of Students (2025): 22,135
Campus Location: Avcılar, Istanbul, Türkiye
Library Facilities: 1 main library and 4 branch libraries
Strategic Plan Period: **2024–2028**

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11.Research on Sustainable Cities and Communities

Sustainable Cities and Communities: Academic Publications

Within the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities encompasses research areas aimed at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. In this context, to identify Istanbul Gelisim University's scientific research outputs relevant to this Sustainable Development Goal, the analysis draws on the SDG classification methodology developed by Elsevier and implemented in the **Scopus** database, as well as data from IGU's Academic Data Management System **(AVESIS).**

IGU Scopus–SDG 11 Publications

Based on the analysis conducted using **Scopus**, a total of 29 scientific publications affiliated with the University were identified for 2025 under SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. These publications constitute an important dataset for assessing and enhancing the bibliographic visibility of the University's research outputs related to sustainable urbanization and the improvement of the quality of cities and human settlements.

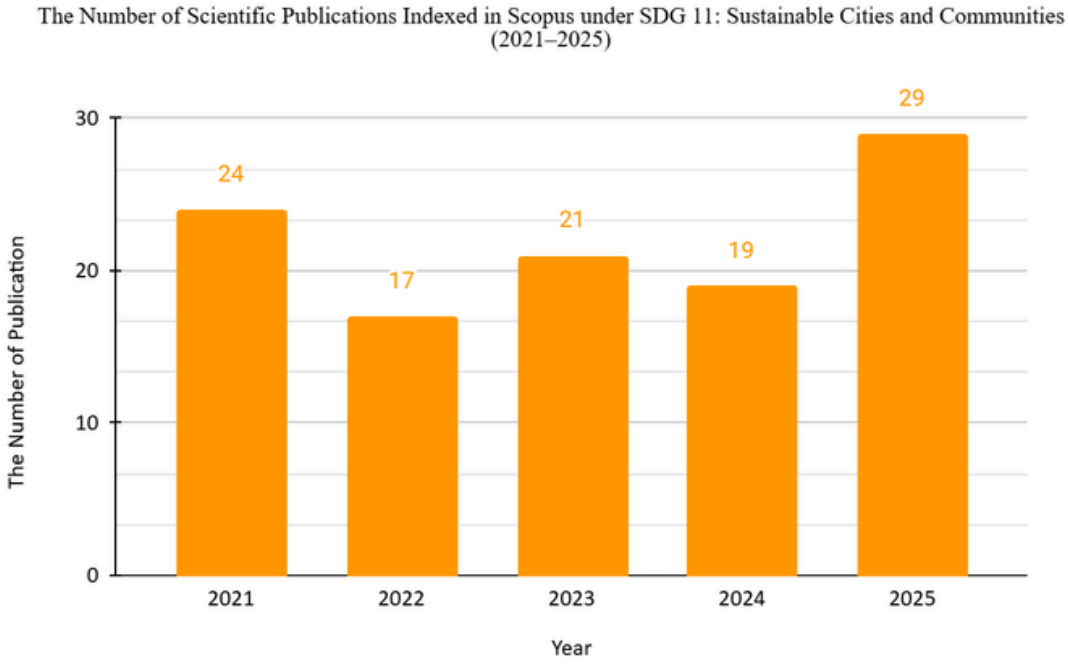

Figure 1. Annual Trends in Scientific Publications Indexed in Scopus under SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (2021–2025)

TThe total of 110 scientific publications produced over the 5-year period from 2021 to 2025 clearly demonstrates the acceleration in Istanbul Gelisim University's research output in the field of SDG 11 (Figure 1). An analysis of publication trends indicates that the initially limited and relatively stable level of research output has gradually given way to a pattern of exponential growth.

- 2025 Performance: The 29 scientific publications produced in 2025 accounted for 26.36% of the cumulative total of 110 publications since 2021, representing the highest annual publication output recorded over the 5-year period. This demonstrates that 2025 was the most successful year in terms of academic productivity and quantitative research output.
- Year-over-Year Growth (YoY): Annual publication output increased from 19 publications in 2024 to 29 in 2025, representing a significant year-over-year growth rate of 52.63%.

Scientific publication output between 2021 and 2025 can be divided into two distinct phases in terms of its development dynamics. From 2021 onwards, a substantial qualitative and quantitative improvement in publication performance was observed. In 2021, the University recorded 24 scientific publications, accounting for 21.82% of the total publication output during the five-year period. This was followed by 17 publications in 2022, representing 15.45% of the cumulative total. In 2023, scientific publication output reached 21 publications, corresponding to 19.09% of the five-year total, while 19 publications were recorded in 2024, accounting for 17.27%. These figures demonstrate the continuity of academic research activities and the University's sustained scientific engagement in areas aligned with SDG 11, reflecting the continued development of its research capacity and scientific output.

The findings demonstrate the increasing maturity of the University's research ecosystem and the accelerated growth of its scientific visibility. Since 2021, the average annual number of publications has exceeded 22, indicating that scientific research output has evolved from an occasional activity into an established institutional standard. The compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 20.81% recorded since the initial year, together with the year-over-year increase of 52.63% between 2024 and 2025, demonstrates the tangible outcomes of the University's research strategies and investments in research infrastructure. In the 2025 reporting year, the University produced 20.86% of its total cumulative scientific output, reaching a historical peak in publication performance.

TThis achievement also reflects performance exceeding strategic targets and establishes a strong academic foundation for future research activities. The list of publications indexed in Scopus in 2025 is presented below (Table 1)..

Table 1. List of Scientific Publications by IGU Indexed in Scopus under SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (2025)

No	Publication Details
1	Yildirim, S., & Ciritci, I. (2025). Adaptive Reuse Of Historical Buildings Through Cultural Heritage Conservation; The Warehouse Of Sirkeci Train Station. New Design Ideas, 9(2).
2	Çıkı, S. (2025). The Application of SOR Theory in Tourism Research: Mapping WOS Data-Based Research. Prace i Studia Geograficzne, 70(3), 21-36.
3	Agboola, O. P. (2025). Promoting sustainable health and safety in post-pandemic disaster risk management in Istanbul, Turkey. Frontiers in Built Environment, 11, 1565709.
4	Toprak, S., Zulfikar, A. C., Mutlu, A., Tugsal, U. M., Nacaroglu, E., Karabulut, S., ... & Karimzadeh, S. (2025). The aftermath of 2023 Kahramanmaras earthquakes: evaluation of strong motion data, geotechnical, building, and infrastructure issues. Natural Hazards, 121(2), 2155-2192.
5	Adewumi, A., Adeyemi, A. E., Bekun, F. V., & Olorunleke, J. O. (2025). Economic Value of Wetlands: Ecosystem Services and Benefits for Human Well-Being. In Wetland Ecosystems: Conservation Strategies, Policy Management and Applications (pp. 63-84). Cham: Springer Nature Switzerland.
6	Doğan, M. (2025). The effects and contributions of Byzantine cuisine to modern Istanbul cuisine. Discover Food, 5(1), 187.
7	CIRITCI, İ. (2025). İskenderun Kültürel Miras Yapılarının Yeniden İşlevlendirilmesi Eski İngiliz Konsolosluk Binası Potansiyelinin Değerlendirilmesi. Journal of Ottoman Legacy Studies (Osmanli Mirasi Arastirmalari Dergisi), 12(34), 539-563.
8	Sackitey, G. M., Oddei, J. A., Boğa, S., Fumey, M. P., & Bekun, F. V. (2025). Green growth in Scandinavia: assessing the role of environmental taxation, green innovation, trade, and urbanization in advancing clean energy consumption. Economics, 13(3), 27-52.
9	Hacı, A., Peker, İ. B., Uzun, A., Yıldız, E., & Gülbaz, S. (2025). Ünye Cevizdere taşkın afetinin taşkın yayılım ve tehlike haritaları ile incelenmesi. Gazi Üniversitesi Mühendislik Mimarlık Fakültesi Dergisi, 40(4), 2205-2218. https://doi.org/10.17341/gazimmfd.1539636

10	Uwa, J. N., & Agboola, O. P. (2025). Applications of immersive technology in building construction phase: Fostering sustainability in the global context. In Applications of immersive technology in architecture, engineering and construction (pp. 93-104). Routledge.
11	Toprak, S., Wham, B. P., Nacaroglu, E., Ceylan, M., & Dal, O. (2025). Performance of water systems during the February 6th Kahramanmaras earthquakes. Earthquake Spectra, 41(1), 322-353.
12	Bajja, S., Celik, A., & Fumey, M. P. (2025). How effective are transport energy consumption, trade openness, and financial development in achieving the sustainable development goals (SDGs)? What are the realities and myths for selected African countries?. Environmental and Sustainability Indicators, 26, 100715.
13	Abdulwahhab, A. H., Myderrizi, I., & Yurdakul, M. M. (2025). PAFWF-EEGC Net: parallel adaptive feature weight fusion based on EEG-dynamic characteristics using channels neural network for driver drowsiness detection. Signal, Image and Video Processing, 19(7), 514.
14	Zhang, W., Fumey, M. P., Bekun, F. V., Karikari, F. A., Yeboah, S. D., Aboagye, G. T., & Yeboah, E. (2025). The asymmetric relationship between pollution, economic growth, urbanization, renewable energy consumption, and life expectancy in Ghana: a novel quantile-on-quantile analysis. Air Quality, Atmosphere & Health, 18(5), 1341-1358.
15	Edinçliler, A., & Demirtaş, B. S. (2025). Effectiveness of geogrid reinforcement foundation on seismic performance of retaining walls: A numerical study. COMPDYN 2025 – 10th International Conference on Computational Methods in Structural Dynamics and Earthquake Engineering (pp. 5281–5290). ECCOMAS Proceedia. https://doi.org/10.7712/120125.12811.25793
16	Al-Rousan, N., Al-Najjar, H., & Elhaty, I. A. (2025). Machine learning framework for forecasting air pollution: Evaluating seasonal and climatic influences in Istanbul, Turkey. PLoS One, 20(10), e0330716.
17	Yılmaz, F. B., Satıcı, S. A., Okur, S., Kütük, H., & Aktepe, Z. G. (2025). Intolerance of uncertainty, curiosity, generalized anxiety disorder, and subjective happiness in the time of earthquakes in Türkiye. Current Issues in Personality Psychology, 13(2), 127.
18	Zhang, W. L., Fumey, M. P., Yeboah, E., Karikari, F. A., Bekun, F. V., & Moro, K. D. (2025). The role of environmental tax policy, natural resource rents, and outward foreign direct investment in advancing clean energy consumption in BRICS-T countries. International Journal of Sustainable Development & World Ecology, 32(8), 1036-1056.
19	Adem, F., Şenol, M., Toprak, A., & Haşıloğlu, A. (2025, September). An Intelligent Approach to Urban Parking Challenges: Sustainable and Automated Rotating Parking Systems. In 2025 10th International Conference on Computer Science and Engineering (UBMK) (pp. 1397-1402). IEEE.

20	Ozkan, O., Iormom, B. I., Usman, O., & Uzuner, G. (2025). Fossil fuel efficiency as a pathway to decarbonisation and the role of international trade: A perspective of the LCC hypothesis: Environment, Development and Sustainability, 1-25.
21	Zakka, S. D., Agboola, O. P., Olatunji, S. A., & Yakubu, S. U. N. (2025). Smart cities and environmental sustainability: Evaluating the nexus in South-West Nigeria. Indonesian Journal of Geography, 57(1), 10-20.
22	Ogretmenoglu, M., Ciki, K. D., Dincer, M. Z., & Dincer, F. F. I. (2025). A netnography research to explore the components of visitors' experiences in geoheritage sites: case of Huangshan UNESCO Global Geopark (China). Geoheritage, 17(4), 150.
23	Basyigit, B., Karimidastjerd, A., Cetinkaya, T., Zeynep Bakkal, L., Basdogan, H., Elmas, N., ... & Toker, O. S. (2025). Post-disaster impacts on food security and nutritional demands of vulnerable groups. Environmental Research Communications, 7(9), 092004.
24	Tuncer, E., Kavgaoglu, D., Anılgan, O. Z., & Akinlar, A. (2025). Disaster Capitalism and Social Policy: Social Work in the Aftermath of Natural Disasters. Capitalism Nature Socialism, 36(2), 131-150.
25	Al-Qazzaz, Z. A. A., Paşa, Y., & Pashaei, E. (2025, August). Enhancing monthly rainfall prediction using stacked ensemble learning and SHAP analysis: A comparative study. In 2025 International Conference on Electrical, Communication and Computer Engineering (ICECCE) (pp. 1-6). IEEE.
26	Al-Qazzaz, Z. A. A., Paşa, Y., & Pashaei, E. (2025, June). Evaluation of Ensemble Learning Methods for Flood Prediction. In 2025 33rd Signal Processing and Communications Applications Conference (SIU) (pp. 1-4). IEEE.
27	Bajja, S., Celik, A., Fumey, M. P., & Padonou, V. A. (2025). Harmonizing eco-friendly transport system: A blueprint for addressing energy consumption and environmental impact in Benin. Environmental and Sustainability Indicators, 27, 100777.
28	Spor, P., Paşa, Y., & Doğan, E. (2025). Evaluation of simulation results of HEC-RAS coupled 1D/2D and 2D modeling approaches through scenario-based analysis. Water, 17(8), 1163.
29	Alotaibi, B. S., Elnaklah, R., Agboola, O. P., Abuhussain, M. A., Tunay, M., Dodo, Y. A., ... & Alyami, M. (2025). Enhancing Najran's sustainable smart city development in the face of urbanization challenges in Saudi-Arabia. Journal of Asian Architecture and Building Engineering, 24(4), 2905-2935.

Istanbul Gelisim University's SDG 11 research portfolio, based on publications indexed in the Scopus database in 2025, comprises 29 scientific publications focusing on urban regeneration, disaster management, smart cities, the green economy, and climate resilience. Through these publications, the University contributes to the economic, social, structural, and environmental sustainability of cities from a multidisciplinary perspective.

Table 2. Thematic Distribution and Publication Matrix of Istanbul Gelisim University's Scopus-Indexed Publications (2025)

Thematic Focus Area	Subdisciplines / Topics Covered	Relevant Publication Numbers (Table 1)	Strategic Contribution and Key Focus
A. Urban Heritage and Architecture	Adaptive reuse of historic buildings, cultural heritage conservation, urban identity, and tourism	1, 6, 7, 22	Integration of historic urban fabric and architectural heritage into contemporary urban life and cultural tourism.
B. Disaster Management and Earthquake Resilience	Geotechnical performance, seismic risk assessment, infrastructure safety, flood modeling, and disaster-related social policies	2, 3, 4, 9, 11, 15, 17, 23, 24, 28	Structural, engineering, ecological, and psychological resilience solutions addressing Türkiye's disaster-related challenges.
C. Smart Cities and Urban Innovation	Artificial intelligence integration, smart parking systems, construction technologies, and urban growth	10, 13, 19, 21, 29	Technological and smart infrastructure approaches aimed at improving urban mobility and building quality.
D. Environmental Economics and Green Growth	Environmental taxation, green innovation, clean energy consumption, wetland economics, and carbon management	5, 8, 12, 14, 18, 20, 27	Analysis of the macroeconomic, financial, and policy dimensions of sustainable urban growth.
E. Climate Modeling and Environmental Forecasting	Machine learning-based models for air pollution, precipitation, and flood forecasting	16, 25, 26,	Predictive, data-driven early warning systems for climate change and environmental risks.

The research conducted by Istanbul Gelisim University researchers spans a wide range of disciplines, from architecture and civil engineering to economics, psychology, and computer science, closely aligning with the vision of SDG 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. In particular, studies on infrastructure, water systems, and geotechnical conditions following the Kahramanmaraş earthquakes, along with local flood and disaster mapping research, demonstrate the university's commitment to applying its academic expertise to address societal challenges and disaster-related risks. Furthermore, international collaborative research on economics and environmental sustainability, covering Scandinavian countries, Africa, Asia, and BRICS-T countries, highlights the university's contribution to the global sustainability agenda.

IGU Academic Data Management System (AVESIS): SDG 11 Publications

The development of scientific research conducted at Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities between 2011 and 2025 indicates a consistent upward trend in academic research output. A total of 198 publications produced under SDG 11 over the 15-year period from 2011 to the end of 2025 reflects the university's growing research capacity in urban infrastructure, disaster management, smart city technologies, and sustainable architecture. In the reporting year of 2025, the university achieved its highest annual publication output, with 68 publications accounting for 34.34% of the cumulative total. Furthermore, the increase from 28 publications in 2024 to 68 in 2025 represents a significant year-on-year growth rate of 142.86%.

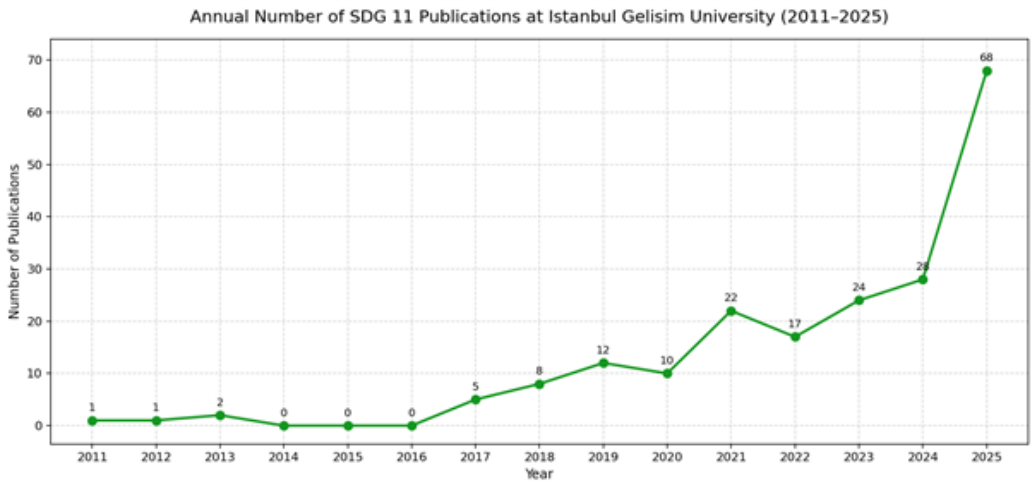

Figure 2. Annual Trends in the Number of Istanbul Gelisim University Scientific Publications Recorded in AVESIS under SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (2011–2025)

An examination of Istanbul Gelisim University's publication performance in the field of SDG 11 over time reveals that its academic research output has progressed through distinct phases of development. During the initial six-year period (2011–2016), a total of 4 publications were produced, accounting for 2.02% of the cumulative publication output. In the subsequent six-year period (2017–2022), research activities became increasingly institutionalized, with a total of 74 publications (37.37%) and a corresponding increase in the average annual publication output. During the most recent period (2023–2025), publication output accelerated considerably, reaching 120 publications, representing 60.61% of the university's total cumulative output over the 15-year period.

The findings indicate that Istanbul Gelisim University's academic research in the fields of sustainable cities and community resilience has developed both qualitatively and quantitatively. The upward trend in publication output demonstrates the growing maturity of the university's interdisciplinary research infrastructure and the increasing continuity of its academic research activities. The 68 publications recorded in 2025 provide a consistent and measurable basis for strengthening the university's academic visibility in global sustainability rankings, including the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings.

IGU Academic Data Management System (AVESIS) – SDG 11 Research Projects

During the 2025 reporting period, a total of 12 research and implementation projects focusing on United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities) were actively carried out. The list of projects is presented below (see Table 3).

Table 3. List of Ongoing Projects Focusing on SDG 11 at IGU (2025)

No.	Project Title	Researchers / Project Team	Project Type / Programme	Years
1	Qualitative Analysis of L-Proline and Hydroxyproline Molecules Expected to Be Present in the MHOne Product Using Biochemical Methods	Yeşilkır Baydar S., Ünlü A. S.	TÜBİTAK Project, 2209-B – Industry-Oriented Undergraduate Research Projects Support Programme	2025 - 2026

2	Investigation of Earthquake Awareness among Neighborhood Disaster Volunteers (MAG) within the Disaster Management System	Erdoğan H., Koçali K.	TÜBİTAK Project, 2209-A – University Students Research Projects Support Programme	2025 - 2025
3	Traces of Women's Solidarity: Stories Growing Through Labor	Kaya Deniz A. (Principal Investigator), Makar Çelik Z., Albadawı S., Güler E., Bikiç A.	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2026
4	Development of an Electric Vehicle	Çiftçi S., Özyiğit H. A. (Principal Investigator)	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2026
5	Coping with the Urban Shrinkage: A Comparative Socio-Spatial Research on Karabük and Thionville	Karadaban M. (Principal Investigator), Cunningham Sabot E. C.	TÜBİTAK Project, 2214/A – International Research Fellowship Programme for PhD Students	2025 - 2026
6	Evaluation of the Antibacterial Activity of the Domestic Biostimulant MHOne against Pectobacterium carotovorum, a Plant Soft-Rot Pathogen	Yeşilkır Baydar S., Karagöz S. (Principal Investigator), Hısım Ş. N., Verim F.	TÜBİTAK Project, 2209-B – Industry-Oriented Undergraduate Research Projects Support Programme	2025 - 2026
7	Electric Vehicle Design And Production	Çiftçi S., Özyiğit H. A. (Principal Investigator)	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2026

8	Community Preparedness and Disaster Awareness Training in Earthquake-Prone Areas	(Not specified)	TÜBİTAK Project, 1001 – Scientific and Technological Research Projects Funding Programme	2025 - 2026
9	Gelisim Paw Houses	Çakmak S. (Principal Investigator), Yıldız N., Varol G., Altun D., Tetik Küçükelçi D.	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2025
10	Potential Use of Olive Pits as a Modifier and Anti-Aging Agent in Bituminous Binders	Apak M. Y., Yumrutaş H. İ., Özcanan S. (Principal Investigator), Özcan Ö., Gedik A.	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2027
11	Sustainable Awareness on Campus: A Social Responsibility Project	Cansever Bayhan A. B. (Principal Investigator), Kırbacı O., Dallı M.	Project Funded by Other Public Institutions	2025 - 2026
12	Development of Humanitarian Logistics Capacity and a Local Logistics Preparedness Index (YLHE) for Local Governments	Öztürk Koçali E. (Principal Investigator), Başal M., Aydın A., Korkmaz V. S.	Higher Education Institution-Funded Project, Scientific Research Project (BAP)	2025 - 2026

An overall assessment of the projects indicates that they are clustered around five main strategic areas: disaster preparedness and resilience, sustainable transportation and technology, urbanization and socio-spatial integration, biological and environmental sustainability, and inclusive community living environments. The disaster management and urban resilience dimension is fully aligned with the objectives of SDG 11 concerning disaster risk reduction and the enhancement of community resilience. Within this framework, the projects investigating earthquake awareness among Neighborhood Disaster Volunteers (MAG) and providing community preparedness and disaster awareness training in earthquake-prone areas aim to strengthen the resilience of local communities to urban crises.

Complementing these initiatives, the project focusing on humanitarian logistics capacity in local governments and the development of the Local Logistics Preparedness Index (YLHE) seeks to strengthen the logistical infrastructure of local authorities by introducing an institutional and data-driven approach to disaster response and urban crisis management.

In the field of sustainable transportation and innovative urban technologies, the electric vehicle development and electric vehicle design and production projects are particularly noteworthy. By contributing to low-emission transportation infrastructure, a critical component of sustainable urbanization, these projects aim to reduce the urban carbon footprint and promote the wider adoption of clean energy-based mobility solutions. Furthermore, the project investigating the potential use of olive pits as modifiers and anti-aging agents in bituminous binders integrates circular economy principles with urban infrastructure and road construction technologies, addressing waste management and the development of resilient infrastructure within a unified framework.

In the context of socio-spatial dynamics and urban regeneration processes, the comparative socio-spatial research project examining strategies for coping with urban shrinkage in Karabük and Thionville provides insights into the spatial and social adaptation processes of post-industrial cities. Such research contributes to the development of sustainable urban planning strategies at the international level, particularly in managing urban shrinkage and population dynamics.

Projects focusing on social inclusion, social solidarity, and the enhancement of shared living environments contribute to strengthening the human and social fabric of urban areas. The study exploring women's solidarity and narratives shaped by labour, together with the social responsibility project aimed at promoting sustainability awareness on campus, contributes to advancing gender equality, local community solidarity, and the dissemination of a culture of sustainability. In addition, the Gelişim Pati Evleri project supports an inclusive approach to urban environments by considering the quality of life of non-human species and promoting harmonious human–animal coexistence within urban ecosystems.

Finally, in the field of environmental sustainability and biotechnological solutions, two projects stand out: the investigation of the antibacterial activity of the domestically developed MHOne biostimulant against plant pathogens and the qualitative biochemical analysis of L-proline and hydroxyproline (OH-proline) molecules contained in the same product. These studies aim to promote sustainable food security, biological pest and disease control, and reduced chemical use in urban and peri-urban agricultural production, thereby directly supporting the development of resilient and ecologically sustainable urban food systems.

In conclusion, the 12 projects implemented throughout 2025 demonstrate a high degree of alignment with SDG 11 targets across a broad range of areas, from physical infrastructure and social inclusion to disaster preparedness, environmental sustainability, and clean transportation. Collectively, these projects have made multidisciplinary contributions to the development of safe, environmentally sustainable, disaster-resilient human settlements characterized by strong social solidarity.

11.2. Support of Arts and Heritage

11.2.1. Public Access to Buildings

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU), in alignment with “Sustainable Cities and Communities”, the 11th Sustainable Development Goal of the United Nations, places importance on making cultural and artistic activities accessible to diverse segments of society and promoting public access to university buildings that host such activities.

In this context, Istanbul Gelisim University Tower Campus serves as a multifunctional university facility that accommodates cultural and artistic events alongside educational and research activities. The Istanbul Gelisim Art Gallery, located within the Tower Campus, strengthens the building's cultural function by bringing together members of the University community and external visitors. Through exhibitions held at the Tower Campus, visitors from outside the University are provided with free access to the building. Accordingly, the facility serves not only as a venue for educational and administrative activities but also as a meeting point that enables public participation in cultural and artistic events.

Events held in 2025 provide concrete examples of free public access to the Tower Campus for cultural activities. In November 2025, the University's official website announced that the exhibition entitled “Edicts and Mystical Reflections from Past to Present”, held at the Istanbul Gelisim Art Gallery, was open to all art enthusiasts and that admission was free throughout the exhibition period. This practice demonstrates that external visitors were able to enter the Tower Campus and access the cultural venue within the building free of charge. **Event News**

11.2.2. Public Access to Libraries

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) promotes public access to information, academic resources, and lifelong learning opportunities through the services provided by its Library and Documentation Department (KDDB). By extending access to selected library facilities and information resources beyond the University community, IGU contributes to knowledge sharing, educational inclusion, and the development of sustainable communities.

The University's library facilities enable external users to access and consult printed academic resources, including books, periodicals, and reference materials, on-site during designated days and hours, in accordance with applicable library regulations. **Library Directive**

The University's External User Application and Membership Form provides an institutional framework for external user registration and access to library services. These arrangements facilitate broader community access to academic knowledge and educational resources. **Library External User Application and Membership Form**

Photograph 1: IGU Central Library and Its Learning Facilities.

In addition to its physical collections, the Library and Documentation Department supports access to information through digital learning resources, library orientation materials, educational seminars, and publicly accessible educational content. These resources contribute to the development of information literacy and research skills while encouraging knowledge exchange and lifelong learning. The University's library services also facilitate access to publicly available online information resources, complementing its physical collections and supporting engagement with the wider community.

Through these institutional practices, Istanbul Gelisim University reinforces its commitment to inclusive access to knowledge, educational opportunities, and community participation. By integrating physical library facilities, digital resources, and knowledge-sharing activities, the University contributes to the objectives of Sustainable Development Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

11.2.3. Public Access to Museums

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU), in alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11, supports the expansion of public access to arts and cultural activities, the engagement of wider communities with artistic production, and increased participation in cultural life. In this context, the University contributes to making works of art accessible to broader audiences through exhibitions organised at the Gelisim Art Gallery and other venues dedicated to cultural and artistic activities. Throughout 2025, numerous exhibitions encompassing various artistic disciplines were held at the Gelisim Art Gallery. These events included:

- Erdoğan Karayel and Hicabi Demirci Cartoon Exhibition (26 February 2025), **Event News**
- Prof. Dr. Basri Erdem's Rhythm of Nature Exhibition (5 March 2025), **Event News**
- İsmet Yedikardeş's Two Times – One Moment Painting Exhibition (10 April), **Event News**
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Metin Kuş's Layers Exhibition (30 May 2025), **Event News**
- Prof. Dr. Mustafa Işık's Project Painting Exhibition (15 October 2025), **Event News**
- Prof. Dr. Erol Kılıç's Imperial Decrees and Mystical Projections (12 November–12 December 2025), **Event News**
- Bilgin Çelik's Cosmic Journey Exhibition (19 December 2025), **Event News**

These exhibitions were announced to the public through the University's official communication channels, enabling participation by art enthusiasts from outside the University as well as members of the academic community. In particular, the Edicts and Mystical Reflections from Past to Present exhibition, held from 12 November to 12 December 2025, was open to all art enthusiasts free of charge, providing a concrete example of the University's commitment to promoting public access to cultural and artistic activities.

Photograph 2: Cartoon Exhibition, 26 February 2025.

Photograph 3: Layers Exhibition, 30 May 2025.

These exhibitions were announced to the public through the University's official communication channels, enabling participation by art enthusiasts from outside the University as well as members of the academic community. In particular, the Edicts and Mystical Reflections from Past to Present exhibition, held from 12 November to 12 December 2025, was open to all art enthusiasts free of charge, providing a concrete example of the University's commitment to promoting public access to cultural and artistic activities.

Photograph 4: Imperial Decrees and Mystical Projections Exhibition, 12 November–12 December 2025.

These events held at the Gelisim Art Gallery facilitate the sharing of artistic works, enhance the visibility of cultural diversity, and provide opportunities for different segments of society to engage with the arts. In this way, Istanbul Gelisim University contributes to strengthening university–community engagement and fostering a sustainable and inclusive cultural environment by supporting public access to and use of cultural spaces.

11.2.4. Public Access to Green Spaces

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU), in line with its sustainable campus approach, places importance on the development of open and green spaces, the enhancement of environmental quality, and the design of campus environments that support social life.

The "Campus Life – Green Spaces" section of the University's official website states that green spaces across its campuses are used for relaxation, stress reduction, and social interaction. In this context, campus green spaces serve as shared spaces where students can gather outside their academic activities, spend time outdoors, and strengthen their social relationships. **Link**

Photograph 5: IGU, Use of Green Spaces

The photo gallery and promotional video showcasing the green spaces featured on the University's official website provide visual evidence of the physical presence, spatial arrangements, and opportunities for social use of open and green spaces across its campuses.

According to an official news article published by the University's Department of Support Services on 28 July 2025, landscaping improvements were carried out across the green spaces of the University's seven campuses, incorporating drought-resistant, low-maintenance plant species. **Link**

11.2.5. Arts and Heritage Contribution

Istanbul Gelisim University has undertaken various activities aimed at supporting the preservation, promotion, and integration of arts and cultural heritage into community life, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) – Sustainable Cities and Communities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

During 2025, a total of 37 cultural and artistic activities organised by the University or involving its participation were reported. These activities encompassed exhibitions, artistic production workshops, film screenings, music-related events, architecture and design activities, cultural heritage visits, and interdisciplinary events. These activities aimed to develop students' artistic production and expression skills, raise awareness of cultural heritage, foster interaction among different artistic disciplines, and strengthen the University's contribution to cultural life. Events held both on and off campus contributed to the integration of arts and culture into educational processes.

1. IMP251 Interior Space Project I Final Jury

Event Date: 02.01.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block G, Room 202 (morning) – Room 117 (afternoon)

Event Description: Residential designs prepared by students for the Interior Space Project I course were presented for jury assessment through drawings, presentation boards and perspectives. The event contributed to the development of students' creative design and visual communication skills, the evaluation of original spatial solutions and the presentation of design ideas.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

2. Human Rights Exhibition Event

Event Date: 02.01.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Bulgur Palas

Event Description: During a visit to a photography exhibition at Bulgur Palas, human rights, social identities and discrimination were examined through visual arts. The event helped participants explore diverse cultural and social experiences and consider the role of art in raising social awareness.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

3. Visit to Kariye Mosque

Event Date: 07.01.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Kariye Mosque

Event Description: The visit to Kariye Mosque, one of Istanbul's significant historic buildings, enabled participants to examine its architectural, historical and artistic features on site. The event contributed to the appreciation of cultural heritage and awareness of the artistic value of historic buildings.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

4. Interior Design Programme 2024–2025 Autumn Semester Student Exhibition

Event Date: 08.01.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block G, Mimar Sinan Vocational School

Event Description: Drawings, project boards and models prepared by Interior Design Programme students during the autumn semester were exhibited in the University's foyer. The exhibition enabled students to share their designs with an audience, develop artistic expression and increase the visibility of creative work on campus.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

5. IMP253 Interior Application Project Final Jury

Event Date: 16.01.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block G, Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar Conference Hall

Event Description: Drawings, models and perspectives of retail store designs developed by students were submitted for jury assessment. The event supported original interior design development, visual communication of design decisions and participation in critical evaluation.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

6. Kanlı Nigar – Memduh Ün
Event Date: 12.03.2025
Participation Type: Cinema / Film Criticism
Event Description: Film analysis
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

7. My First Achievement: Festivals and Awards
Event Date: 18.03.2025
Participation Type: Film Production / Discussion
Event Description: A discussion of short filmmaking and the festival process
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

8. A Piece of Stone
Event Date: 19.03.2025
Participation Type: Cinema / Film Criticism
Event Description: Film analysis
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

9. Sociology Film Workshop I: Behind the Scenes
Event Date: 23.03.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Cinema Hall
Event Description: A workshop used film screening and discussion to examine social structures, justice and ethics. By employing cinema as a medium for understanding and debating social issues, the event supported students' cultural awareness and critical perspectives.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

10. Artistic Digital Painting
Event Date: 25.03.2025
Participation Type: Visual Arts / Workshop
Event Description: Visual art production workshop
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

11. IMP252 Interior Space Project II Interim Jury

Event Date: 07.04.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block G, Drawing Studios 217–218

Event Description: Restaurant designs developed for the Interior Space Project II course were presented at an interim jury held in the drawing studios. Students discussed spatial composition, functional organisation and design decisions, developing creative thinking and visual presentation skills.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

12. Department of Interior Architecture 2024–2025 Autumn Semester Student Projects Exhibition

Event Date: 07.04.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block J, Ground-Floor Foyer

Event Description: Original projects developed by Department of Interior Architecture students during the autumn semester were exhibited. Including designs for cultural and arts centres, the exhibition enabled students to share spatial design approaches and creative work with the university community.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

13. Narrative and Interaction in Digital Games

Event Date: 15.04.2025

Participation Type: Digital Storytelling / Discussion

Event Description: A theoretical event addressing narrative and interaction.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

15. Istanbul Has Many Layers; We Are Only Opening Another Door

Event Date: 02.05.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Golden Horn / Canoe

Event Description: An event explored Istanbul's historical and cultural layers from the Golden Horn.

It offered participants a different perspective on the urban landscape and increased awareness of the city's layered urban memory, cultural heritage and public life.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

16. Pen 404: Emotion Not Found? Then Let Us Write Together
Event Date: 05.05.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block G, Aziz Sancar Conference Hall
Event Description: This practical workshop on traditional calligraphy aimed to develop participants' personal and artistic expression through writing. It connected traditional lettering with contemporary creative practices and supported aesthetic expression.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

17. The Art of Calligraphy
Event Date: 05.05.2025
Participation Type: Traditional Arts / Workshop
Event Description: Calligraphy practice
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

18. TOFD – Sancaklar Mosque – Mimar Sinan Bridge Visit
Event Date: 06.05.2025
Participation Type: External
Venue: TOFD – Sancaklar Mosque – Mimar Sinan Bridge
Event Description: A field trip examined Sancaklar Mosque and Mimar Sinan bridges on site, considering historic and contemporary architecture. It supported understanding of architectural design's cultural, historical and aesthetic dimensions and its links to accessibility and sustainability.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

19. Abstract Art Workshop
Event Date: 13.05.2025
Participation Type: Visual Arts / Workshop
Event Description: Creative artistic production
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

20. Exploring Through Cognitive Maps

Event Date: 20.05.2025

Participation Type: Visual Storytelling / Workshop

Event Description: Mental mapping exercise

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

21. A Documentary Film: Salt

Event Date: 28.05.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block B, Meeting Room 026

Event Description: A documentary screening explored the extraction and production of salt. By communicating scientific and cultural content through cinematic storytelling, the event increased participants' interest in and awareness of documentary filmmaking.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

22. Post-Production of Rendered Images

Event Date: 10.06.2025

Participation Type: Visual Design / Workshop

Event Description: Training in visual image editing

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

23. Retrospective Exhibition of Republican-Era Architecture and Architects – 2025

Event Date: 12.06.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Foyer (Block J Entrance)

Event Description: Student posters about Republican-era architecture and architects were exhibited. The event promoted Turkey's modern architectural heritage, encouraged visual analysis of the period's architectural production and enabled students to express architectural history research creatively.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

24. MIM322 History of Architecture III and ARC345 Museum Architecture Student Works Exhibition

Event Date: 03.09.2025-30.09.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block K, 15th Floor

Event Description: Student work prepared for History of Architecture III and Museum Architecture was exhibited. Research on architectural history and museum architecture was presented through visual posters, allowing students to share knowledge of cultural heritage and design while developing visual communication skills.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

25. Screenwriting and Philosophy

Event Date: 07.10.2025

Participation Type: Screenwriting / Discussion

Event Description: An event about screenwriting

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

26. Istanbul Gelisim Art Gallery 2025–2026 Academic Year Exhibition Plan

Event Date: 14.10.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Gelisim Art Gallery

Event Description: An exhibition programme was prepared for artists scheduled to exhibit at Istanbul Gelisim Art Gallery in the 2025–2026 academic year. The programme envisaged monthly exhibitions to bring artistic work to the university community, introduce students to diverse approaches and sustain cultural activities on campus.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

27. Screening of Once Upon a Time in Anatolia

Event Date: 13.11.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block K, Firnas Auditorium

Event Description: The film Once Upon a Time in Anatolia was screened at the University. The event introduced students to a significant cinematic work and its artistic and cultural narrative possibilities, contributing to campus cultural life.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

28. Sharp Ideas — Global Impact, Local Practice
Event Date: 14.11.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block K, Firnas Auditorium
Event Description: The event explored culinary craftsmanship, cutting techniques and sustainable practices, focusing on creative processes in gastronomy. It highlighted the links between culinary arts, technical expertise, practical skills and cultural knowledge, supporting students' gastronomic skills.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

29. Linocut Printing Workshop
Event Date: 02.12.2025
Participation Type: Printmaking / Workshop
Event Description: A printmaking workshop
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

30. City and Architecture Seminars 1: Orientalism and Islamic Architecture
Event Date: 02.12.2025
Venue: Istanbul Gelisim University, Block K, Firnas Auditorium
Event Description: Organised by Istanbul Gelisim University's Department of Architecture in collaboration with the Environment, Urbanisation and Earth Sciences Application and Research Centre and the Istanbul Studies Application and Research Centre, the seminar featured Asst. Prof. Pelin Ekşi discussing the historical development of Orientalism, its influence on Islamic architecture and forms of cultural representation. It was an academic seminar on architectural history and cultural heritage.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

31. Buy Now: The Shopping Conspiracy – Screening in the Mini Cinema
Event Date: 15.12.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block J, Room 390 – Mini Cinema

Event Description: A documentary about consumer culture was screened. The event explored consumption habits and their social effects through cinematic storytelling and supported students' critical assessment of contemporary social issues.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

32. Rhythm in Music and Architecture
Event Date: 16.12.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Gelisim Tower, 17th Floor
Event Description: The event examined relationships between rhythm, order and aesthetics in music and architecture. By exploring how musical rhythmic structures relate to architectural design, it supported students' understanding of connections between art disciplines and their application in design.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

33. Sociology of Space: Museum of Innocence Visit and Evaluation Workshop
Event Date: 17.12.2025
Participation Type: External
Venue: Museum of Innocence Visit
Event Description: A visit and evaluation workshop at the Museum of Innocence examined relationships between literature, social identity, cultural memory and everyday life. Students considered museum space as a cultural and social narrative medium and explored the relationship between artworks and collective memory.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

34. Hip Hop Night
Event Date: 18.12.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Music Room
Event Description: Centred on hip-hop music, rhythm and performance culture, the event supported students' musical and artistic expression. It promoted diverse musical cultures, cultural exchange and campus social and artistic life.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

35. Fener–Balat Educational Field Trip

Event Date: 24.12.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Fener–Balat District

Event Description: An educational visit to Fener and Balat, historic multicultural districts of Istanbul, examined the area's architectural fabric and cultural heritage. It explored the spatial and architectural traces of different cultures and raised awareness of cultural diversity and historic environments.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

36. Disaster Risk Analysis For Cultural Heritage Conservation: Çatalca Ferhat Pasha Mosque

Event Date: 26.12.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block K, Firnas Auditorium

Event Description: The architectural and historical values of Çatalca Ferhat Pasha Mosque were examined in relation to cultural heritage conservation and disaster risk assessment. The event highlighted risks facing historic buildings, the importance of conservation and sustainable heritage protection.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

37. City and Architecture Seminars 3: The Urban Significance and Adaptive Reuse Potential of Industrial Buildings in Istanbul

Event Date: 30.12.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block K, Firnas Auditorium

Event Description: The seminar examined the historical and architectural value of Istanbul's industrial buildings and their adaptive reuse potential. It addressed industrial heritage conservation, the reintegration of these buildings into urban life through cultural and public uses, and the reuse of existing building stock, strengthening students' understanding of industrial heritage and urban identity.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

11.2.6. Record and Preserve Cultural Heritage

In alignment with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) – Sustainable Cities and Communities, Istanbul Gelisim University has undertaken various activities aimed at preserving intangible cultural heritage, promoting cultural diversity, and supporting the transmission of traditional knowledge, skills, and cultural values to future generations.

During 2025, a total of 16 cultural and educational activities related to intangible cultural heritage, either organised by the University or involving its participation, were reported. These activities included traditional arts workshops, culinary heritage practices, film analyses, music-related events, cultural memory studies, activities focusing on local knowledge and everyday cultural practices, and cultural heritage visits.

These activities aimed to raise awareness of traditional arts and cultural knowledge, promote cultural narratives and collective memory, support knowledge sharing to sustain local and national cultural values, and contribute to the intergenerational transmission of cultural heritage. Events held both on and off campus contributed to integrating intangible cultural heritage into educational processes and community life.

1. Seed Ball Making Workshop (Phase Two)

Event Date: 04.03.2025

Venue: Block K, Student Centre

Event Description: Fruit stones and seeds collected during the first phase were turned into seed balls.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

2. A Piece of Stone

Event Date: 19.03.2025

Venue: Block J, Mini Cinema

Event Description: An examination of early Turkish cinema's narrative forms, social relationships and visual expression.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

3. Seed Ball Making Workshop (Phase Three)

Event Date: 22.04.2025

Participation Type: Block J, Student Centre

Venue: Block J, Student Centre

Event Description: Seed balls prepared during the second phase were placed in natural environments in different parts of the country by all participants, allowing them to germinate and grow into trees as part of the ecological balance.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

4. Istanbul Has Many Layers; We Are Just Opening Another Door

Event Date: 02.05.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Golden Horn / Canoe

Event Description: On-site observation of Istanbul's historical layers and urban memory from the Golden Horn.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

5. Pen 404: Emotion Not Found? Then Let's Write Together

Event Date: 05.05.2025

Participation Type: Internal

Venue: Block G, Aziz Sancar Conference Hall

Event Description: A writing and expression workshop linking traditional calligraphy with contemporary practices.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

6. The Art of Calligraphy

Event Date: 05.05.2025

Event Description: Practical work in traditional calligraphy; the event's title and date are documented in the source.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

7. Exploring through Cognitive Maps
Event Date: 20.05.2025
Venue: J Block Student Center
Event Description: The aim of this event was to represent on paper a mental image of the everyday environment, drawing on human cognition and perception.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

8. Symposium on Migration and Economic Impacts
Event Date: 14.08.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block G-2, Prof. Dr. Aziz Sancar Conference Hall
Event Description: An academic symposium addressing the economic impacts of migration.
Event Link: Open Event Page

9. Migration And Social Work: Examples From Türkiye And Germany
Event Date: 13.11.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block E, Tusi Conference Hall
Event Description: An examination of the relationship between migration and social work through examples from Türkiye and Germany.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

10. Sharp Ideas — Global Impact, Local Practice
Event Date: 14.11.2025
Participation Type: Internal
Venue: Block K, Firnas Auditorium
Event Description: An event addressing culinary arts, cutting techniques and knowledge of gastronomic production.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

11. Sustainable Food Movements in Gastronomy
Event Date: 18.11.2025
Event Description: Artistic Development.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

12. Linocut Printing Workshop
Event Date: 02.12.2025
Event Description: Category: Artistic Development.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

13. Plant-Based Nutrition and the Foods of the Future
Event Date: 03.12.2025
Venue: Block J, Room 302/2, Dean of Students Workshop
Event Description: Category: Coffee Talks.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

14. Rhythm in Music and Architecture
Event Date: 16.12.2025
Venue: Block J, Student Centre
Event Description: Organised as a social responsibility activity, the discussion entitled 'Music and Architecture' aimed to provide Istanbul Gelisim University students with an interdisciplinary perspective. The structural and emotional relationships between architecture and music, which have existed for centuries, were examined both theoretically and practically. The event helped students evaluate their design processes from different sensory and conceptual perspectives.
Event Link: **Open Event Page**

15. Sociology of Space: Museum of Innocence Visit and Evaluation Workshop
Event Date: 17.12.2025
Participation Type: External
Venue: Museum of Innocence Visit
Event Description: An examination of literature, cultural memory and everyday life through museum space.
Event Link**: Open Event Page**

12. Linocut Printing Workshop

Event Date: 02.12.2025

Event Description: Category: Artistic Development.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

13. Plant-Based Nutrition and the Foods of the Future

Event Date: 03.12.2025

Venue: Block J, Room 302/2, Dean of Students Workshop

Event Description: Category: Coffee Talks.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

14. Rhythm in Music and Architecture

Event Date: 16.12.2025

Venue: Block J, Student Centre

Event Description: Organised as a social responsibility activity, the discussion entitled 'Music and Architecture' aimed to provide Istanbul Gelisim University students with an interdisciplinary perspective. The structural and emotional relationships between architecture and music, which have existed for centuries, were examined both theoretically and practically.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

15. Sociology of Space: Museum of Innocence Visit and Evaluation Workshop

Event Date: 17.12.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Museum of Innocence Visit

Event Description: An examination of cultural memory and everyday life through museum space.

Event Link**: Open Event Page**

16. Fener–Balat Educational Field Trip

Event Date: 24.12.2025

Participation Type: External

Venue: Fener–Balat District

Event Description: An examination of Istanbul's multicultural historical urban fabric and cultural diversity.

Event Link: **Open Event Page**

11.4.Sustainable Practices

11.4.1. Sustainable Practices Targets

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has adopted sustainability as one of the fundamental components of its institutional management approach in line with its 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, aiming to enhance environmental sustainability, strengthen institutional infrastructure, and improve campus services. **Strategic Plan (2024-2028)**

Within this framework, Strategic Objective 3 (SO 3), defined as "Enhancing multidimensional societal benefits by placing sustainability at the centre", and Strategic Target 3.2 (ST 3.2), defined as "Increasing the effectiveness of the sustainable environmental management system", form the institutional foundation of the University's environmental sustainability policies.
Furthermore, in line with the approach to strengthening institutional capacity outlined under Strategic Objective 4 (SO 4), the University aims to develop its social, technological, and physical infrastructure. The performance indicator "Satisfaction Rate with Transportation Services (%)", included in the University's Strategic Plan, demonstrates its institutional approach to monitoring and evaluating transportation services through measurable indicators.

Istanbul Gelisim University's participation in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings in 2025 is also significant in terms of evaluating its sustainability performance at the international level. As transportation is one of the key categories within the GreenMetric assessment framework, this participation supports the consideration of campus transportation as an integral component of the University's sustainability performance. **GreenMetric Results**

Photograph 6: IGU GreenMetric Results

11.4.2. Promotion of Sustainable Commuting

In line with its sustainable campus management approach, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) provides free shuttle services to facilitate access to public transportation systems for students and staff and to support alternative modes of transportation to private motor vehicles. According to the University's official shuttle service schedule published in 2025, free shuttle connections are provided between the Mustafa Kemal Paşa Metrobus Station and various academic and administrative units of the University. This initiative encourages the use of public transportation by providing integrated transport connections between Istanbul's existing public transportation infrastructure and the University's campuses.

The University's shuttle service schedule includes transport connections to various campus locations, such as the Vocational School, Faculty of Fine Arts, Tower, Rectorate, and Block J. Scheduled departures at approximately 15-minute intervals on several routes, together with the deployment of multiple shuttle vehicles during peak morning hours, facilitate access to transportation options that accommodate students' class schedules and staff working hours. **Shuttle Service Schedule**

Photograph 7: IGU Shuttle Service Area

The provision of free shuttle services eliminates additional transportation costs for users travelling between public transportation stations and the University campus. Furthermore, the publication of shuttle routes and departure schedules on the University's official website facilitates advance journey planning. These initiatives are aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) – Sustainable Cities and Communities of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, contributing to the promotion of sustainable urban mobility, improved accessibility to public transportation, and the encouragement of shared transportation alternatives.

11.4.3. Allow Remote Working

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) has established institutional arrangements that support flexibility in the working conditions of academic and administrative staff, in line with its sustainable institutional management and human resources policies.

The University's "Flexible Working Policy", published on 21 March 2018 and registered under document number RK.YD.05, allows for the implementation of different working arrangements for certain positions, depending on institutional needs and the nature of the duties performed.

The policy provides for part-time working, remote working, and compensatory working arrangements in cases of overtime. **Flexible Working Policy** The formal inclusion of remote working within the University's institutional policy provides a framework that enables employees in suitable roles and positions to perform their duties without being physically present on campus. This approach has the potential to reduce employees' daily commuting journeys, minimise transportation-related environmental impacts, and support work–life balance.

11.4.4. Affordable Housing for Employees

Within the scope of SDG Indicator 11.4.4 for 2025, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) recognizes the quality of life, economic well-being, and working conditions of its academic and administrative staff as essential components of social sustainability. In this context, access to affordable housing for employees is addressed within the framework of housing affordability, accommodation opportunities, and institutional mechanisms aimed at supporting employee well-being. This indicator is considered in relation to the University's broader commitment to sustainable employment conditions, employee satisfaction, and social sustainability.

11.4.4. Affordable Housing for Employees

Within the scope of SDG Indicator 11.4.4 for 2025, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) recognizes the quality of life, economic well-being, and working conditions of its academic and administrative staff as essential components of social sustainability. In this context, access to affordable housing for employees is addressed within the framework of housing affordability, accommodation opportunities, and institutional mechanisms aimed at supporting employee well-being. This indicator is considered in relation to the University's broader commitment to sustainable employment conditions, employee satisfaction, and social sustainability.

11.4.5. Affordable Housing for Students

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) collaborates with affiliated private student dormitories to facilitate students' access to accommodation options throughout their studies.

According to information published on the University's official website, students can benefit from accommodation options provided by affiliated dormitories, such as Enis Çebi Şah Male Student Dormitory and Yeni Nesil Female Student Dormitory. These partnerships help students obtain information about accommodation opportunities near the University and guide them towards suitable housing options. **IGU Affiliated Student Dormitories** The University's approach to student accommodation is significant in terms of facilitating access to housing options and supporting students' living conditions throughout their education.

11.4.6. Pedestrian Priority on Campus

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) places importance on spatial arrangements that support safe, comfortable, and uninterrupted pedestrian movement across its campuses, in line with its sustainable and accessible campus approach. Directing motor vehicles to designated parking areas and restricting vehicle access to certain parts of the University's campuses constitute key elements of its pedestrian-priority transportation arrangements. These measures aim to promote pedestrian mobility around academic buildings, communal spaces, and circulation routes within the campuses.

Building entrances, pedestrian access areas, and outdoor spatial arrangements across the campuses facilitate the daily movement of students and staff. Campus photographs published on the University's official website provide visual evidence of parking areas, pedestrian access around buildings, and outdoor spatial arrangements. **Campus Photographs**

Photograph 8: IGU, Pedestrian–Vehicle Separation and Pedestrian Priority

Photograph 9: IGU, Pedestrian-Priority Areas

This approach contributes to enhancing pedestrian safety within campus transportation systems, separating motor vehicle traffic from pedestrian circulation, and promoting sustainable campus life.

11.4.7. Local Authority Collaboration Regarding Planning and Development

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) places importance on collaboration with local authorities to support sustainable urban development, develop solutions addressing local needs, and translate academic knowledge and expertise into societal benefits. In this context, a joint working and evaluation meeting was held between Istanbul Gelisim University and Avcılar Municipality in 2025 to discuss opportunities for strengthening university–local government collaboration and implementing joint projects. **News Article**

Photograph 10: Evaluation Meeting on Joint Initiatives Held Between IGU and Avcılar Municipality

During the meeting, participants evaluated the potential contributions of the University's interdisciplinary academic capacity to the municipality's planning, implementation, and evaluation processes. Proposals were also discussed concerning the development of initiatives addressing environmental sustainability, social responsibility, and local needs, as well as strengthening coordination between the two institutions.

Furthermore, on 9 January 2025, a cooperation protocol was signed between Istanbul Gelisim University and Bakırköy Municipality, covering academic and scientific studies, consultancy services, and project-based activities. This protocol establishes an institutional framework for sharing the University's academic knowledge and expertise with local authorities. **News Article**

Photograph 11: Cooperation protocol signed between Bakırköy Municipality and IGU

These initiatives demonstrate the University's commitment to expanding areas of collaboration with local authorities, exploring opportunities to contribute academic expertise to addressing urban and societal challenges, and supporting sustainable local development.

11.4.8. Planning Development - New Build Standards

In line with its sustainable campus development approach, Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) places importance on principles of environmental sustainability, energy and water efficiency, and the efficient use of natural resources in the design and construction of new buildings.

The University's institutional sustainability documents outline design and implementation criteria, including improving energy efficiency in new buildings, maximising the use of natural daylight, considering sustainable energy solutions, reducing water consumption, and ensuring the efficient use of building materials.**Energy Efficiency Standards (SDG 7)**

Within this framework, reducing the environmental impacts of new buildings, optimising resource use, and improving long-term sustainability performance are among the key objectives of the University's approach to campus development. Environmentally friendly landscaping initiatives implemented across the University's seven campuses in 2025 also represent practices that support campus environmental sustainability through reduced water consumption and improved resource efficiency. **Water Efficiency Standards (SDG 6)**

The sustainable construction principles outlined in the University's institutional documents provide a framework for improving the environmental performance of new building design and construction practices.

11.4.9. Building on Brownfield Sites

Istanbul Gelisim University (IGU) places importance on the efficient use of land resources, the utilisation of existing developed areas, and the reduction of the environmental impacts of new construction as part of its sustainable campus development approach.

According to the University's 2025 institutional assessment documents, the campus that became operational during the 2018–2019 academic year was established on a site of approximately 48,000 square metres previously owned by Zorlu Holding. **News Article.** In this context, Zorlu Plaza, completed in 1999 and formerly used as the headquarters of Zorlu Holding, was acquired by the University in 2017 and repurposed for higher education. **News Article**

This initiative represents an example of sustainable land use through the adaptive reuse of existing building stock and the utilisation of previously developed urban land. By supporting the efficient use of existing urban resources, this approach has the potential to reduce the need to develop previously undeveloped land. The building's former use for office and storage functions, followed by its conversion into an educational facility, provides a concrete example of the redevelopment and reuse of previously developed urban areas.

ISTANBUL GELISIM UNIVERSITY