

2023-2024 SDG 1 REPORT



1. No Poverty



Scholarly Output:
15



International
Collaboration:
0



Field-weighted
Citation Impact:
2.13



Number of Current
Projects:
1



Number of Annual
Events:
4

1. Scholarship and Financial Support

Inclusion is one of Özü core values. We advocate that education is a pathway to employment and economic security and should therefore be accessible to students from all backgrounds and circumstances. Özü celebrates and welcomes diversity, and is committed to providing appropriate support to enable students to succeed in their studies and beyond. Of the 7,528 students enrolled in at least one semester of the 2022/23 academic year, 90% (6,760 students) have scholarships. In the 2023/24 academic year, 1,463 students received stipend scholarships, 1,509 students received free accommodation and, 222 students received transportation support.

2. Scholarship Program for Equality of Opportunities in Education

In recognition of its social responsibility, the University launched the Scholarship Program for Equality of Opportunities in Education (EFEB) in 2015. Through the program, the University offers an outstanding higher education opportunity to prospective students who succeeded in ranking among the top 1% in the Turkish national University entrance exam but were unable to qualify for full scholarship programs, due to financial limitations. This scholarship program continues to thrive with the generous donations that made it possible to see the number of recipients soar to 118 in the 2023-2024 Academic Year. The impact of EFEB is measured by using social impact analysis methodology to understand whether or not the transformative experience offered actually delivers the expected contribution. It has been found that a higher percentage of EFEB scholars meaningfully start job seeking earlier and there is a statistically meaningful impact on their competency development.

3. Özyeğin Rural Development Model

Capacity Development Training for Cooperatives: Capacity-enhancing training and mentorship support is provided to cooperatives engaged in agriculture and food-related activities. Within this scope, support has been extended to cooperatives and associations operating in Kilis, Bitlis, Rize, Igdir and Kayseri provinces.

4. District Investment Plans for Sustainable Development:

In collaboration with the Southeast Anatolia Project Regional Development Administration (GAP), investment plans have been prepared for counties, including Hasankeyf in Batman, Harran in Şanlıurfa, Ömerli in Mardin, Besni in Adıyaman, the Ravanda Basin in Kilis. These district investment plans, centered on holistic and community-based local development, serve as exemplary instances of cross-sector collaboration.

5. Local and Rural Development Expertise Training Certificate Program

Since 2014, "Local and Rural Development Expertise Training Certificate Program" has provided holistic training on sustainable local and rural development, benefiting over 500 participants in its 10th year. The program offers participants—mainly public sector employees, local government officials, and NGO staff—a comprehensive understanding of critical themes, practices, and approaches in sustainable rural development. With contributions from experts across universities, NGOs, and producer organizations, this program has become a vital resource for professionals dedicated to sustainable development. Aligned with SDG1 (No Poverty), the program addresses the socioeconomic challenges faced by rural communities, equipping participants with skills to promote sustainable livelihoods and economic inclusion. By focusing on sustainable agricultural practices, rural economies, and food security, the program also directly supports SDG 2 (Zero Hunger). Through this unique collaborative platform, Özyeğin University strengthens its role as a hub for sustainable development, fostering knowledge and action that empowers local actors to reduce poverty, enhance food security, and build resilient communities.



6. Support For Women's Cooperatives in Iğdır Province: Training And Mentorship Programme

The Ayyıldız Women's Initiative Production and Business Cooperative, Tuzluca Working Women's Initiative Production and Business Cooperative, Iğdır Entrepreneurial Women's Production and Business Cooperative, and Green Iğdır Producing Women's Initiative Production and Business Cooperative have benefited from the project titled 'Support for Women's Cooperatives in Iğdır Province' supported by the Serhat Development Agency.

As part of this initiative, corporate capacity development training was provided to the managers of the four women's cooperatives in Iğdır Province. In addition to the training, a SWOT analysis was conducted for each cooperative, and tailored business plans were prepared for each cooperative to be shared with the cooperative managers and the Serhat Development Agency.

7. World Food Day: Water is Life. Water is Food. Leave No One Behind

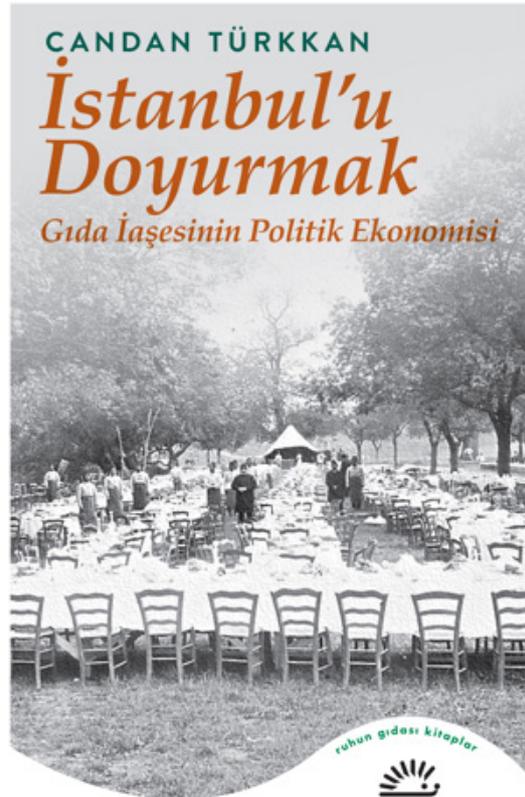
In line with its role as a national hub for discussions on suggesting solutions to societal problems, Özyeğin University organized events with the Food and Agriculture Organization of UN and the Water Institute of Türkiye. On October 12, in observance of World Food Day, Özyeğin University hosted the panel "Understanding Global Developments Through Water Footprint" to spotlight the connections between water resources and poverty reduction, directly linking to SDG 1: No Poverty. Through discussions on water's influence on food production and economic stability, the panel underscored that access to clean and sufficient water is fundamental to reducing poverty. By raising awareness of the global water crisis and its impacts on food security, the event reinforced the urgency of equitable water access as a key driver for lifting communities out of poverty and ensuring that "no one is left behind."

World Food Day Panel -
Understanding Global Developments
through the Trail of Water



8. Feeding Istanbul

Candan Türkkan's book, *Feeding Istanbul*, recently translated into Turkish, explores the transformation of food provisioning in Istanbul, once the capital of the Ottoman Empire and now the financial heart of modern Turkey, beginning from the early 19th century. The work traces how the duty of provisioning the city, once a sovereign responsibility to prevent hunger and protect subjects, transitioned to the market, ultimately placing the responsibility on individuals—first as subjects, and later as citizens. Türkkan argues that food politics, particularly urban provisioning, should be central to understanding our political communities and our relationship with sovereign entities governing these communities. In addition to her book, Candan Türkkan actively contributes to the fields of SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 16 with her research & through Loaf Lab . To Loaf Lab, Dr. Turkkkan brings her expertise in agro-food systems, supply chains, and food politics, as well as interpretive methods of inquiry and qualitative methods of analysis. In 2022-3 she organized the Agrarian Lives seminar series, where she brought together the well-known academic experts with emerging scholars in the field.



Book cover of
"Feeding Istanbul"

9. The Sustainability HUB – Ecological Living and Food Club’s Garden Workshop

Özyeğin University’s Sustainability HUB Ecological Living and Food Club organized the “Garden Workshop” event to raise awareness about ecological living and sustainable agriculture. Participants were encouraged to appreciate the value of resources provided by nature through various agricultural products produced with local heirloom seeds.

The main purpose of this event is to help participants grasp the importance of ecological living and clean food production by experiencing agricultural processes. Held in the Campus Garden, this initiative aims to increase awareness of sustainable farming practices and encourage the student community to become knowledgeable about organic farming and contribute to a sustainable campus living culture.



Signboard of Ozu Garden

10. Barrier to Accessing Rights: Poverty

This event was organized as a gathering to raise awareness about social change and volunteerism. It focused on civil society’s struggle through the concepts of poverty and deep poverty, highlighting the importance of advocacy activities in this struggle.

Önder Uçar and Seda Özdemir discussed how deep poverty restricts individuals’ access to rights and shared the role of civil society in this matter. During the workshop, participants engaged in discussions on the impact of poverty and advocacy strategies by working on stories related to deep poverty.

The event aimed to raise awareness among participants about deep poverty and civil society’s struggle, emphasizing the importance of advocacy skills for social solidarity and awareness-raising.