ÖZYEĞİN
ÜNİVERSİTESİ

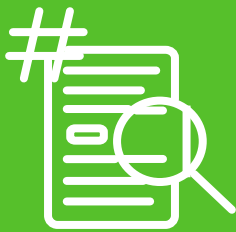Sürdürülebilirlik Platformu
Özyeğin Üniversitesi

2023-2024
SDG 15 REPORT

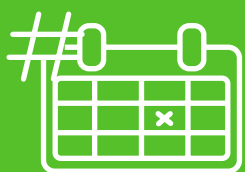# 15.
Life On Land

Scholary Output:
4

International Collaboration:
0

Field-weighted Citation Impact:
1.73

Number of Current Projects:
0

Number of Annual Events:
20

1. Peace Grove

Since 2014, Özyeğin University has established a tradition of tree planting on its campus aimed at fostering a sustainable environment. These annual tree-planting events organized by the HSE Commitee and Student Dean Office, held at the start of each academic year, have gradually formed a "Peace and Sustainability Grove" on the university grounds, which has developed its own natural habitat over time. This green space, enriched by hındreds of trees, offers students, academic staff, and administrative employees the opportunity to engage with nature and enhance their environmental awareness. Through this initiative, Özyeğin University contributes to preserving biodiversity and supporting sustainable ecosystems, aligning with the SDG 15.

2. Preservation of Biological Diversity:

Özyeğin University's commitment to environmental protection is explicitly outlined in its Human Resources Policy, reflecting alignment with Article 8. As one of the world's top 100 greenest universities and the top-ranked foundation university in Türkiye in the GreenMetric rankings for four consecutive years (2019-2024), Özyeğin University prioritizes the preservation of biodiversity on its campus. Over the past decade, more than 18,000 trees have been planted to enhance biodiversity, with a focus on selecting plants suited to the local climate. These plants are maintained with dedicated care, including regular pruning and an efficient irrigation system (drip and sprinkler), ensuring their longevity and the protection of campus green spaces.

3. ÖzÜ Garden Project

The ÖzÜ Garden Project aims to produce fresh, healthy, and clean food while promoting the health and well-being of employees.

4. ÖzÜ Forest

The ÖzÜ forest is being expanded through tree planting activities, held annually with the support of the HSE Community.

5. Yaklaş 2030 Program Event "Greenhack" Draws Attention to Urban Streams on World Environment Day

Yaklaş 2030 Program brings the effects of dense urbanization on the ecosystem to the forefront of discussion through the dry stream on campus. Student projects in the fields of communication, design, and art that draw attention to the stream on campus were presented to the public at the "Greenhack" launch organized as part of the World Environment Day activities.

ÖzU encourages students to take an active role by offering them innovative ways to combine scientific knowledge with practice. The Yaklaş 2030 Program, which has been running since 2018 under the Sustainability Platform at ÖzU, focuses on research and learning by approaching global issues from the perspective of science and art. In this way, each student discovers how they can use their knowledge and skills to build a sustainable future. Aiming to develop students' critical perspective, sensitivity, and responsibility towards global issues, the focus of the program this year is on the dry stream on campus. With the projects produced in different departments, courses, and workshops, the program takes a transdisciplinary approach to the current situation, future, and rewilding possibilities of freshwater resources.

As part of the studio course led by Yasemin Yıldırım, Instructor at the Faculty of Architecture and Design, students utilized the power of art and design to convey their message about the importance of freshwater resources to a broader audience. Following a route of the campus stream, the students listened to the unheard voice of the stream, explored the natural landscape, and developed creative communication solutions and art and design projects with inspiration from the research process and the synergy of collective work. The 12 students, who carried out a collective working process called "Codlective," produced their projects in Özyeğin University laboratories. These creative works emerged from the studio course and were placed at designated points along the stream route. The exhibition "On the Edge of a Stream" (Bir Derenin Kenarında) based on the students' projects, opened at the Pavilion Building on 22nd March on Water Day and remained open until October 14, 2024.

6. Artist in Residence Programs- Memory of Water Fragile Autumn Crocus

As part of the 'On the Edge of a Stream' project, contemporary artist Elmas Deniz, whose work revolves around human-nature relationships, ecology, and water, was invited as a guest artist to Özyeğin University. During her time on campus, Deniz conducted an extensive artistic exploration, culminating in a piece inspired by the short life cycle of the 'fragile autumn crocus' (Colchicum/ Crocus), a rare and endemic plant specific to Çekmeköy. Titled 'Memory of Water,' this pattern was produced in a limited edition through digital printing and was given to all academic and administrative staff for the celebration of Teacher's Day in 24 November 2023 by the rector.

Colchicum Flower

7. Making Films Following the Water COD 301 - Communication and Design Department Design Studio

In this studio course, students produced films under the theme 'Istanbul and Water,' starting from the campus stream. The subjects explored by students ranged widely, from fountains to aqueducts, from public baths to droughts, creating a diverse spectrum. These works, produced in various genres such as documentary, animation, and performance, were brought together in a video under the guidance and supervision of the instructors. You can scan the QR code to access the video compilation.

Scan to watch

8. MISSing; SonarSail:

MISSing; SonarSail:, Doğa Alev, Akbel Bera Doğan, students at the Architecture and Design Faculty developed a project that explores an abstract perspective on messages that nature can no longer convey through the silent voices of life that has lost its vitality. They delve into a dystopia where the transmitting water no longer carries its messages. The stream, which has conveyed sounds, objects, and messages through generations, has lost its spirit. As part of the project, a sound library collected from the stream environment is presented through sound design. Paper boats representing messages that the stream can no longer convey transform into carriers of both this sound design and symbolize the extinction of animals.

MISSing; SonarSail:,
Doğa Alev, Akbel Bera Doğan,

9. Art Following the Flow COD 302 - Communication and Design Department Design Studio

In the COD 302 studio course, students utilized the power of art and design to convey messages about the importance of freshwater resources to wider audiences. Following the route of the campus stream, students listened to the unheard voice of the stream, explored the natural landscape, and developed creative communication solutions, art, and design projects inspired by the research process and the synergy brought by collective work. Conducting a collective work process under the name 'Codlective,' 12 students each produced projects in Özyeğin University laboratories. These creative works born from the studio course were placed at designated points along the stream route and shared with the public during the 'Greenhack' event on June 5th, World Environment Day.

10. In for a Fishy

'In for a Fishy' project developed by students named Darya Mahçup, Hakkı Kutluhan Yücel is a tribute to extinct endemic fish species. It commemorates each extinct species with designed 'graves,' featuring their names and stories, telling us about these species and serving as a silent memorial. On the project's website, users can explore more in-depth information about these species and also have the opportunity to discover human impacts on the environment and contemplate solutions."