

2023-2024 SDG 4 REPORT



4.

Quality Education



Scholarly Output:
29



International
Collaboration:
4



Field-weighted
Citation Impact:
0.91



Number of Current
Projects:
23



Number of Annual
Events:
153

1. Sustainability Education

ÖzÜ aims to get its students to internalize a sustainable lifestyle and act accordingly as individuals and professionals. ÖzÜ is well aware of the fact that this goal can be achieved best through living in an academic culture that prioritizes sustainability. The academic curriculum offers a wide range of sustainability-related courses. As of the 2023/24 academic year, a total number of 1,345 courses are offered, 445 of which are sustainability-related.

2. Mapping the Courses by SDGs

A comprehensive analysis was conducted to successfully match 2187 courses opened since 2017 with SDGs. A special course analysis code was developed. The code scanned course descriptions, objectives, and learning outcomes with keywords, assigning weighted scores to SKAs for each course. A total of 8942 keywords were analyzed for 17 SKAs in both Turkish and English.

The analysis results for the number of courses matching each Sustainable Development Goal are as follows:

When looked at by faculty breakdown, naturally, the Faculty of Architecture and Design and the Faculty of Engineering are among the faculties most associated with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). The Faculty of Social Sciences is focused on SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The Faculty of Business Administration is among our faculties focused on SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth); the Faculty of Law concentrates on SDG 16.

3. Sustainability in Academic English Courses

In an innovative stride, ÖzÜ has designed its academic English courses, ENG101 and ENG102, compulsory for English-medium undergraduate programs, to include sustainability as a core curriculum component. This approach aims to elevate students' sustainability literacy and knowledge and enhance their English proficiency through assessments integrated into the midterm and final exams. This initiative is a testament to ÖzÜ's dedication to nurturing a generation that is fluent in English, deeply versed in sustainability, and prepared to face the challenges of our time.

4. Activate the University For Climate Change-Learning Platform

ÖzU runs a project called 'Activate the University Against Climate Change' (ATTUNE). This education program directly addresses climate change on the university campus. The education program is being concurrently conducted in Germany, Italy, Spain, Poland, and Turkey for the Erasmus + KA220-HED project. The first step is to register for the learning online platform. The platform provides learning materials on water, waste, energy, food management and mobility. The participants are asked to complete before and after questions designed to assess sustainability literacy and knowledge.

5. SEC 101 Introduction to University Life

OzU ensures that all students are equipped with knowledge of social sustainability through SEC 101 Introduction to University Life. This course covers various aspects of social sustainability, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of the importance of fostering a socially responsible and inclusive environment within the university and beyond. Overall, these efforts reflect our institution's dedication to promoting social sustainability through education, training, and awareness-raising initiatives for both students and staff members.

6. Health, Safety and Environment Training

Due to ISO 14001:2015 Environmental Management System, the ISO 45001:2018 Occupational Health and Safety Management System, and the ISO 50001:2018 Environmental Management System standards as well as effective laws and regulations we provide education to staff and students first during the orientation days. Then through LMS Next module, all students and staff registered 4 hour training.

7. Programs run by Center for Energy, Environment and Economy

Please explore the CEEEs page for outreach education and projects. These pages provide a glimpse into the dynamic activities and projects that OzU has undertaken in sustainability education, both locally and globally. Through innovative programs and a dedicated approach to integrating sustainability into our curriculum, we're not just educating; we're activating a new generation ready to make a difference in the world.



Scan for more information

8. Fiction Narrative Workshop: Stories Emerged from the Depths

Led by Ezgi Hamzaçebi, instructor in the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, this workshop invited students to imagine and transform their dreams about the past, present, and future of the campus stream into stories expressed in the form of a 'storyboard.' Students were divided into groups during the workshop to explore what could have been in the stream's past, present, and future. Selected excerpts from Turkish literature provided inspiration for the narratives, enriching the stories created. Questions like what daily life might be like in the imagined period, and what kinds of relationships exist among animals, humans, and plants were explored. Using their imagination, students developed different scenarios and visualized these narratives on storyboards.



Ezgi Hamzaçebi and the students participating in the workshop.

9. Transdisciplinarity as a Learning Challenge: Student Experiences and Outcomes in an Innovative Course on Wearable and Collaborative Robotics

Özyeğin University academicians collaborated with Twente University on a study highlighting the effectiveness of short online courses for developing transdisciplinary competence in graduate students, directly supporting SDG 4 by promoting inclusive, high-quality education. The research demonstrates that these condensed, intensive programs benefit students by improving their learning quality and professionalism despite significant challenges encountered. This study focuses on the transdisciplinary skillsets needed for developing wearable and collaborative robots, where industry collaboration is essential. As the feasibility of long-term industry involvement in educational programs decreases, these short courses offer a practical alternative for students to gain real-world skills in industrial design, medical considerations, ethics, and teamwork.

In a 5-day online course, 31 graduate students from engineering, industrial design, and health fields across four countries worked in cross-disciplinary teams to solve a real industry challenge. Using a mixed-methods approach—competence measures, journal entries, team progress reports, and final presentations—the study found substantial improvements in self-regulated learning, motivation, and teamwork. These results suggest that short, targeted online courses could enhance graduates' readiness for the workforce, offering a valuable model for future university–industry collaborations.

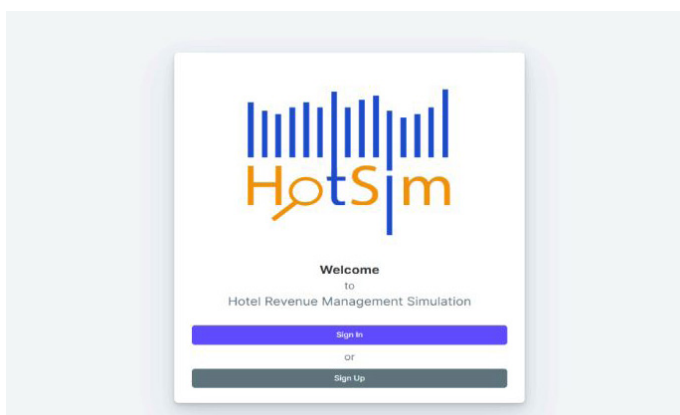


SEC Poster

10. Transdisciplinary Studies: CS402 & HMAN 333

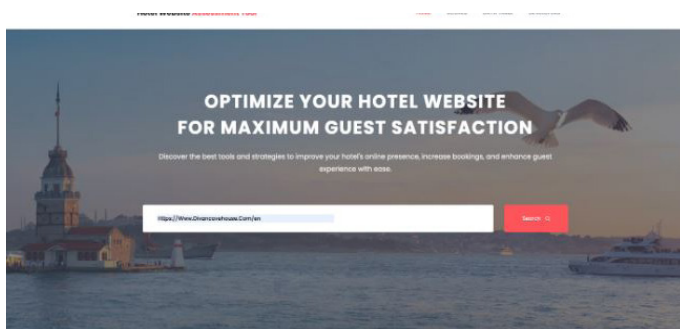
H. Kader Şanlıöz-Özgen from the Hotel Management Program collaborated with Dr. Hasan Sözer and Dr. Reyhan Aydoğan from the Computer Science Program as a part of the CS402 senior project course to advise undergraduates:

-to develop a web-based hotel revenue management simulation so that hotel management students will be able to enhance their professional skills by applying their theoretical knowledge in a very critical matter of the hotel industry. The simulation is applicable for HMAN 333 Managing Revenue and Distribution Channels course in the Hotel Management Program – a key objective of SDG 4.



CS 402

-to develop a hotel website assessment dedicated for hotel businesses to improve their direct booking as the most profitable channel in their operations. This tool is a pilot study for an enhanced assessment system for hotels of all scales to help them determine their competence of websites and improve its quality as a way for digital transformation – a key objective of SDG 9.

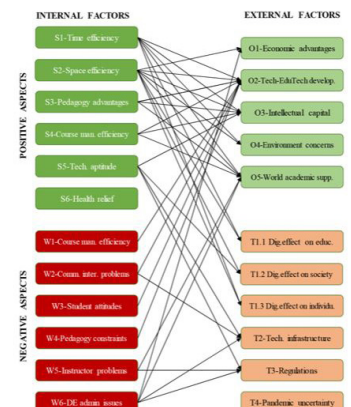


Assessment Score
63.2/100

HMAN 333

11. The Impact of the COVID-19 on Tourism-Related Higher Education Programs

H. Kader Şanlıöz-Özgen collaborated with an academician from Dokuz Eylül University to study the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on distance education (DE) within tourism-related higher education programs (THEP). This research aligns with SDG 4's goal of ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education by examining the rapid shift to DE, particularly the challenges and opportunities it presented for higher education institutions. Using qualitative methods, data from 114 instructors were gathered to capture a range of experiences during this transition, especially in developing countries where limited internet infrastructure and access to technology posed significant hurdles. Through SWOT and TOWS analyses, the study proposes strategic recommendations for regulatory authorities to develop more effective educational, tactical, and operational plans that strengthen resilience and adaptability in higher education—a key objective of SDG 4.



CS 402

12. OzU Debate Debate Training

OzU Debate aims to provide debate training that equips individuals with effective communication, critical thinking, and respectful argumentation skills. Participants in these trainings learn to defend a viewpoint, understand opposing perspectives, and respond with empathy. Debate helps develop the ability to express thoughts clearly and persuasively. Additionally, it supports personal skills such as problem-solving, analysis, and gaining self-confidence. The trainings cover a wide range of topics from Feminism to Ethics, Law to Psychology, and are held weekly, fostering versatile thinking and providing valuable contributions to participants' social and professional lives.