BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

SDG 5: GENDER EQUALITY



2024-2025

BAU AT A GLANCE

Since its foundation in 1998, the vision of BAU has been to be a global university known for its contribution to scientific, technological, and cultural knowledge through innovative education models and research approaches that reflect international standards as well as service to society. Currently, BAU Global Network comprises of 5 universities (Istanbul, Washington D.C., Berlin, Cyprus, Batumi), 5 liaison offices (BAU Global Azerbaijan Jordan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan) and 5 language schools.

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) is committed to advancing the wellbeing of local and global communities by integrating the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into its institutional governance, operations, organisational culture, educational programmes, academic research and stakeholder partnerships. Through this integrated approach, BAU seeks to align its academic mission and institutional practices with sustainable development priorities and contribute to positive societal change.

Bringing together staff, students and alumni, BAU promotes a university community guided by ethical conduct, social responsibility and global citizenship. The University encourages its members to recognise their responsibilities towards one another, wider society and the environment, and to apply their knowledge and skills to building a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable future.

BAU IN THE TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION

BAU participates in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings since 2019. According to the current rankings, BAU belongs to the 1000-1200 band in the World University Rankings, 59th in the Impact Rankings and the 251-300 in the Asia University Rankings 2026. Also, BAU is ranked as the top university in Türkiye.

The university continuously increases its standing in categories related to the UN Sustainable Development Goals. As of 2026, BAU holds the following standings in the THE Impact Rankings;

- 2nd in Gender Equality
- 6 th in Quality Education
- 77 th in Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions
- 89th in Partnerships for the Goals
- Ranks between 101-200 in Reducing Inequalities
- Ranks between 201-300 in Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

The University takes the above-mentioned rankings as evaluation criteria for progress regarding its adherence and contribution to the UN Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to report its advancement in the rankings on a yearly basis.

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) integrates gender equality into its institutional vision and educational philosophy as a core element of social transformation, academic excellence, and sustainable development. The university actively promotes inclusive, feminist, and equality-oriented approaches through academic programs, institutional initiatives, and international collaborations that align with Sustainable Development Goal 5: Gender Equality.

Bahçeşehir University Institutional Framework and Governance Policies Dedicated to Advancing Gender Equality

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) operates within a comprehensive governance framework designed to promote gender equality, inclusion, and non-discrimination across all academic and administrative levels. Rooted in the university's commitment to fostering a fair, respectful, and inclusive community, these institutional policies ensure that all members—students, faculty, and staff—are provided with equal opportunities and a safe environment free from bias or harassment. Aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 5 (Gender Equality), BAU's governance policies collectively reinforce the university's mission to eliminate gender-based disparities, support work-life balance, and embed equality into institutional culture, teaching, and leadership practices.

The following policies—adopted and periodically reviewed by the University Senate— are selected examples that guide Bahçeşehir University's approach to equity, protection, and empowerment for all community members:

Bahçeşehir University Non-Discriminatory Admissions Policy

Bahçeşehir University Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy

BAU Maternity and Paternity Policy

BAU Non-Discrimination, Harassment, and Retaliation Prevention Policy

Bahçeşehir University Non-Discrimination and Equal Employment Policy

Together, these policies serve as the foundation of BAU's institutional commitment to creating a gender-equal and inclusive academic ecosystem. They ensure that equality is not only a principle but a practice reflected in every aspect of university life—from admissions and employment to professional development and community engagement. Through these frameworks, Bahçeşehir University continues to advance gender-responsive governance, fostering a culture of respect, equity, and empowerment that exemplifies its dedication to SDG 5: achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls.

CENTERS, LABS, COMMISSIONS, UNITS & PROGRAMS

BAU Equality and Inclusion Studies Commission (BAUEQUAL)

Complementing this academic framework, BAUEQUAL (BAU Equality and Inclusion Studies Commission) was established to institutionalize gender equality, prevent all forms of discrimination, and promote a violence-free campus environment. Announced in December 2019 through a formal declaration of intent, BAUEQUAL began its work in October 2020 with a dedicated team of experts committed to building an equitable and inclusive university culture. The commission's mission focuses on preventing gender-based, workplace, and sexual violence while promoting inclusivity through research-driven strategies, awareness programs, and policy development. To achieve these goals, BAUEQUAL conducted comprehensive internal analyses assessing perceptions of gender equality and inclusion among BAU students and staff. Based on these findings, it has implemented campus-wide initiatives including training programs, workshops, and awareness campaigns developed in cooperation with student clubs and administrative departments.

The BAUEQUAL Unit also serves as a formal reporting and support mechanism for individuals exposed to discrimination, psychological or sexual harassment, and gender-based violence. By ensuring accessibility, confidentiality, and protection, the unit embodies the university's dedication to upholding human dignity and justice. Through its commitment to participatory governance and evidence-based policymaking, BAUEQUAL continuously advances BAU's vision of a safe, inclusive, and gender-equal academic environment.

https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/16929-bauequal-hakkimizda

BAUEqual: Gender Equality Action Plan

Bahçeşehir University has launched the BAUEqual Gender Equality Action Plan (2025–2029), a comprehensive institutional strategy designed to strengthen gender equality, inclusivity, and accountability across all levels of university life. The plan aligns with the principles of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and reflects the university's commitment to integrating gender-sensitive approaches into education, research, governance, and community engagement.

The Action Plan includes objectives focused on increasing gender awareness among students and staff, developing inclusive education programs, supporting women's leadership, and preventing gender-based violence. It outlines concrete actions such as gender equality-focused training, awareness-raising campaigns, academic modules, and support mechanisms for victims of discrimination and violence. In addition, it promotes equal representation in decision-making, inclusive recruitment practices, and gender-sensitive research and policy development.

By embedding equality and inclusivity into its institutional culture, Bahçeşehir University aims to ensure a safe, fair, and empowering environment for all members of its community. The BAUEqual framework represents a long-term commitment to structural transformation, ensuring that gender equality becomes a measurable and sustainable component of the university's strategy.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by institutionalizing equality and inclusivity, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its comprehensive approach to inclusive governance, education, and policy development.

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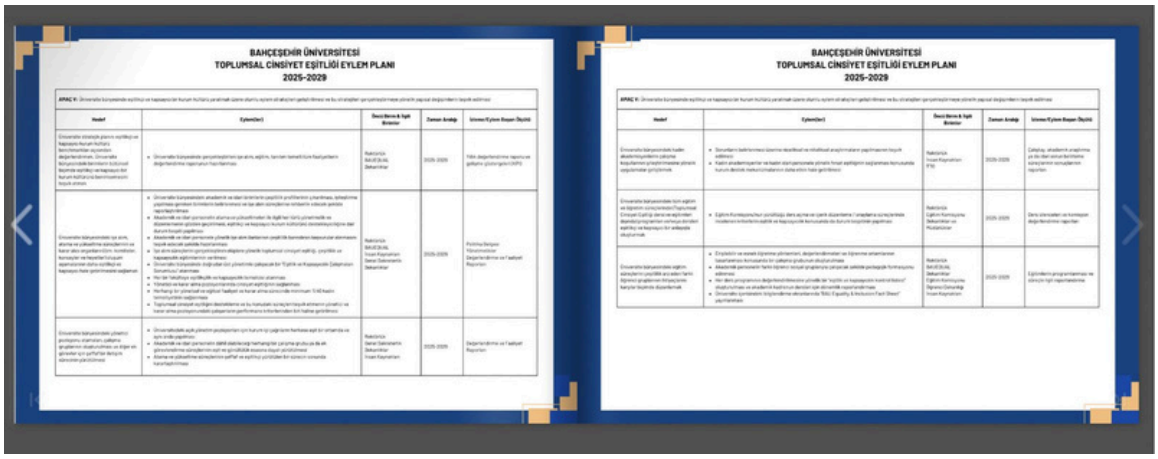
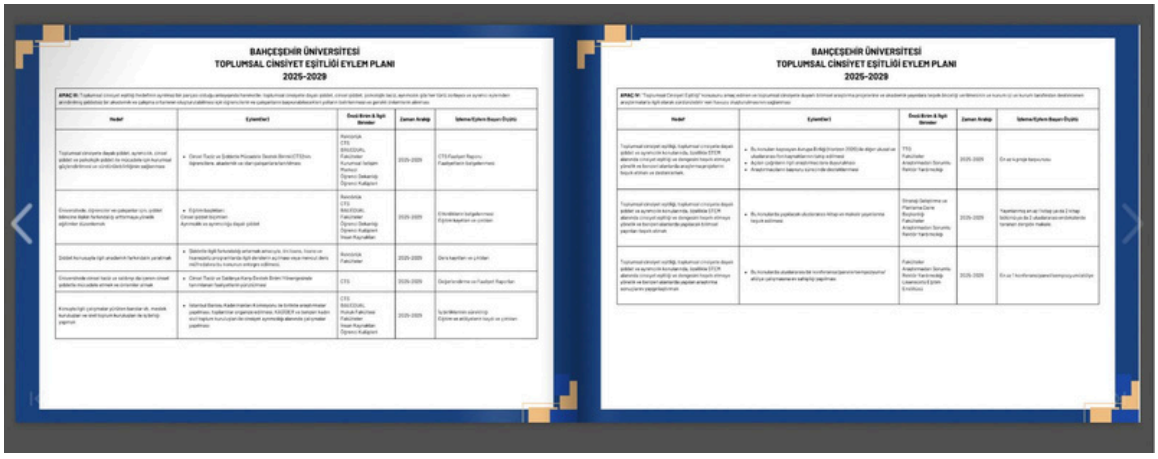
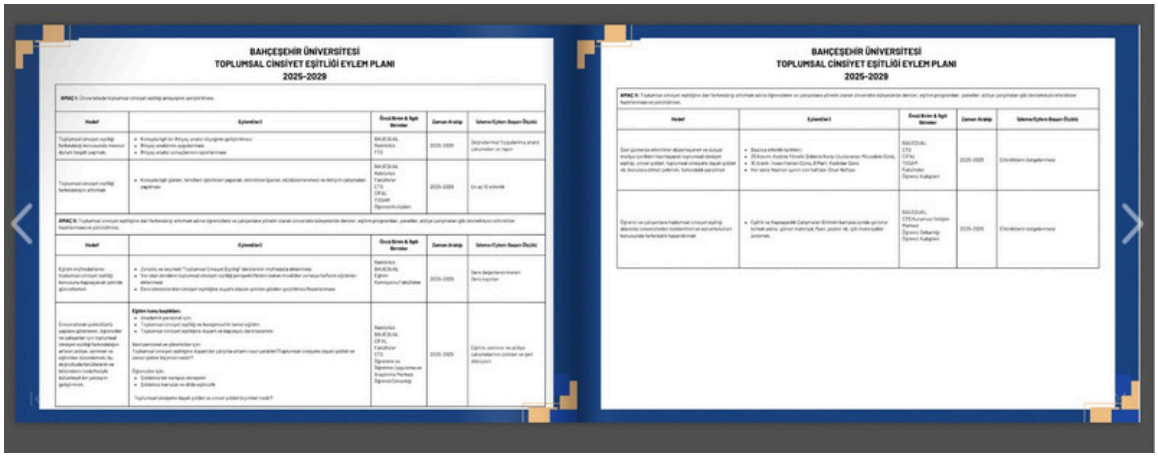
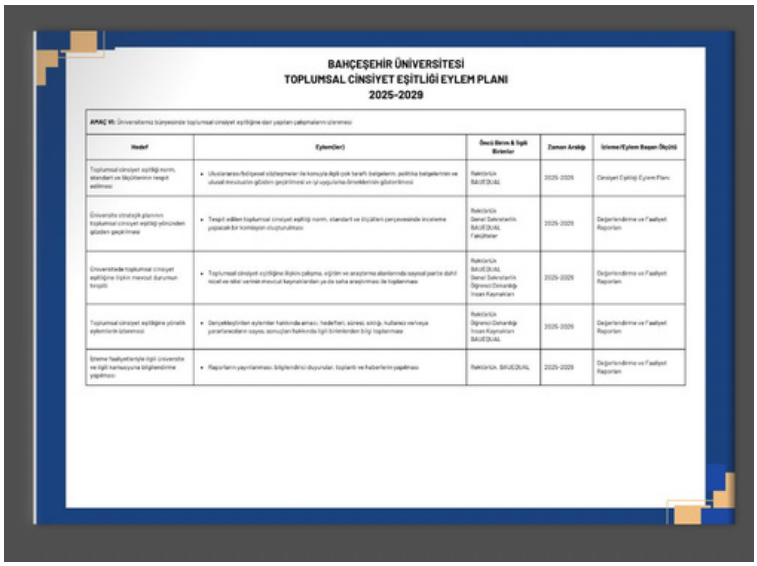








BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ
TOPLUMSAL CİNSİYET EŞİTLİĞİ EYLEM PLANI
2025-2029

BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) is firmly committed to maintaining an equal, safe, democratic, and respectful environment for all members of its community. In line with this commitment, the university upholds a zero-tolerance approach toward all forms of gender-based discrimination, harassment, and violence. To strengthen institutional mechanisms of prevention and response, the BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit was established in 2022, with its directive and policy statement publicly accessible. This unit serves as the official body responsible for addressing cases where individuals within the university experience or witness incidents defined as gender-based, sexual, or psychological harassment, violence, or discrimination.

The BAU Sexual Harassment and Assault Support Unit undertakes the following responsibilities:
• Preventing sexual harassment and assault in both on-campus and off-campus contexts that may affect the university's educational and professional environments,
• Providing information, guidance, and support to individuals who have been subjected to such actions,
• Overseeing and coordinating follow-up procedures related to administrative (disciplinary) and/or legal processes when such cases are reported.

Through this dedicated unit, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its institutional commitment to protecting human dignity, promoting equality, and ensuring that every member of its community can learn and work in an environment free from violence and discrimination.

BAU Gender Law Clinic (Faculty of Law)

The BAU Gender Law Clinic, the first of its kind in Türkiye, focuses on addressing gender and all forms of gender-based discrimination through education, research, and advocacy. Operating under the Faculty of Law, the Clinic aims to combat gender-based inequality by enhancing students' understanding of both Turkish and international legal frameworks. Its activities include organizing educational panels and conferences, conducting academic research, and developing public awareness materials—all with the active involvement of volunteer law students.

Admission to the Clinic is open to upper-level law students who have successfully completed the Family Law course. Under the supervision of clinical lawyers, participating students gain practical experience by providing legal support and representation to individuals in need. In doing so, the Clinic not only strengthens students' legal competencies but also contributes to improving women's access to justice and dismantling structural barriers to equality before the law. Through this pioneering initiative, Bahçeşehir University reaffirms its dedication to promoting gender-sensitive legal education and advancing justice, equality, and human rights in alignment with SDG 5: Gender Equality.

BAU: "Equal Opportunity Model" Certified University



Bahçeşehir University (BAU) has been officially recognized as an Equal Opportunity Model (FEM) Certified University, a distinction developed and implemented by the Women Entrepreneurs Association of Türkiye (KAGİDER) with the support of the World Bank. This certification reflects BAU's strong institutional commitment to promoting gender equality, diversity, and women's empowerment in education and employment.

The Equal Opportunity Model (FEM) is designed to identify and address inequalities in organizational processes such as recruitment, training, career development, and promotion, promoting equal opportunities regardless of gender. The program—developed under the

leadership of KAGİDER, with technical support from the World Bank and in collaboration with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) and Ernst & Young (EY)—provides a structured framework for assessing and strengthening gender equality and inclusion in organizational practices.

Following an independent evaluation and audit process, Bahçeşehir University achieved certification by demonstrating gender-sensitive practices and governance mechanisms across its institutional structure. This achievement reflects BAU's sustained efforts to create a fair, inclusive, and equitable working environment for all, reinforcing its commitment to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).

Although the FEM certification primarily addresses institutional practices and employment-related equality, it also reflects the broader organizational commitment to gender inclusion that underpins BAU's approach to educational access and participation. In the context of women's access to higher education, the certification provides complementary evidence of the University's institutional commitment to reducing gender-based barriers and promoting an inclusive environment.

By attaining the FEM certification, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates how higher education institutions can incorporate equal opportunity principles into their operational and human resources systems, translating institutional commitments to gender equality into concrete organizational practices and processes.

Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST)

Supported by the European Commission under the Erasmus+ Programme, FEJUST represents a pioneering academic endeavor led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm under the Department of Political Science and International Relations. The Chair embraces a feminist agenda in EU politics, seeking to challenge patriarchal norms and epistemic injustices embedded in mainstream political discourse. Through its three core components—undergraduate and graduate teaching, early-career researcher workshops, and gender-focused seminar series—FEJUST creates an intellectually vibrant and inclusive environment that encourages feminist and decolonial approaches to knowledge production. The program employs participatory and art-based pedagogies, offering courses such as Gender and International Development and EU Policies and Gender at the undergraduate level, and Gender and Development and Gender Policies in the EU at the graduate level. These modules foster critical reflection on gendered inequalities, feminist perspectives in policy-making, and social justice across European and global contexts.

FEJUST's academic outreach extends beyond the classroom through the European Politics and Gender Expert Seminar Series and the Early Career Researchers Workshops, which bring together scholars, policymakers, feminist bureaucrats, and civil society representatives.

These platforms strengthen the dialogue between academia and society, amplifying feminist voices in EU studies and international relations. Operating in close collaboration with UNITAR's CIFAL Istanbul, FEJUST bridges academic and practical expertise, equipping students and future professionals with feminist analytical skills while fostering gender-sensitive leadership aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

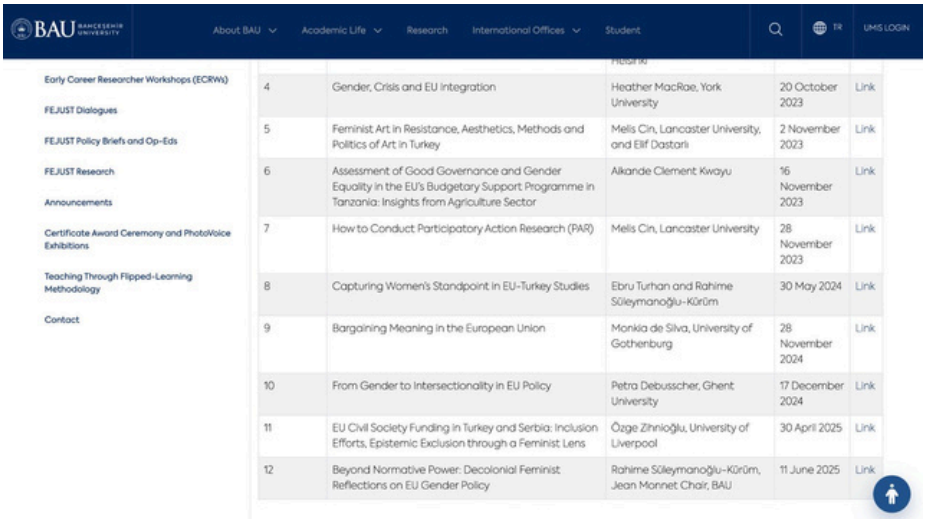
https://bau.edu.tr/icerik/17399-hakkimizda

Some examples are listed below:

1- FEJUST Guest Lectures and Open Access Materials (2024–2025)

As part of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University organized a series of hybrid public lectures and online seminars under the title Gendering EU Politics during the 2024–2025 academic year. The initiative created a platform for critical discussions on gender and European integration, exploring how EU policymaking intersects with issues of equality, representation, and inclusion. The lectures were open to both BAU students and the general public, enabling broad participation through Zoom and YouTube Live. By ensuring free and open access to these academic discussions, Bahçeşehir University has reaffirmed its commitment to SDG 5 by promoting gender-sensitive knowledge production and expanding educational access to diverse audiences.

Additionally, lecture notes from the FEJUST undergraduate courses Gender Politics in the EU and Gender in International Development were made publicly available as open-access materials on the FEJUST website. This approach democratized education and empowered individuals outside academia to engage with feminist and equality-focused perspectives in international relations.



4	Gender, Crisis and EU Integration	Heather MacRae, York University	20 October 2023	Link
5	Feminist Art in Resistance, Aesthetics, Methods and Politics of Art in Turkey	Melis Cin, Lancaster University, and Elif Dastarlı	2 November 2023	Link
6	Assessment of Good Governance and Gender Equality in the EU's Budgetary Support Programme in Tanzania: Insights from Agriculture Sector	Alkande Clement Kwayu	16 November 2023	Link
7	How to Conduct Participatory Action Research (PAR)	Melis Cin, Lancaster University	28 November 2023	Link
8	Capturing Women's Standpoint in EU-Turkey Studies	Ebru Turhan and Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm	30 May 2024	Link
9	Bargaining Meaning in the European Union	Monkia de Silva, University of Gothenburg	28 November 2024	Link
10	From Gender to Intersectionality in EU Policy	Petra Debusscher, Ghent University	17 December 2024	Link
11	EU Civil Society Funding in Turkey and Serbia: Inclusion Efforts, Epistemic Exclusion through a Feminist Lens	Özge Zihnioğlu, University of Liverpool	30 April 2025	Link
12	Beyond Normative Power: Decolonial Feminist Reflections on EU Gender Policy	Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm, Jean Monnet Chair, BAU	11 June 2025	Link

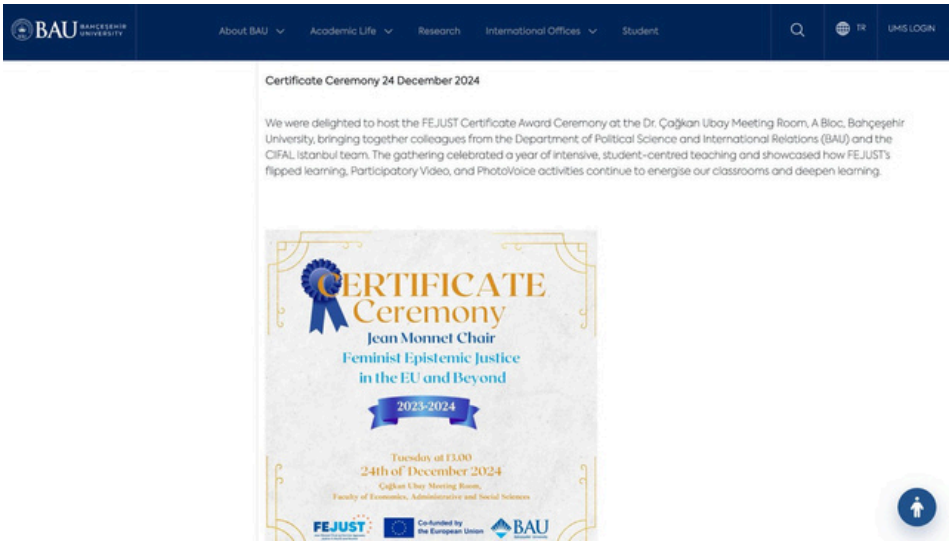
This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by fostering feminist scholarship and ensuring women's and gender perspectives are integrated into academic and policy discourse. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by promoting accessible, inclusive, and equitable learning opportunities.

2- FEJUST Training Programme on Gender, Justice and Policy (2024-2025)

Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University launched the FEJUST Training Programme on Gender, Justice and Policy in 2022. The programme included certificate courses such as Gender in International Development, Gender in EU Politics (undergraduate level), Gender and Development, and Gender Politics in the EU Politics (postgraduate level), conducted between October 2022 and July 2025. These free and accessible courses were open to both university students and external participants, providing certificates co-funded by the European Union.

Through this initiative, Bahçeşehir University has strengthened its dedication to SDG 5 by advancing gender equality in education, promoting feminist perspectives in policymaking, and supporting women's participation in academic and policy-oriented fields. The training programme encouraged students to critically analyze gender dynamics within international and European political systems, fostering awareness of social justice and inclusive governance.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by empowering individuals with gender-sensitive knowledge and policy tools. It also supports SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its focus on inclusive education, equity, and institutional accountability.



3- FEJUST Mentorship and Research Support for Emerging Scholars (2024–2025)

Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm established mentoring and research-support mechanisms to enhance women's participation in academic publishing and EU studies. Undergraduate students Ceren Çolakoğlu and İbrahim Ekrem Sarı received close guidance in drafting policy papers, one later published in Academicus and another in Panorama Global Academy. This mentoring process enabled students to gain authorship experience and visibility in debates on gender and EU policy.

Through the Feminist Eleştiri Journal special issue, undergraduate contributors were mentored throughout the writing and review process, marking their first academic publication experience. Collectively, these efforts reflect Bahçeşehir University's sustained commitment to fostering gender-responsive research culture and supporting young scholars in their professional growth.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing women's participation and leadership in academic research, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its inclusive approach to mentorship and scholarly collaboration.

FEJUST Research

Title	Authors	Link
FE Dergi Special Issue, "In Search for Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond"	Edited by Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm, Jean Monnet Chair	View
New Face of European Far-right: Femonationalism as a Tool for Anti-migration in EU and Beyond	İbrahim Ekrem Sarı, Ceren Orhan, Aybüke Ceren Çolakoğlu	View
Ecofeminist struggle for epistemic recognition beyond the EU? The case of Akbelen Forest in Turkey	Digdem Soyaltin-Colella, Defne Gönenç	View
Capturing Women's Standpoint in EU–Turkey Studies: The Evolution of Gendered Publication and Citation Patterns	Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm, Ebru Turhan	View
Alternative modernities and epistemic struggles for recognition in Turkish media: Deconstructing Eurocentrism?	Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm, Elif Gençkal-Eroler	View
The leader, the competitor, and the protector: tracing (neo)colonial and gendered logics in the European Green Deal	Mine Nur Küçük - Selin Türkeş-Kılıç	View
EU civil society funds in Turkey and Serbia: promoting inclusion, creating epistemic exclusion	Özge Zihnioğlu	View

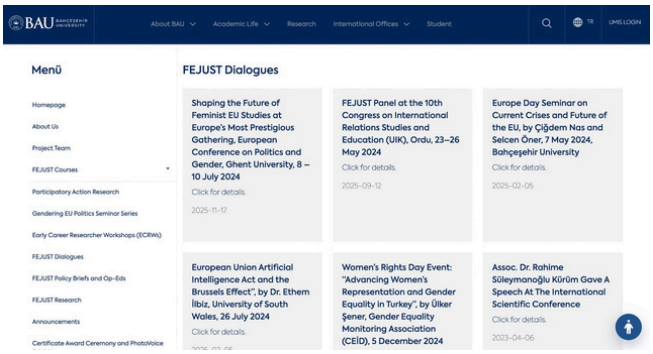
4- FEJUST Early Career Researcher Workshops and Dialogues (2024–2025)

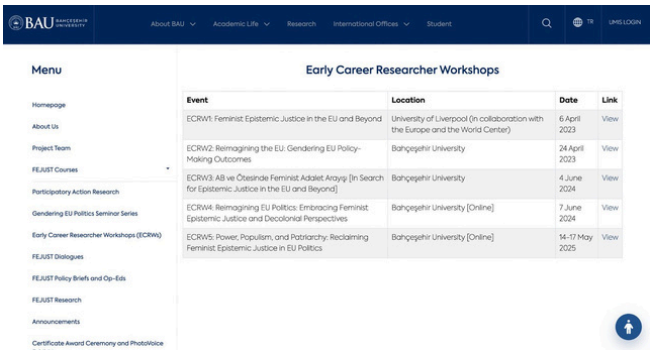
Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University launched a series of Early Career Researcher Workshops (ECRWs) and FEJUST Dialogues to strengthen gender equality and epistemic justice within EU studies. Organized in collaboration with the University of Liverpool's Europe and the World Centre, the ECRW series brought together emerging scholars from Turkey, the UK, and across Europe for mentoring, paper presentations, and structured academic feedback.

Each workshop served as an international capacity-building forum, where participants—many of them early-career women—received detailed guidance on research design, writing, and presentation. The FEJUST Dialogues extended this engagement to civil society through partnerships with organizations such as the Gender Equality Monitoring Association (CEİD), featuring events that marked Women's Rights Day and Europe Day.

Through these collaborative activities, Bahçeşehir University promoted inclusive knowledge production and cross-sectoral dialogue, helping embed feminist and participatory perspectives in both academic and policy contexts.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by empowering early-career women researchers and promoting inclusive research ecosystems. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, through its emphasis on equitable learning, diversity in academia, and international collaboration.





5- Promoting Equality and Inclusion through FEJUST Policy Briefs (2024–2025)

Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University integrated equality and anti-discrimination principles into its teaching, research, and outreach activities. Alongside inclusive course design and public events, FEJUST produced a series of EU co-funded policy briefs addressing the politics of gender, diversity, and representation.

The first brief, "Beyond "Brussels So White!": Towards an EU of Epistemic Justice and Inclusive Diversity," examined racial and gender inclusivity gaps in EU policymaking. The second, "When 'Protecting Our Women' Harms Them: How Nationalist Masculinity is Remaking Europe," analyzed gender-based exclusion in political discourse.

Through these open-access publications, Bahçeşehir University contributed to advancing the EU Gender Equality Strategy (2020–2025) and embedding inclusive, gender-aware perspectives into academic and policy discussions.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting feminist knowledge production and combating discrimination, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on inclusivity, justice, and international collaboration.





6- Embedding Equality through Participatory Research and FEJUST Policy Work (2024–2025)

Under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University integrated the principles of equality and anti-discrimination into both research design and publication processes. Students were trained in Participatory Action Research (PAR) methodologies—such as photovoice and video documentation—to capture lived experiences of gender, inclusion, and social justice.

The PAR Synthesis Reports (2024–2025), co-authored by Dr. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm and her students, exemplify inclusive and non-hierarchical authorship by representing youth and women's perspectives equitably. Together with the FEJUST Policy Briefs on diversity and epistemic justice, these works demonstrate how Bahçeşehir University transforms equality principles into practice by giving visibility to marginalized voices within academic research and policy dialogue.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through participatory and inclusive research practices, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by fostering equity, representation, and democratic knowledge production.

https://cdn.bau.edu.tr/content/q8eg2yqnip4v5-PAR%20Synthesis%20Report%203.pdf


PAR Synthesis Report: Issue 1 16 September 2025

PARTICIPATORY ACTION (PAR) RESERCH ON GENDER INEQUALITY: INSIGHTS FROM FEJUST STUDENT PROJECTS

POL2332-GENDER İN INTERNATİONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024-2025 FALL

Executive Summary

The 2024 -2025 Gender in International Development cohort conducted its third cycle of Participatory Action Research (PAR) within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST). Twenty-four undergraduate students – the most internationally diverse cohort to date – worked collaboratively to investigate how gender inequality shapes development outcomes in Turkey and across the Middle East, Europe, and the Global South. Through photovoice and film-based methodologies, students examined urgent and interlocking themes: domestic violence and femicide, child marriage, gender inequality in education, workplace discrimination and the "glass ceiling," the Pink Tax and the commodification of women's bodies, self-sexualisation, and restrictions on freedom of clothing. Their work demonstrated how gender inequality is not a discrete issue but a systemic developmental barrier rooted in the political economy of patriarchy. They linked each topic directly to global frameworks – the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention, and EU equality strategies – highlighting development as a process of ensuring safety, autonomy, and recognition.

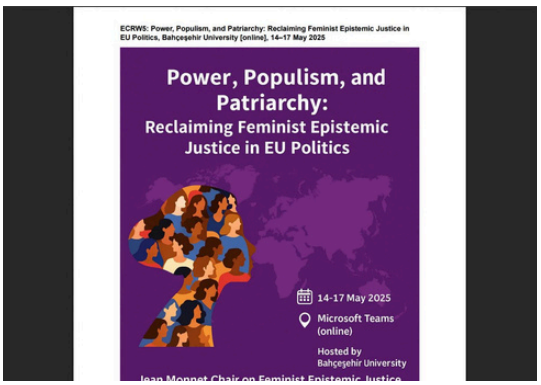
The 2024 -2025 cohort also contributed new epistemic insights. They showed how violence in private spaces reduces women's labour-force participation and mental health; how pricing systems and neoliberal markets extract

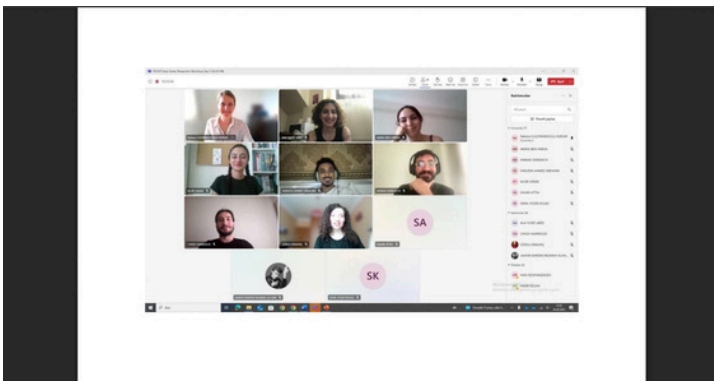
7- Mentoring Through FEJUST Teaching and Integrating Undergraduate and Postgraduate Students into Early Career Researcher Workshops (2024–2025)

Within the framework of the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), Bahçeşehir University embedded mentoring into both teaching and research-development activities. In the undergraduate and postgraduate course Gender Politics in the EU, students followed a structured research and writing process resembling professional academic supervision. They developed individualized reading lists and two sequential term papers, receiving detailed feedback at each stage—from reading selection to final submission.

Students also presented their preliminary findings during the Early Career Researcher Workshop series, where they benefited from peer and expert commentary. This mentoring process enhanced research design, critical thinking, and academic writing competencies, while particularly supporting women students in pursuing independent research and postgraduate studies. Several mentees later published or presented their work in academic venues such as Academicus, Panorama Global Academy, and Feminist Eleştiri, illustrating the tangible outcomes of this mentoring model.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by strengthening women's participation and leadership in academic research, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its inclusive and supportive approach to higher education mentorship.





8- Advancing Gender Equality Through Events with FEJUST (2024-2025)

Through its interdisciplinary and collaborative approach, FEJUST actively advances gender equality by organizing seminars, conferences, and policy dialogues with a wide network of international and local partners. These events bring together academics, policymakers, feminist organizations, and civil society actors to foster inclusive discussions on gender, social justice, and equality in policymaking. By creating safe and participatory spaces where diverse voices can engage in dialogue, FEJUST not only strengthens feminist knowledge exchange but also contributes to mainstreaming gender-sensitive perspectives across academic, political, and institutional frameworks. Through this continued collaboration and outreach, the Chair plays a transformative role in promoting gender equality within and beyond the university context.

Some examples are listed below:

8.a- Women's Human Rights and Participatory Democracy

In 2024-2025 academic year, held on the occasion of Women's Rights Day, this webinar titled "Women's Rights and Participatory Democracy" was co-organized by FEJUST, the Gender Equality Monitoring Association (CEİD), Bahçeşehir University's Political Science and International Relations Club, CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Bahçeşehir University. The event examined the relationship between women's rights and democratic participation, emphasizing the importance of inclusion, representation, and civic engagement in advancing social justice.

Through expert discussions and participant interaction, the webinar fostered awareness of how strengthening women's voices in governance contributes to more equitable, participatory, and transparent decision-making processes.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting women's empowerment and active participation in political life, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its collaborative approach to inclusive democracy and equality.



8.b Beyond Normative Power: Decolonial Feminist Reflections on EU Gender Policy

On 11 June 2035, Bahçeşehir University, seminar "Beyond Normative Power: Decolonial Feminist Reflections on EU Gender Policy" contributed directly to discussions on SDG 5: Gender Equality by critically examining how gender equality is framed, promoted, and sometimes constrained within European Union policy. Through the perspectives of feminist epistemic justice and decolonial theory, Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm presented collaborative research with Melis Cin and Dimitrios Anagnostakis, questioning the EU's self-positioning as a normative actor in gender governance. The seminar highlighted how gender equality policies can reproduce unequal knowledge structures, colonial assumptions, and neoliberal priorities when they fail to meaningfully include diverse feminist voices and lived experiences.

By foregrounding concepts such as epistemic excavation, epistemic containment, and accountability, the event encouraged participants to think beyond formal commitments to equality and examine whose knowledge shapes policy agendas. This focus aligns closely with Bahçeşehir University's commitment to SDG 5 by supporting critical inquiry into the structural and epistemic barriers that limit transformative gender justice. The discussion also connected to SDG 4: Quality Education by fostering advanced academic debate, and to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by addressing how global hierarchies influence gender policy and representation.



8.c Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series: From Gender to Intersectionality in EU Policy

In 2024-2024 academic year, the 10th seminar in the Gendering EU Politics series featured an enlightening presentation by Dr. Petra Debusscher, researcher and lecturer at Ghent University with over 15 years of experience in gender equality and EU policy. Her extensive work as an independent gender expert for the European Commission, European Parliament, and European Institute for Gender Equality provided both academic and practical insights into the EU's policymaking processes. The seminar attracted 27 participants, comprising a diverse audience of academics, policymakers, and civil society representatives, representatives of business, sparking a lively discussion on topics such as the EU's external policy challenges, the role of civil society, and strategies for advancing intersectional equality in a politically fraught environment.

The presentation offered attendees a comprehensive overview of the EU's efforts to integrate intersectionality, blending theoretical insights with practical examples from policy analysis. Through her detailed examination of EU strategies, Dr. Debusscher illuminated the potential and limitations of intersectionality as a guiding principle for equality policies in the European Union.



8.d Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series: "Bargaining Meaning in The EU: Meaning Negotiations and the Concept of Gender Equality"

In 2024-2025 academic year, The 9th seminar in the Gendering EU Politics series welcomed Monika de Silva, a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, who delivered a thought-provoking presentation titled "Negotiating the Meaning of Gender Equality in the EU." The event was attended by 40 participants, including academics and early career researchers from various universities across Turkey, as well as policymakers and representatives from civil society organizations. The diverse audience facilitated a vibrant and interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, reinforcing the seminar's role as a platform for impactful dialogue.

This seminar holds particular importance for advancing feminist epistemic justice by critiquing the technocratic and androcentric approaches that often dominate EU policymaking. De Silva's work emphasizes the need for inclusive, interdisciplinary approaches that incorporate feminist expertise and challenge hegemonic discourses. By exposing how national discourses shape and sometimes undermine EU gender norms, her research advocates for a more equitable and participatory process in defining gender-related policies. This aligns with the seminar series' mission to decolonize knowledge production and amplify underrepresented voices in European studies.

The event underscored the significance of addressing the intersection of language, culture, and politics in shaping EU policies on gender equality. It highlighted the importance of feminist epistemic interventions in ensuring that policymaking processes are inclusive and reflective of diverse perspectives.



BAU Activities and Initiatives Supporting SDG 5: Gender Equality

Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program





Bahçeşehir University (BAU), in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, affiliated with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR), and in partnership with Yapı Kredi Bank, continues to advance its mission of promoting equality and innovation through the "Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program." This initiative is designed to increase women's participation in the fields of technology and innovation, contributing to the creation of a more inclusive and diverse digital future.

The certification program provides free, high-quality training delivered by Bahçeşehir University's distinguished academic staff. Participants engage in comprehensive learning modules covering Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, Cloud Technologies, Cybersecurity, the Internet of Things (IoT), and Industry 5.0. These training contents are developed with a focus on practical applicability and global standards, ensuring participants gain both theoretical knowledge and industry-relevant competencies.

In 2024, the program expanded its scope to reach a broader audience. It is now open to all women aged 15 and above, with no upper age limit, allowing greater inclusivity and ensuring that women of all ages can benefit from technological education and empowerment opportunities.

Participants who successfully complete the certification program and achieve a minimum score of 70 in the final evaluation will receive an E-Government Approved Certificate of Achievement, jointly accredited by UNITAR and Bahçeşehir University. Those who complete at least 75% of the coursework will be awarded a UNITAR-accredited Certificate of Participation.

The Equal Opportunity in Technology Certification Program is entirely free of charge and open to all women who wish to develop their skills and advance their careers in technology. Moreover, individuals of any gender residing in the "Hope Cities" established by Koç Holding after the Kahramanmaraş-centered earthquakes are also eligible to participate, reflecting Bahçeşehir University's unwavering commitment to social responsibility, inclusivity, and equal access to education.

Launched in 2023, the program has already achieved remarkable impact: by the end of 2025, a total of 34,563 women have successfully completed the training and received certificates. The certification program will continue until the end of 2027, aiming to reach and empower even more women across Türkiye and beyond through education, innovation, and equal opportunity.

Detailed information about the program and the application process can be accessed through the link below:

https://baugo.online/certificate-programs/teknolojide-firsat-esitligi

https://tto.bau.edu.tr/en/equal-opportunity-project-in-technology-has-started/

Zero Tolerance for Violence on My Campus: Gender and Dating Violence Training Seminar Series

In 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University hosted two sessions of "Gender and Dating Violence Training" organized in collaboration with CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Yanındayız Association, with the support of the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Istanbul. The initiative, part of the broader project "Zero Tolerance for Violence on My Campus," aimed to raise awareness among university students about dating violence and promote gender-sensitive approaches within academic environments. By addressing the psychological and physical impacts of relationship violence and encouraging preventive education, the project contributed to improving mental health, emotional well-being, and safety among young people. Through interactive workshops and problem-solving sessions, participants developed practical solutions and shared their experiences, reinforcing Bahçeşehir University's commitment to fostering inclusive, safe, and healthy learning communities.









Panel: "War and Women: Examining Human Rights Violations in The Syrian Civil War"

In the 2024-2025 academic year, organized in collaboration with BAU TOSAM and ULMER-HLO, this panel examined the severe consequences of armed conflict on women's rights, with a particular focus on the Syrian Civil War. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Esra Albayrakoğlu, the event brought together scholars, legal experts, journalists, and policymakers to address multidimensional human rights violations and their social implications.

Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı presented on "Wars and Human Rights Violations of Women During Forced Displacement," emphasizing the physical, psychological, and systemic hardships women experience in conflict and migration contexts. Hayrunnisa Çiçek contributed with evidence-based insights from field research and interviews, revealing the widespread patterns of sexual abuse, forced displacement, and gender-based violence.

The panel fostered dialogue on how conflict situations deepen gender inequalities and underscored the necessity of international and local actions to protect women, strengthen justice mechanisms, and promote social resilience. Through this academic exchange, Bahçeşehir University provided a vital platform for understanding and addressing gendered dimensions of war and displacement.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by highlighting women's protection and empowerment in conflict-affected settings, and it also aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its focus on justice, human rights, and inclusive peacebuilding.



Public Engagement Activities

During 2024-2025 academic year, between September and December of 2024, Prof. Dr. Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız from Bahçeşehir University, engaged in a series of invited talks, public discussions, and collaborative events with academic institutions and civil society organizations. These activities aimed to raise awareness and foster critical dialogue on gender, family policies, and the evolving roles of women in Turkish modernization. By making academic expertise accessible to broader audiences—including students, NGOs, and the general public—Bahçeşehir University strengthened its role in promoting inclusive and lifelong learning opportunities.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through its focus on women's empowerment and inclusive participation, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by extending equitable learning beyond formal education.

1- Invited Talk: "Family Policies in the Republican Era", Feminist Buluşmalar, Women's Human Rights Association, Istanbul (28.12.2024)



2- Invited Talk: "Women in Turkish Modernization", Turkish Women's Union, Kayseri Branch, Kayseri (November 2024)



BAUGO: “Women and Technology: Discover Your Role and Enhance Your Potential”

In line with its commitment to promoting gender equality and increasing women's participation in traditionally male-dominated fields, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through BAUGO, implemented the training program “Women and Technology: Discover Your Role and Enhance Your Potential.”

The initiative forms part of BAU's educational outreach efforts to encourage women to pursue further education and career opportunities in technology, engineering, innovation, and other STEM-related disciplines, where women have historically been underrepresented.

By raising awareness of gender disparities and highlighting women's contributions to science and technology, the training seeks to challenge stereotypes, strengthen women's confidence in their academic and professional potential, and encourage greater female participation in technical and scientific fields.

The training covers seven key areas:

- Scope and Content of the Equal Opportunity in Technology Project
- Historical Perspective on Equality of Opportunity in Technology
- Equal Opportunity and the International Community
- Gender and Equal Opportunity
- Statistics on Women's Place in the World of Technology and Science
- Support for Women's Role in the World of Technology and Science
- The Role of Women in the World of Science and Technology in Türkiye

Through this outreach initiative, BAU aims to address informational and social barriers that may discourage women from considering STEM-related educational pathways. By increasing awareness of opportunities in technology and highlighting female role models and contributions, the program encourages women to explore academic fields in which they remain underrepresented.

The initiative supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting women's access to educational opportunities and encouraging their participation in science, technology, and engineering.

https://baugo.online/instructor/ebru-canan-sokullu



Public Educational Seminar: Dating Violence and Stalking – Legal Protection, Prevention, and Awareness

In 2024-2025 academic year, on November 6, 2024, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) hosted a public educational seminar titled "Dating Violence and Stalking," organized by IGUL and PALS Global upon the invitation of Prof. Dr. Feridun Yenisey. Held in a hybrid format at the Bahçeşehir University Court Hall and online, the seminar provided an opportunity to explore the legal, social, and human rights dimensions of dating violence and stalking.

The event was designed to extend awareness and educational engagement beyond formal university coursework, bringing an important issue of public concern into an accessible learning environment. Through its in-person and online formats, the seminar offered opportunities for students, legal professionals, and interested members of the wider public to engage with expert perspectives on gender-based violence and legal protection.

The seminar was delivered by Attorney Lerzenur Asan Elik, who examined the nature and consequences of dating violence and stalking, with particular emphasis on prevention mechanisms, victim protection, legal remedies, and access to justice. Drawing on real-life cases and relevant legislative frameworks, the presentation explored how different forms of violence and persistent harassment can affect individuals' safety, autonomy, and fundamental rights.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of recognizing early warning signs, understanding available legal protections, and strengthening gender-sensitive responses within the justice system. By connecting legal knowledge with practical social challenges, the seminar encouraged participants to reflect on the responsibilities of individuals, legal professionals, and institutions in preventing violence and protecting those at risk.

As a publicly accessible educational activity, the seminar contributed to raising awareness of gender-based violence beyond the University's student population. Its hybrid delivery format supported wider access to specialized legal knowledge and encouraged lifelong learning on issues directly affecting personal safety, equality, and human rights.

The initiative contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing public educational opportunities focused on legal literacy, human rights awareness, and the prevention of violence. It also strongly supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by addressing violence against women and promoting awareness of protective legal frameworks, and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through its emphasis on access to justice, prevention, legal protection, and institutional accountability.

Through this seminar, Bahçeşehir University contributed to making specialized legal expertise accessible to a wider audience, supporting informed public discussion and greater awareness of the legal and social mechanisms needed to prevent dating violence and stalking.



Politics and Society Seminar Series: Bridging Justice and Gender – Analyzing Organizational Dynamics in Istanbul's Local Governance through Studying Up and Scorecard Analysis

In 2024-2025 academic year, delivered by Bahçeşehir University alumna Melis Arıksoy, this seminar examined the intersection of gender justice and organizational structures in local governance. Drawing from practical insights, the discussion highlighted how data-driven approaches such as scorecard analysis can evaluate institutional performance and promote fairness, accountability, and inclusivity in municipal contexts.

By linking gender equality with transparent and participatory governance, Bahçeşehir University underscored the importance of education, dialogue, and research in strengthening institutions and fostering a culture of equality and justice.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting gender-sensitive governance and decision-making, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on inclusive learning, equitable structures, and ethical public administration.



"Hear Me" Mosaic Concert

Organized by CIFAL Istanbul, UNITAR, and Bahçeşehir University, the "Hear Me" Mosaic Concert brought attention to the physical, psychological, and economic challenges faced by women, particularly in post-crisis contexts. The event aimed to raise awareness on gender equality and social inclusion while encouraging solidarity and community resilience through art and collective expression.

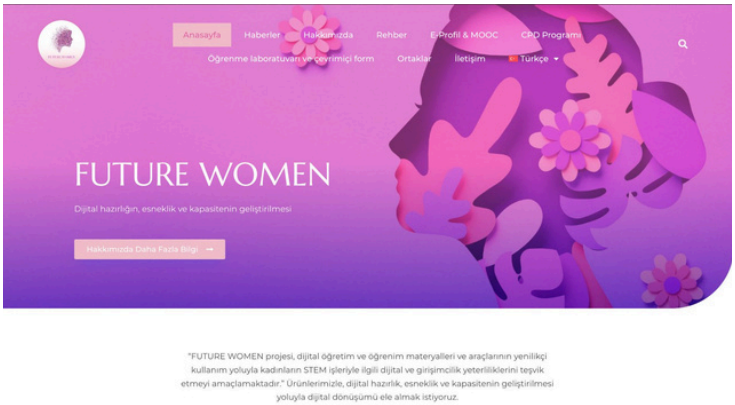
All proceeds from the concert were donated to the Hatay Hayat Cooperative to support women and children affected by the February 6 earthquakes in Hatay, reflecting the university's strong commitment to empathy-driven action and partnership-based social impact.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting women's empowerment and recovery efforts, and it also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its emphasis on inclusivity, cooperation, and shared responsibility in times of crisis.





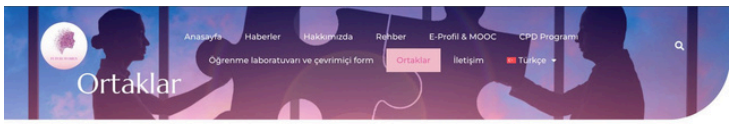
Future Women Project – Erasmus+ (2023–2025)



Bahçeşehir University is one of the partners of the Future Women Project, an Erasmus+ initiative funded by the European Union and implemented with eight institutions from six European countries. The project aims to strengthen women's participation in the digital economy by supporting female students and career counselors in developing advanced digital and entrepreneurial skills relevant to STEM careers.

Through the creation of an innovative e-profile and MOOC platform, the project promotes digital literacy and identifies female role models in technology-driven careers. It also introduces a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Programme designed to equip career counselors with new methods and tools to guide women toward opportunities in the digital economy. Furthermore, the Learning Laboratory and Online Forum foster the exchange of good practices, interactive learning, and collaboration among students, educators, and professionals through multilingual open-access resources.

By combining innovation, inclusion, and education, the Future Women Project bridges the gap between academic goals, labor market needs, and individual aspirations—empowering women to thrive in the evolving digital landscape. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by advancing women's digital empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its focus on inclusive learning, technological capacity-building, and international collaboration.



https://future-women.erasmus.site/

Talking About Sexual Health





In 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University's Psychological Counseling and Guidance Center (BAU PDRM) hosted the seminar "Talking About Sexual Health", led by Prof. Dr. Sebahat Dilek Torun from the Faculty of Medicine. The session provided a safe and inclusive space for students to discuss sexual well-being, bodily awareness, and consent—key elements of holistic health and personal empowerment. By normalizing conversations around sexual health and encouraging informed decision-making, the event reflected Bahçeşehir University's dedication to nurturing awareness, empathy, and respect as essential parts of individual and community well-being.

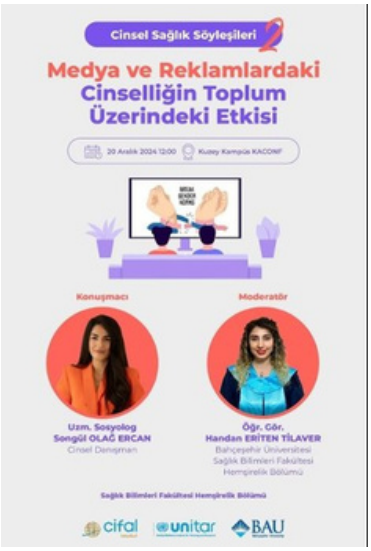
Sexual Health Talk Series

During the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, organized a two-part seminar series titled "Sexual Health Talks", dedicated to enhancing awareness and education around sexual health, well-being, and social responsibility.

The first session, "Sexually Transmitted Infections and Protection Methods," held on December 2, 2024, featured insightful talks from Dr. Selcen Bahadır (Acıbadem Fulya Hospital) and Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver (BAU Faculty of Health Sciences). Participants learned about prevention strategies, the importance of early diagnosis, and the role of health education in reducing infection risks within communities.

The second session, "Sexuality in Media and Its Impact on Society," held on December 20, 2024, focused on the influence of media and advertising on public perceptions of sexuality. Sociologist and Sexual Counselor Songül Olağ Ercan and Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver encouraged participants to critically evaluate how social narratives around sexuality are shaped and to explore ways to promote more inclusive, respectful representations.

This seminar series directly supported the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3's Target 3.7: Universal access to sexual and reproductive care, family planning, and education. By creating a space for open dialogue and evidence-based learning, the program highlighted the crucial link between education, sexual health, and equality. Through such initiatives, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its role as an institution committed to advancing health literacy and empowering individuals to make informed choices for their overall well-being.





Violence Awareness Workshop



During 2024-2025 academic year, organized ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, this interactive workshop aimed to raise awareness about gender-based violence and challenge gender stereotypes that perpetuate inequality. The event, open to all participants, featured two main sessions: the first focused on identifying and discussing gender-related biases, while the second used a participatory card game to explore how power dynamics shape societal perceptions and relations.

Seminar: "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Future: HIV Awareness"

In 2024-2025 academic year, hosted by Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nursing, this seminar titled "Healthy Individuals, Healthy Future: HIV Awareness" was delivered by Lecturer Handan Eriten Tilaver at the South Campus. The event aimed to raise awareness about HIV prevention, testing, and treatment, emphasizing the importance of public health education and the reduction of social stigma surrounding HIV.

By promoting accurate information and inclusive dialogue on health and equality, Bahçeşehir University highlighted the critical link between education, awareness, and well-being. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through its focus on equitable access to health knowledge and empowerment, and it also aligns with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by fostering awareness, reducing prejudice, and promoting inclusive health education.



BAUGO Course: “Collaboration Between Women and Men in Business Life: Turning Differences into Strengths” (2024–2025)

This online course, taught by Baldan Çolak as part of BAUGO’s continuing education series, explores the importance of collaboration between women and men in professional settings and how gender diversity contributes to innovation and organizational success. The training emphasizes transforming differences into advantages rather than inequalities, showcasing real-world examples from both Turkey and abroad to illustrate how inclusive practices enhance productivity and sustainability in workplaces.

By promoting awareness of shared responsibility, respect, and equitable participation in business environments, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its dedication to inclusive professional development and workplace equality. This initiative directly supports SDG 5: Gender Equality by encouraging equal participation in the labor market and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through its focus on sustainable, diverse, and cooperative work environments.

https://baugo.online/course/is-hayatinda-kadin-erkek-isbirligi-ve-faydalari





Gender-Focused Courses at Bahçeşehir University

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University demonstrated its strong institutional commitment to promoting gender equality and awareness across disciplines by offering 15 gender-related courses throughout both academic semesters. These courses, ranging from undergraduate to doctoral levels, encompass a wide variety of subjects that explore gender from sociological, legal, psychological, cultural, and professional perspectives.

The curriculum reflects the university's holistic approach to integrating gender equality into education and research, featuring both mandatory and elective courses across fields such as sociology, law, architecture, health sciences, engineering, communication, and the arts. By embedding gender-focused learning in such a broad spectrum of programs, Bahçeşehir University contributes directly to the advancement of SDG 5: Gender Equality and promotes inclusive, interdisciplinary education.

https://akts.bau.edu.tr/bilgipaketi/index/dersara/ln/tr

Course Code	Course Title
SOC3005	Aile ve Sosyal Cinsiyet Sosyolojisi
SOC3057	Cinsiyet Sosyolojisi Okumaları
GEP0644	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet
ARC4914	Mimarlıkta Cinsiyet Çalışmaları
LAW3405	Toplum, Cinsiyet, Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma ve Hukuk
POL4144	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Politikası
SOC6007	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Çalışmaları (İngilizce, Doktora)
SOS6007	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Çalışmaları (Türkçe, Doktora)
PSY4058	Toplumsal Cinsiyet Psikolojisi
CNG4235	Social Gender Roles and Inequality
FTV5001	Korku, Cinsiyet ve Toplum
KHK5236	Toplumsal Cinsiyet
CMR6007	Sinema ve Cinsiyet
GEP1644	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet
GEP0644 (multiple departments)	Kadın Hakları ve Toplumsal Cinsiyete Dayalı Şiddet (Çeşitli Fakülteler)

Webinar: "Women's Leadership and Governance in Sports"

In the 2024-2025 academic year, hosted by Bahçeşehir University in collaboration with the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) during the 2024 Sport Integrity Week, this online event focused on strengthening women's leadership and participation in sports governance. The webinar explored barriers to gender equality in the sports sector and highlighted strategies for empowering women as decision-makers, executives, and change leaders in sports institutions.

Through its partnership with SIGA, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to promoting integrity, inclusivity, and equal opportunities in all areas of leadership. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting women's leadership and representation in governance, and also aligns with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities and SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its collaborative and advocacy-based approach.



Visit to Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation

In the 2024-2025 academic year, as part of the course NMD4901 Media, Diversity and Discrimination, Bahçeşehir University students visited the Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation to deepen their understanding of gender equality and explore the realities of combating violence against women in Türkiye. During the visit, students engaged in discussions on media representation, women's rights, and the importance of advocacy in addressing gender-based violence.



By integrating experiential learning with social awareness, the course encouraged students to reflect on the role of media in promoting equality and social justice. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting education and awareness on the prevention of gender-based violence and by fostering inclusive, gender-sensitive perspectives among future media professionals.

Effie Awards Turkey 2024 Gender Equality Report (2025)



The Effie Awards Turkey Gender Equality Report is a long-term collaborative research initiative conducted by the Department of Advertising at Bahçeşehir University in partnership with the Advertisers Association. Since 2018, the study has systematically monitored TV commercials that have won or been shortlisted for the Effie Awards, evaluating them according to gender equality parameters. Encompassing 25 categories and more than 2,000 advertisements, the project provides a data-driven analysis of gender representation in Turkish advertising.

At the Effie Awards Türkiye 2025 ceremony, the findings of the Effie Gender Equality Report 2024 were shared with advertising industry stakeholders by Ahmet Pura, President of the Advertisers Association (RVD). Conducted in collaboration between RVD and Bahçeşehir University's Department of Advertising, the research has been carried out by BAU academics since 2018 to examine gender representation in advertising and provide guidance for more equal and inclusive communication practices.

The continuous research, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gül Şener, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Eda Öztürk, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Önder Yönet, contributes to advancing equitable and inclusive portrayals in media and communication. The 2023 report and the ongoing 2024 analysis—highlighted during the Effie Awards Turkey 2025 Ceremony—demonstrate the impact of sustained academic–industry collaboration in addressing stereotypes and promoting gender balance in advertising.

By producing and disseminating research on gender representation in advertising, Bahçeşehir University contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by supporting greater awareness of gender equality and encouraging more inclusive representation within the advertising industry. The collaboration also supports SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through sustained university–industry cooperation and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities through its focus on inclusive representation.



https://rvd.org.tr/uploads/2025/05/effie_2024_revize.pdf

Istanbul Labour Market and Women's Employment Field Research (2024-2025)

Conducted under the coordination of Bahçeşehir University Center for Economic and Social Research (BETAM), the Istanbul Labour Market and Women's Employment field research represented a significant effort to advance data-driven understanding of gender equality, labor participation, and institutional inclusion across Türkiye's largest metropolitan area. The study, whose fieldwork took place in December 2024 and was published in 2025, involved extensive household surveys and firm-level interviews across 38 districts of Istanbul, executed by Etik Research under BETAM's supervision.

Through this comprehensive data collection, researchers analyzed the dynamics of women's participation in the labor market, employment opportunities, and barriers to economic inclusion. By promoting evidence-based policymaking, institutional transparency, and social accountability, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening governance structures that support equality, justice, and inclusive growth. The project's findings contribute to the development of informed labor policies, supporting both gender-sensitive strategies and sustainable institutional frameworks.

This research also contributed to SDG5 (Gender Equality) by addressing disparities in women's employment, and SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by generating insights that enhance fair labor practices and inclusive economic participation.

https://betam.bahcesehir.edu.tr/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Istanbul-isgucu-piyasasi-ve-kadin-istihdami-2025.pdf

https://betam.bahcesehir.edu.tr/2025/03/istanbul-isgucu-piyasasi-ve-kadin-istihdami/



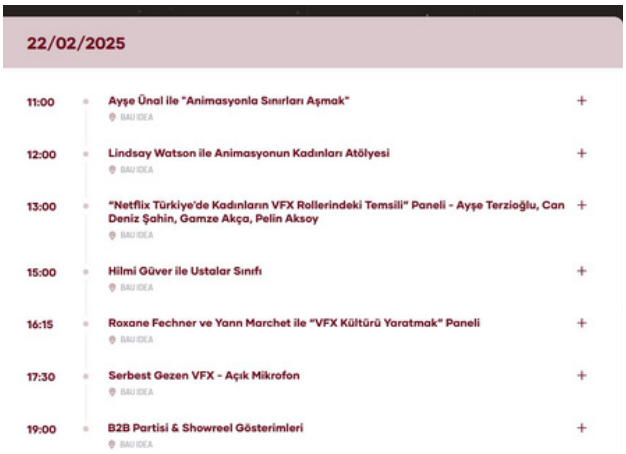
EFEKT 2025: Visual Effects Days, Roundtables & Awards – "Women and Technology"

Organized by ANiKA (Women in Animation Turkey) and the department, with the support of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the British Council, and Institut Français, EFEKT 2025 focused on the theme of "Women and Technology." Held across BAUIDEA and Atlas 1948, the event brought together international figures such as Sara Bennett, Roxanne Fechner, and Yann Marchet for roundtables addressing women's participation, visibility, and leadership in visual effects and animation. By foregrounding women's roles in a highly specialized and technology-driven creative industry, the event directly supported SDG 5: Gender Equality, particularly in relation to equal opportunities, representation, and access to professional networks.

The programme created a platform for discussing diversity in visual effects, a field where technical expertise, artistic production, and global media industries intersect. Through its emphasis on women working with and shaping technology, EFEKT 2025 also contributed to SDG 4: Quality Education by exposing students and professionals to international expertise, and to SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure by highlighting inclusive innovation in digital creative industries. The second national VFX Awards further strengthened this impact by recognizing achievement and encouraging broader participation in the sector.

Through hosting and supporting an event centred on women's presence in technology and visual production, Bahçeşehir University helped advance a more inclusive understanding of creative industries. The event reflected the University's commitment to expanding professional pathways, challenging gendered assumptions in technical fields, and supporting environments where women can contribute visibly to innovation, culture, and digital transformation.





New Media BAP Project: Gender Inequality in Sports Media in the Digital Age: Barriers, Opportunities, and Strategic Solutions

Asst. Prof. Melis Özbek received Bahçeşehir University Scientific Research Project support for her research project "BAP.2025-01.03," titled "Dijital Çağda Spor Medyasında Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitsizliği: Engeller, Fırsatlar ve Stratejik Çözümler" (Gender Inequality in Sports Media of the Digital Age: Barriers, Opportunities and Strategic Solutions). The project addresses SDG 5: Gender Equality by focusing on how gender inequality is produced, maintained, and potentially transformed within sports media, particularly in the context of digital communication and changing media practices.

By examining barriers, opportunities, and strategic solutions, the research contributes to a deeper understanding of representation, visibility, and equity in a field where women and gender-diverse perspectives are often underrepresented or framed through unequal narratives. Bahçeşehir University's support for this project reflects its commitment to advancing gender-sensitive research that not only identifies structural inequalities but also seeks practical pathways for more inclusive media environments.

The project also connects with SDG 4: Quality Education by strengthening academic knowledge on gender and media studies, and with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by addressing unequal participation and representation in public discourse. Through this research, BAU contributes to evidence-based discussions on how digital sports media can become a more equitable space for athletes, journalists, audiences, and media professionals.

NMD_SDG5 Kanıt_BAP.2025-01.03.doc

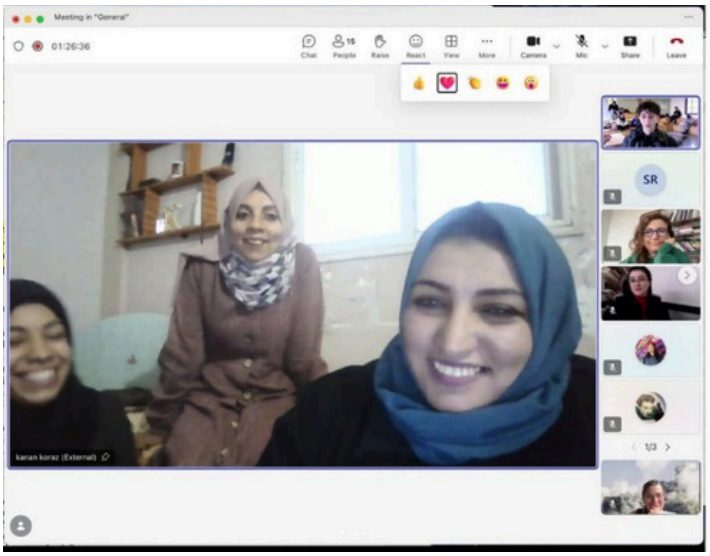
BAU	BAP PROJE SÖZLEŞME FORMU	DÖKÜMAN NO	BAUTTO-FR.06
		REVİZYON NO	00
		YÜRÜRLÜLÜK TARİHİ	25.09.2020
		SAYFA NO	2 / 3

Proje Kodu/Project Code	**BAP.2025-01.03**
Proje Adı/Project Title	**Dijital Çağda Spor Medyasında Toplumsal Cinsiyet Eşitsizliği: Engeller, Fırsatlar ve Stratejik Çözümler**
Proje Tipi/Project Type	**NAP-2**
Proje Yürütücüsü/Project Coordinator:	**Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Melis ÖZBEK**

Open Public Informational Seminar: Art as a Tool for Psychosocial Healing—Gaza Stop-Motion Animation Seminar for Solidarity

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University organized the Art as a Tool for Psychosocial Healing: Gaza Stop-Motion Animation Seminar for Solidarity as an open informational session focusing on humanitarian stop-motion workshops led by animator Haneen for displaced children and women in Gaza. The open-seminar explored how animation and participatory art practices can support emotional expression, trauma processing, and psychosocial relief in communities affected by conflict, while also drawing attention to the mental health needs of vulnerable groups in humanitarian crises.

By framing creative production as a pathway for healing, dignity, and resilience, the session contributed to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, particularly through its emphasis on mental health, psychosocial support, and trauma-informed approaches. The event also reflected Bahçeşehir University's broader commitment to socially engaged education and global responsibility by connecting artistic practice with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 5: Gender Equality, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, while mobilizing support for access to essential art materials as tools for recovery and solidarity.



Inter-University Educational Workshop: Emotional Labour and Gender in Academia

On December 26, 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) hosted the closing workshop of a research project supported by the TÜBİTAK 3501 Career Development Programme, focusing on emotional labour, academic work, and gender inequalities in higher education. The workshop brought together 15 academics from eight universities, creating an inter-institutional platform for research dissemination, professional learning, and scholarly discussion.

Importantly, participation extended beyond Bahçeşehir University's academic community, bringing together researchers from different higher education institutions. This inter-university format enabled participants to exchange knowledge and perspectives on shared challenges within academic environments, supporting educational engagement and professional development beyond their home institutions.

The workshop explored the often overlooked dimensions of academic and emotional labour, with particular attention to how care work, mentoring, emotional support, administrative responsibilities, and other less visible forms of academic work may be distributed unevenly across gender lines. Participants examined how these responsibilities can shape academic experiences, professional recognition, and opportunities for career advancement.

By bringing research findings into a collaborative discussion environment, the workshop encouraged critical reflection on gender-sensitive institutional practices, equitable recognition of academic contributions, and more inclusive working cultures. The exchange of perspectives among academics from eight universities helped broaden the discussion beyond a single institutional context and contributed to a deeper understanding of the structural and cultural dimensions of gender inequality in academia.

The initiative contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by facilitating research-based learning, inter-university knowledge exchange, and continuing professional education for academics. It also strongly supports SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by raising awareness of gendered inequalities in academic labour and encouraging reflection on fairer and more inclusive institutional practices. Furthermore, the workshop aligns with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through the participation and exchange of knowledge among researchers from multiple universities.

Through this initiative, Bahçeşehir University contributed to the dissemination of publicly funded research and the exchange of academic knowledge beyond its own institutional community, supporting informed dialogue on gender equality and the recognition of often invisible forms of academic labour.



Gendered Pathways to Solitary Living: Family, Resistance and Patriarchal Constraints in Türkiye (6–7 November 2025)

On 6-7 November 2025, Bahçeşehir University academician Prof. Dr. Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız presented research on women's pathways to living alone in Türkiye. The presentation examined how family expectations, patriarchal constraints, and everyday forms of resistance shape women's choices, opportunities, and lived experiences. By focusing on women's autonomy and the social barriers that influence intimate and domestic life, the presentation contributed directly to SDG 5: Gender Equality.

The research brought attention to how gender norms continue to affect women's freedom to make independent decisions about housing, family relations, and personal life trajectories. In doing so, it expanded the discussion of gender equality beyond formal rights and labour participation, emphasizing the importance of autonomy, social recognition, and freedom from restrictive expectations.



Through supporting academic engagement with these issues, Bahçeşehir University contributed to a broader understanding of the structural and cultural dimensions of gender inequality in Türkiye. The presentation also connected with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by addressing how unequal social norms shape access to independent living and full participation in society.

Religiosity, Gender Identity, and Depiction of Religious Women in Turkish Television Series

On 18-20 September 2025, at the Fifth European Convention on Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies in Mainz, Bahçeşehir University academician Prof. Dr. Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız presented research comparing religious women's own accounts of their identities and everyday experiences with their portrayal in Turkish television series, particularly Kızılcık Şerbeti. By examining the distance between lived experience and media representation, the presentation opened an important discussion on how gender, religion, and identity are interpreted, simplified, or contested in popular culture.

The presentation contributed directly to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing women's representation in media and the importance of recognizing diverse women's voices beyond stereotypical or reductive portrayals. Its focus on religious women's self-understanding also highlighted how gender equality requires attention to plurality, agency, and the social contexts in which women define their own identities.

Through this contribution, Bahçeşehir University supported critical academic engagement with gender identity, media narratives, and cultural representation. The presentation also related to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by drawing attention to the need for more inclusive representations of women across different social, cultural, and religious backgrounds.

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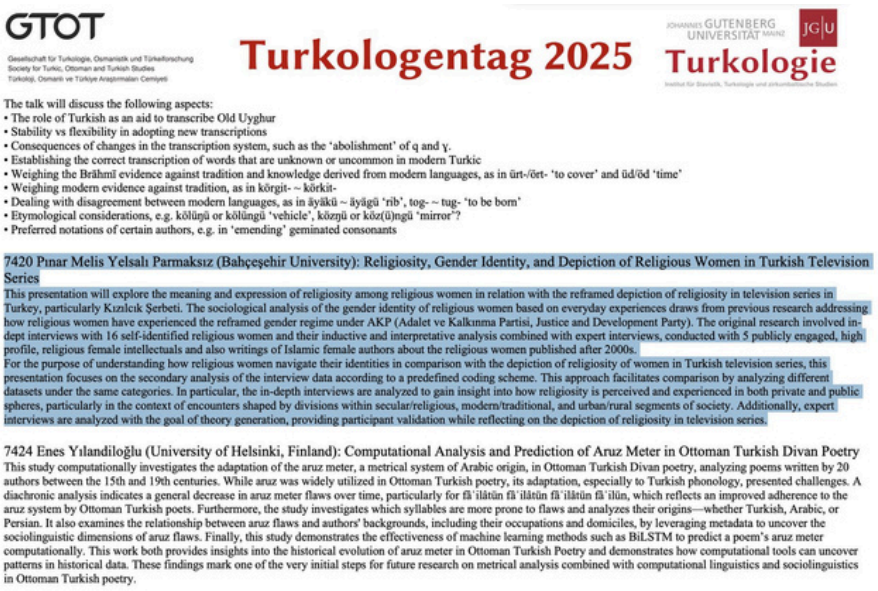


GTOT

Gesellschaft für Turkologie, Osmanistik und Türkeiforschung
Society for Turkic, Ottoman and Turkish Studies
Türkoloji, Osmanlı ve Türkiye Araştırmaları Cemiyeti

Turkologentag 2025

JOHANNES GUTENBERG UNIVERSITÄT MAINZ JG|U
Turkologie

The talk will discuss the following aspects:
- The role of Turkish as an aid to transcribe Old Uyghur
- Stability vs flexibility in adopting new transcriptions
- Consequences of changes in the transcription system, such as the 'abolishment' of q and ɣ.
- Establishing the correct transcription of words that are unknown or uncommon in modern Turkic
- Weighing the Brāhmī evidence against tradition and knowledge derived from modern languages, as in ürt-/örət- 'to cover' and üd/öd 'time'
- Weighing modern evidence against tradition, as in körgit- ~ körkit-
- Dealing with disagreement between modern languages, as in äyäkü ~ äyägü 'rib', tog- ~ tug- 'to be born'
- Etymological considerations, e.g. kölüŋü or kölüngü 'vehicle', közŋü or köz(ü)ngü 'mirror'?
- Preferred notations of certain authors, e.g. in 'emending' geminated consonants

7420 Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız (Bahçeşehir University): Religiosity, Gender Identity, and Depiction of Religious Women in Turkish Television Series
This presentation will explore the meaning and expression of religiosity among religious women in relation with the reframed depiction of religiosity in television series in Turkey, particularly Kızılcık Şerbeti. The sociological analysis of the gender identity of religious women based on everyday experiences draws from previous research addressing how religious women have experienced the reframed gender regime under AKP (Adalet ve Kalkınma Partisi, Justice and Development Party). The original research involved in-dept interviews with 16 self-identified religious women and their inductive and interpretative analysis combined with expert interviews, conducted with 5 publicly engaged, high profile, religious female intellectuals and also writings of Islamic female authors about the religious women published after 2000s.
For the purpose of understanding how religious women navigate their identities in comparison with the depiction of religiosity of women in Turkish television series, this presentation focuses on the secondary analysis of the interview data according to a predefined coding scheme. This approach facilitates comparison by analyzing different datasets under the same categories. In particular, the in-depth interviews are analyzed to gain insight into how religiosity is perceived and experienced in both private and public spheres, particularly in the context of encounters shaped by divisions within secular/religious, modern/traditional, and urban/rural segments of society. Additionally, expert interviews are analyzed with the goal of theory generation, providing participant validation while reflecting on the depiction of religiosity in television series.

7424 Enes Yılandiloğlu (University of Helsinki, Finland): Computational Analysis and Prediction of Aruz Meter in Ottoman Turkish Divan Poetry
This study computationally investigates the adaptation of the aruz meter, a metrical system of Arabic origin, in Ottoman Turkish Divan poetry, analyzing poems written by 20 authors between the 15th and 19th centuries. While aruz was widely utilized in Ottoman Turkish poetry, its adaptation, especially to Turkish phonology, presented challenges. A diachronic analysis indicates a general decrease in aruz meter flaws over time, particularly for fāʿilātün fāʿilātün fāʿilātün fāʿilün, which reflects an improved adherence to the aruz system by Ottoman Turkish poets. Furthermore, the study investigates which syllables are more prone to flaws and analyzes their origins—whether Turkish, Arabic, or Persian. It also examines the relationship between aruz flaws and authors' backgrounds, including their occupations and domiciles, by leveraging metadata to uncover the sociolinguistic dimensions of aruz flaws. Finally, this study demonstrates the effectiveness of machine learning methods such as BiLSTM to predict a poem's aruz meter computationally. This work both provides insights into the historical evolution of aruz meter in Ottoman Turkish Poetry and demonstrates how computational tools can uncover patterns in historical data. These findings mark one of the very initial steps for future research on metrical analysis combined with computational linguistics and sociolinguistics in Ottoman Turkish poetry.

Changing the Face of Advertising: Women Leaders' Perspectives on Institutionalization, Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the Turkish Advertising Industry

On 27 June 2025 at the 23rd International Conference on Research in Advertising (ICORIA) in Rotterdam, Gül Şener, Eda Öztürk, Prof. Dr. Pınar Melis Yelsalı Parmaksız, and Julie Bilby presented research on women leaders' perspectives on diversity, equity, and inclusion in Türkiye's advertising industry. The presentation examined how women in leadership positions understand institutional commitments to inclusion and how professional cultures shape opportunities for equal participation.

The presentation contributed directly to SDG 5: Gender Equality by focusing on women's leadership, workplace inclusion, and the barriers that continue to affect representation in creative and corporate sectors. By bringing women leaders' perspectives into academic discussion, the research highlighted the importance of listening to those navigating institutional structures from within and identifying strategies that can support more equitable professional environments.

Through this contribution, Bahçeşehir University supported research that connects gender equality with organizational culture and industry practice. The presentation also related to SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by addressing inclusive workplaces and fairer participation in professional life, particularly within the advertising and creative industries.



https://www.europeanadvertisingacademy.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/Detailed-program-ICORIA-2025-Final-.pdf?utm_source=chatgpt.com

SDG5 Network Training – FEJUST Chair Holder Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm: Epistemic Injustices and the EU

On 13 April 2025, Assoc. Prof. Rahime Süleymanoğlu-Kürüm of the Bahçeşehir University Department of Political Science and International Relations, holder of the FEJUST Jean Monnet Chair, delivered a training session for the SDG5 Network on epistemic injustices and the European Union. The training shared the conceptual framework of feminist epistemic justice with network members beyond the university. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by strengthening gender-sensitive knowledge and women's voices in policymaking. It also supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) through capacity building beyond campus, SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by addressing the exclusion of marginalised knowledge, and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by promoting inclusive and participatory decision-making.



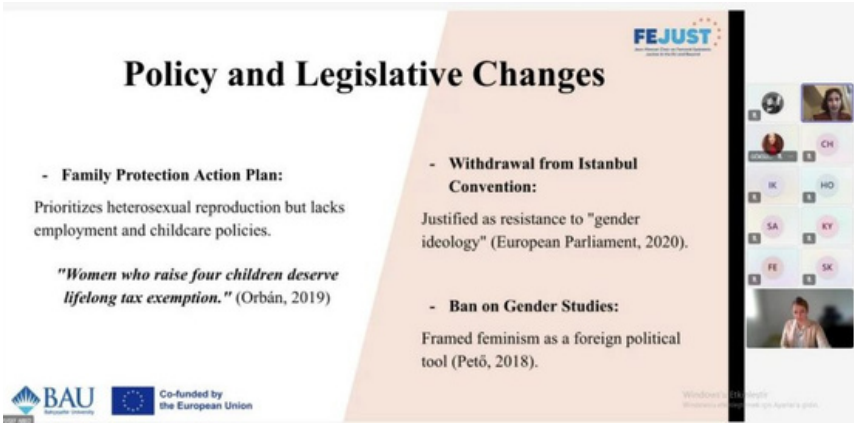
8 March International Women's Day: The Epistemic and Development Dimensions of Gender

On the occasion of 8 March International Women's Day 2025 , the Department of Bahçeehir University Political Science and International Relations organized the panel "The Epistemic and Development Dimensions of Gender", which was held on 7 March 2025. The panel discussed how gender shapes knowledge production and development processes, directly contributing to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting women's empowerment, equal participation in development and the recognition of women's knowledge.



Power, Populism and Patriarchy: Reclaiming Feminist Epistemic Justice in EU Politics

Bahçeşehir University hosted the fifth Early Career Researcher Workshop (ECRW) under the Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST) on 14-17 May 2025. Conducted online via Microsoft Teams, this closed session brought together a limited group of FEJUST team members, collaborators, and CIFAL Istanbul representatives. Unlike previous workshops, participation was not open to the public, creating a focused space for in-depth exchange. The workshop provided a collaborative platform for undergraduate and early-career researchers to present and refine their work on gender, populism, and conservatism in European politics. Through student-led presentations and discussions, participants critically engaged with the intersections of power, patriarchy, and feminist epistemic justice. This initiative continues FEJUST's mission of broadening EU studies by embracing feminist and decolonial perspectives while nurturing inclusive and intergenerational dialogue.





Panel by Bahçeşehir University Scholars: "Is Anyone Listening?: Relationship Violence, Trauma, and Suicide Among Youth"

Between 15-17 October 2025, as part of the 12th Psychological Counseling and Guidance in Higher Education Congress, the panel "Is Anyone Listening?: Relationship Violence, Trauma, and Suicide Among Youth" brought together Prof. Dr. Azize Nilgün Canel as moderator and speaker, alongside BAU Scholars Prof. Dr. Özlem Karaırmak and Prof. Dr. Ayten Zara. The session addressed relationship violence, trauma, and suicide risk among university youth, drawing attention to the need for early recognition, preventive guidance, and accessible support systems in higher education settings.

The panel contributed directly to SDG 5: Gender Equality by focusing on relationship-based violence, a form of harm closely linked to unequal power relations, gender norms, and the need for safer interpersonal environments. By discussing how violence affects young people's mental health, sense of safety, and capacity to participate fully in university life, the session highlighted the importance of institutional awareness and survivor-sensitive approaches.



The event also related to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being through its emphasis on trauma, suicide prevention, and psychological support, and to SDG 4: Quality Education by underlining the role of universities in creating safe, informed, and responsive learning environments. Through this contribution, Bahçeşehir University supported dialogue on preventing relationship violence and strengthening the protective structures needed for young people's well-being and equality.

Awareness Talks: Strong Women Across Historical and Social Contexts

On 9 March 2025, as part of the Umay Ana Foundation's Awareness Talks programme, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuğba Çelik Korat and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Seda Saraç participated as speakers in an Instagram Live discussion moderated by Deniz Barut. The public session explored the meaning of being a "strong woman" across different historical, social, and geographical contexts, opening space to reflect on how women's experiences are shaped by social expectations, gender roles, and broader conditions of inequality.

The event contributed directly to SDG 5: Gender Equality by encouraging public dialogue on women's agency, resilience, and the social structures that define or restrict women's roles. Its discussion of ecofeminism further connected gender equality with environmental justice, emphasizing how gendered inequalities can intersect with ecological and social challenges.

By addressing how girls and boys learn gender roles, the session also supported SDG 4: Quality Education in a focused way. Through their contribution to this public discussion, Bahçeşehir University academics helped make gender equality more accessible beyond academic settings and supported wider awareness of how cultural narratives shape women's lives.



BAU Scholar on World Women's Day Special Podcast: Increasing the Representation of Women Writers in Literature Teaching

On 6 March 2025, in the World Women's Day Special Podcast, BAU Scholar Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuğba Çelik Korat from the Faculty of Educational Sciences delivered a talk on increasing the representation of women writers in literature teaching. The podcast addressed how literary education can either reproduce or challenge gendered patterns of visibility, particularly when women authors are underrepresented in curricula, reading lists, and classroom discussion.

The contribution supported SDG 5: Gender Equality by highlighting the importance of women's voices in cultural and educational spaces. By advocating for greater inclusion of women writers, the talk encouraged a more balanced understanding of literary history and challenged the gendered exclusions that shape what students encounter as "canonical" knowledge.

The podcast also related to SDG 4: Quality Education by promoting more inclusive teaching practices in literature education. Through this contribution, Bahçeşehir University supported awareness of gender equality in cultural representation and emphasized the role of education in making women's intellectual and artistic production more visible.



Gender Equality Awareness in the Responsible AI Seminar Series

In the 2024-2025 academic year tAs part of Engineering and Natural Sciences Faculty Member Dr. Çakır's responsible AI seminar series at Uğur Schools campuses, women teachers engaged with questions of gender equality in artificial intelligence. The sessions offered an opportunity to consider how AI systems can reflect gender bias in the data used to develop them and in the results they produce. For educators, this topic is relevant both to their own use of AI tools and to the way they discuss technology with colleagues.

Gender equality in AI concerns who helps shape these technologies, whose experiences are represented in them, and whether their outcomes treat people fairly. Through sessions delivered by its academics, Bahçeşehir University supported women teachers' engagement with these questions, encouraging their participation in a field where women are underrepresented. The training also helped position women educators as informed users and contributors when AI tools are introduced into teaching and school life.

The series reflects Bahçeşehir University's commitment to supporting women in underrepresented subject areas by connecting academic expertise with learning opportunities for women teachers. It contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality through its focus on women's participation in AI education and awareness of gender bias in technology. By creating space for women educators to develop their understanding and contribute their perspectives, BAU supported their involvement in discussions about how AI is used in educational settings.



International Women's Day Game Jam: Encouraging Women's Participation in the Male-Dominated Game Development and Technology Education and Sector

Games for Change Türkiye is the Turkish chapter of the global nonprofit organisation Games for Change, which promotes the use of games to advance positive social change. The platform connects game creators, educators, civil society organisations, and other contributors to explore how games can address social challenges through education, public engagement, and creative collaboration. Its activities provide opportunities to connect game development with issues such as gender equality, women's empowerment, and community participation.

The game development industry, particularly its technical disciplines such as game programming, software development, and digital game technologies, remains an area in which women are underrepresented. Gender disparities in these fields can limit women's access to technical education, professional networks, industry experience, and opportunities to contribute to technological innovation. Encouraging women to enter game development is therefore an important component of broader efforts to address gender imbalances in technology and STEM-related disciplines.

Within this framework, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) hosted the International Women's Day Game Jam at its Galata Campus on 7–9 March 2025, in collaboration with Games for Change Türkiye and the Hack the Loop community, with support from İBB Medya AŞ and OGEM.

Participation was exclusively open to women, making the event a targeted outreach initiative designed to encourage women's participation in game design, digital technologies, and game development, fields in which women have historically been underrepresented. Held in celebration of International Women's Day, the event brought together 50 women aged 18–45 from diverse backgrounds for a 48-hour game development experience. Participants worked collaboratively to design and develop games addressing gender equality and women's rights, with guidance and support from expert mentors throughout the creative and technical development process.

By introducing women to game design and development through hands-on experience, expert mentorship, and collaboration with industry professionals, the initiative aimed to inspire prospective female students to consider applying to higher education programmes in game development, software engineering, and related technology fields where women remain underrepresented. Through this targeted outreach activity, BAU sought to broaden women's awareness of academic opportunities and encourage them to pursue educational pathways they might not otherwise have considered.

By providing women with direct experience in a sector where female participation remains limited, the event sought to reduce barriers that can discourage women from pursuing education and careers in game development. The combination of hands-on production, expert mentorship, and collaborative learning offered participants an opportunity to explore technical and creative roles, develop their capabilities, and consider further education or specialised training in game-related disciplines.

The programme also supported the development of competencies relevant to the digital and creative industries, including game design, creative thinking, teamwork, problem-solving, and digital production. For female students and aspiring developers, this practical experience offered an opportunity to strengthen their confidence, develop new skills, and establish connections with peers and professionals in the game development community.

Through collaboration with nonprofit organisations, community networks, and industry-related partners, BAU demonstrated how university outreach and cross-sector partnerships can help address women's underrepresentation in game development and technology. The initiative expanded access to practical learning and mentorship opportunities beyond conventional classroom settings, encouraging women to explore educational pathways and professional opportunities in technical and creative disciplines traditionally dominated by men.

The International Women's Day Game Jam contributes to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by encouraging women's participation in traditionally male-dominated technological and creative fields, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through experiential learning and mentorship, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through cooperation between the University, nonprofit organisations, community networks, and supporting institutions.

The photographs below present highlights from the International Women's Day Game Jam held at BAU's Galata Campus on 7–9 March 2025, alongside the event's official promotional poster. They illustrate women's active participation in collaborative game development, hands-on creative activities, and mentor-supported learning sessions aimed at encouraging greater female representation in the digital gaming education and sector.









Bahçeşehir University's International Dialogue on Femicide and Women's Rights with IBERO University and Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation: Cross-Sectoral Cooperation for Gender Equality and Access to Justice

On 13 May 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through its Faculty of Law, organized the international online panel "Femicide at the Intersection of Law and Resistance: A Transnational Perspective on Türkiye and Mexico", bringing together academic experts, legal scholars, feminist activists, and civil society representatives from Türkiye and Mexico to address femicide, gender-based violence, women's rights, and institutional accountability.

The event featured contributions from Sonia López, a feminist activist; Mariana Marchand from the Human Rights Programme at IBERO University in Mexico; Selime Büyükgöze from Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, a non-governmental organization (NGO) working to combat violence against women; and BAU Faculty of Law academics Berfin Yaşar, Simay Arıcan, and Bérénice K. Schramm.

By connecting Bahçeşehir University, IBERO University, women's rights advocates, and civil society representatives, the initiative created an international platform for cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange on shared challenges related to gender equality, human rights, legal protection, and access to justice. The participation of Mor Çatı brought an important NGO perspective to the discussion, connecting academic and legal analysis with civil society experience in supporting women affected by violence.

The panel examined the relationship between femicide, structural gender inequality, discriminatory social norms, unequal power relations, and gaps in institutional protection. Drawing on experiences from Türkiye and Mexico, speakers explored how legal frameworks, judicial practices, and institutional responses influence women's safety and their ability to exercise fundamental rights.

Particular attention was given to legislation, judicial enforcement, institutional accountability, survivor protection, and civil society advocacy. Discussions highlighted the importance of ensuring that legal protections are not merely established in legislation but are effectively implemented through accessible support mechanisms, responsive institutions, and accountable judicial processes.

The international exchange also enabled participants to examine common challenges and different approaches to preventing femicide, combating impunity, strengthening legal safeguards, and promoting gender equality. By bringing together perspectives from two national contexts, the event encouraged comparative learning and dialogue on how academic institutions, legal professionals, and civil society organizations can contribute to addressing gender-based violence.

Through this initiative, BAU facilitated cross-sectoral engagement between higher education institutions and an NGO, demonstrating the role of universities in creating inclusive spaces for dialogue on complex social and legal challenges. The participation of international academic and civil society representatives strengthened knowledge exchange across institutional and national boundaries, supporting collaborative approaches to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The initiative contributed primarily to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by addressing femicide, violence against women, structural discrimination, and the need for effective protection of women's rights. It also supported SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through dialogue on access to justice, legal protection, institutional accountability, and responses to gender-based violence; SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through international and cross-sectoral engagement among universities, civil society organizations, and women's rights advocates; and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through expert-led public education, international knowledge exchange, and human rights awareness.

The official event poster below documents the international panel held on 13 May 2025, highlighting the participation of Bahçeşehir University, IBERO University, and Mor Çatı Women's Shelter Foundation, alongside feminist activists and legal experts from Türkiye and Mexico. It demonstrates BAU's role in facilitating international academic–NGO dialogue on gender equality, women's rights, femicide prevention, and access to justice.



Advancing Digital Literacy and Women's Empowerment Beyond Campus: Bahçeşehir University's Digital Skills Training for Women-Led Agricultural Cooperatives in Ankara



The image below portrays a keynote speech from the programme, featuring the official poster of the event on the background:

On October 9, 2025, Bahçeşehir University's (BAU) Science Communication Office and CIFAL Istanbul contributed to the design and delivery of the “Digital Skills Development Training for Women-Led Cooperatives”, held in Ankara as part of World Food Day activities. The training was organized within the framework of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Digital Villages Initiative (DVI), in collaboration with the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and Bahçeşehir University.

The initiative aimed to strengthen the digital competencies of women producers, enhance their access to digital markets, and support the sustainable development of rural communities. By delivering educational activities directly to agricultural stakeholders outside the university environment, BAU extended its academic expertise and educational resources to women entrepreneurs and local producers, demonstrating its commitment to community-oriented education, knowledge transfer, and lifelong learning.

The training provided practical, hands-on learning opportunities focused on the effective use of digital tools, online sales and marketing strategies, and social media management. Through applied learning activities, participants explored how digital platforms could be used to promote agricultural products, improve online visibility, communicate with potential customers, and reach broader markets.

A central objective of the programme was to address the digital literacy needs of women-led agricultural cooperatives, particularly in rural communities where access to specialized training and technological resources may be limited. By introducing accessible digital tools and practical communication strategies, the initiative supported participants in developing competencies relevant to their entrepreneurial activities and everyday business operations.

Bahçeşehir University's contribution through its Science Communication Office and CIFAL Istanbul connected academic knowledge with the practical educational needs of women producers. Rather than limiting university-supported learning to formal degree programmes or campus-based activities, the training brought specialized knowledge directly to a community of agricultural entrepreneurs, enabling participants to engage with digital technologies in ways relevant to their professional activities.

The programme also demonstrated the importance of collaboration between universities, international organizations, and public institutions in expanding access to education. By combining FAO's rural development framework, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's engagement with agricultural communities, and BAU's educational contribution, the initiative created a platform for knowledge exchange and practical skills development.

Importantly, the training was designed for women producers and cooperative members outside Bahçeşehir University's enrolled student population. Its emphasis on applied digital competencies and community-based delivery illustrates BAU's approach to educational outreach beyond campus, particularly for groups that can benefit from greater access to professional learning opportunities.

The initiative directly contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by expanding access to practical digital skills training, supporting lifelong learning, and providing community-based educational opportunities beyond formal higher education. Through its focus on accessible and applicable knowledge, the programme demonstrates how universities can support the development of competencies that respond to the needs of different communities.

It also strongly aligns with SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by supporting women's digital competencies, entrepreneurship, and economic participation, and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by addressing digital skills gaps affecting rural communities. The programme further supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through its emphasis on entrepreneurship, digital market access, and sustainable business development.

Furthermore, cooperation among Bahçeşehir University, CIFAL Istanbul, FAO Türkiye, and the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry reflects SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), highlighting the role of multi-stakeholder partnerships in delivering accessible education and supporting inclusive rural development.





Through the Digital Skills Development Training for Women-Led Cooperatives in Ankara, Bahçeşehir University demonstrates its commitment to extending educational opportunities beyond campus, strengthening digital literacy among women producers, and supporting inclusive economic participation through community-based learning. The initiative illustrates how university expertise can contribute to practical capacity-building and sustainable development within rural communities.

The pictures below portray highlights from the Digital Skills Training for Women-Led Agricultural Cooperatives program:

Ninth Annual Istanbul Meeting on Human Capital: Economics of Education, Health, and Worker Productivity

BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

BETAM

giam GALATASARAY UNIVERSITY ECONOMIC RESEARCH CENTER

LSU Department of Economics

NINTH ANNUAL ISTANBUL MEETING ON HUMAN CAPITAL:
ECONOMICS OF EDUCATION, HEALTH, AND WORKER PRODUCTIVITY

Organizers:

Naci Mocan, Ozan Bakış, Ayça Akarçay

Friday, October 24, 2025

Bahçeşehir University, Beşiktaş Campus- Block A Conference Hall

8:30–8:50	Welcome Coffee
8:50–9:00	Opening Remarks

The Ninth Annual Istanbul Meeting on Human Capital, held on 24 October 2025, brought together economists and researchers to examine how education, health, skills and labour-market conditions shape worker productivity and long-term economic development.

Hosted at Bahçeşehir University's South Campus and organised by Bahçeşehir University, the Bahçeşehir University Center for Economic and Social Research (BETAM), the World Bank Office of the Chief Economist for the Europe and Central Asia Region and the University of Ottawa, the meeting created an international forum for presenting research, receiving expert feedback and discussing evidence relevant to human-capital policy. Its central focus reflected a fundamental dimension of SDG 8: sustainable economic growth depends not only on investment and production, but also on a healthy, skilled and productive workforce with equitable opportunities to participate in employment.

The programme approached human capital through several interconnected stages of life. Research on the expansion of caesarean-section use in Türkiye examined changes in neonatal mortality, drawing attention to how healthcare access and early-life health outcomes can influence individual well-being and later human-capital development. Good health from the beginning of life provides an essential foundation for educational attainment, labour-force participation and productive employment. This strand therefore connected SDG 8 with SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being, demonstrating that health policy and economic productivity cannot be considered separately.

A further session focused directly on young workers in Türkiye, examining micro-enterprises, workplace training and employer demand for skills. This subject is especially relevant to SDG 8 because micro-enterprises constitute an important source of employment, yet young people's prospects within them depend on access to training, opportunities to develop applicable skills and alignment between education and labour-market demand. By encouraging evidence-based discussion of these issues, the meeting addressed the conditions needed to improve youth employability, facilitate the transition from education to work and strengthen productivity in smaller businesses. It also highlighted the importance of investing in learning within the workplace so that young employees can adapt to changing occupational and technological requirements.

The relationship between schooling and maternal employment was explored through research on the effects of school entry. By examining how children's participation in education can influence mothers' ability to engage in paid work, the session drew attention to the close connection between education systems, care responsibilities and women's labour-force participation. Accessible schooling can have wider economic effects by reducing constraints on parents—particularly women—and enabling more equal access to employment and income. The programme also included research based on PISA 2022 examining behavioural factors associated with student performance, contributing to discussion of how motivation, attitudes and learning outcomes affect the skills that young people carry into further education and working life. These themes linked SDG 8 with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 5: Gender Equality.

Friday, October 24, 2025

Bahçeşehir University, Beşiktaş Campus- Block A Conference Hall

8:30–8:50	**Welcome Coffee**
8:50–9:00	**Opening Remarks**
9:00–10:00	**Okan Akarsu, Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye** "Weather Anomalies, Climate Risk, and Inflation Expectations of Household and Firms" with Yusuf Emre Akgündüz (Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye), Seyit Mümin Cilasun (TED University) and Saide Simin Bayraktar (Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye)
10:00–11:00	**Selcen Çakır, Boğaziçi University** "Hidden Pay, Random Matches"
11:00–11:15	**Coffee Break**
11:15–12:15	**Muhammet Enes Çıraklı, Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye** "Heterogenous Convergence in the Public-Private Wage Gap: Identifying the Impact of Turkiye's 2016 Minimum Wage Increase" with Müşerref Küçükbayrak (Central Bank of the Republic of Türkiye)
12:15–13:30	**Lunch**
13:30–14:30	**Mustafa Özer, Kilis Yedi Aralık University** "Does Immigration Affect Natives' Mental Health? Causal Evidence from Forced Syrian Migration to Turkey" with Jan Fidrmuc (Université de Lille)

Through these complementary research areas, the meeting contributed to SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by advancing understanding of the factors that determine workforce participation, skills formation and productivity. Its emphasis on youth training, employer skill needs, women's employment and the health and educational foundations of human capital supported a multidimensional view of economic development in which growth is strengthened by investment in people. By convening researchers from different institutions and enabling each paper to be evaluated by an expert discussant, Bahçeşehir University and BETAM also promoted rigorous knowledge exchange capable of informing labour-market, education and social policy. The international and institutional cooperation underpinning the meeting further supported SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, while reinforcing the University's role in connecting economic research with the pursuit of more productive, inclusive and resilient labour markets.

Bahcesehir University- and the Association of Real Estate Investors (GYODER): "Construction Sector and Labor Dynamics in Turkey " Research Report

The image below shows a screenshot from the official website of GYODER displaying the report 'Construction Sector and Labor Force Dynamics: Türkiye developed in collaboration with Bahcesehir University.



During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) contributed to SDG-related research through its collaboration with the Association of Real Estate Investors (GYODER), a leading Turkish non-governmental organization (NGO) representing stakeholders in the real estate and construction sectors.

The collaboration was undertaken through BAU's Center for Economic and Social Research (BETAM) and resulted in the research report "Construction Sector and Labour Dynamics: Türkiye " (İnşaat Sektörü ve İş Gücü Dinamikleri: Türkiye 2024). The study examined structural challenges and emerging opportunities within Türkiye's construction industry, one of the country's major sources of economic activity and employment.

Combining BAU's academic research expertise with GYODER's sectoral knowledge and stakeholder engagement, the study investigated workforce composition, employment patterns, labour productivity, skills development, and the effects of digital transformation on the construction sector. Drawing on comparative international data and sector-specific insights, the research provided an evidence-based assessment of challenges affecting the industry's workforce and long-term development.

A central dimension of the research concerned the relationship between employment quality, workforce skills, gender equality, and sustainable economic growth. By examining these interconnected issues, the study contributed to a better understanding of how the construction industry can strengthen labour market participation, improve working conditions, and respond to changing technological and economic demands.

The BAU–GYODER collaboration demonstrates the role of university–NGO research partnerships in generating knowledge relevant to the Sustainable Development Goals. Through BETAM, BAU contributed academic analysis and research capacity, while GYODER provided an important connection to the sector and its practical challenges. This cooperation helped bridge academic research, industry experience, and evidence-informed approaches to sustainable development.

The research also generated findings relevant to labour market strategies, vocational education, inclusive employment, and sectoral transformation, providing a knowledge base that can inform future discussions among researchers, civil society organizations, industry stakeholders, and policymakers.

The initiative primarily contributes to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) through research on employment dynamics, productivity, and working conditions; SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through attention to gender disparities and inclusive workforce participation; SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through the examination of digital transformation and sectoral development; and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through collaborative research between academia and an NGO.

By conducting research in partnership with GYODER, Bahçeşehir University strengthens its contribution to SDG-oriented knowledge production and demonstrates how academic institutions and civil society organizations can work together to address economic, social, and sustainability challenges through evidence-based research.

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The images below show the cover page and table of contents of the report 'Construction Sector and Labor Force Dynamics: Türkiye'24,' prepared through a collaboration between Bahcesehir University and GYODER, presenting national research on labor dynamics and sustainable industry development.

Bahçeşehir University Games for Change Türkiye Festival 2025: International NGO Partnership and Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Sustainable Cities, Climate Action and Social Impact

On 6–7 December 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through its BAU Game Lab (BUG Lab), organized and hosted the Games for Change Türkiye Festival 2025 at its Beşiktaş Campus, in collaboration with Games for Change Türkiye, the Turkish chapter of Games for Change Global, an international non-profit organization founded in 2004 that promotes social impact through games and interactive media.

Games for Change Türkiye was established in 2024 within BAU BUG Lab, creating an institutional connection between the University and the international Games for Change network. At the global level, Games for Change has developed collaborations with international organizations, including UNESCO, UNICEF, and the World Food Programme (WFP), demonstrating the network's broader engagement with education, social development, and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Held under the theme "City and Play: Gaming the City, Modding the Future," the festival brought together over 500 participants, including more than 100 international attendees from 10 countries, providing a platform for dialogue among academia, public institutions, civil society, international networks, urban planning professionals, and the private sector.

The programme featured contributions from the Istanbul Planning Agency (İPA), alongside urban design and participatory planning organizations such as Superpool and Play the City, as well as international academics, game developers, and creative industry representatives. Private-sector sponsors, including Tencent, TaleWorlds Entertainment, Masomo, and Monster Notebook, further supported the initiative, demonstrating cooperation between higher education and the technology and gaming industries.

Through expert panels, presentations, interactive discussions, and game exhibitions, participants explored sustainable cities, climate action, gender equality, cultural heritage preservation, environmental awareness, and inclusive community development. Sessions on participatory public-space transformation, urban planning, and game-based approaches to social challenges demonstrated how collaboration among public institutions, academia, civil society, and the creative industries can generate innovative solutions to complex urban and societal challenges. The programme highlighted the potential of games and digital technologies to strengthen community participation, promote sustainability awareness, and support more inclusive and resilient cities.

By bringing together an international non-profit network, public-sector urban planning stakeholders, academic institutions, civil society actors, and private-sector partners, BAU facilitated cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange on SDG-related challenges. The programme connected different forms of expertise and encouraged collaborative approaches to sustainable cities, inclusive communities, and social innovation.

Importantly, BAU's engagement extended beyond hosting a single event. Through BUG Lab's institutional role in Games for Change Türkiye, the University contributed to an ongoing international collaboration linking academic research, public policy, civil society initiatives, and the creative industries in support of sustainable development.

The initiative contributed primarily to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by strengthening international and cross-sectoral partnerships. It also supported SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) through participatory urban development, SDG 13 (Climate Action) through sustainability-focused discussions, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through social inclusion, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through public knowledge exchange and innovative learning approaches.

he official festival programme below documents the Games for Change Türkiye Festival 2025, highlighting expert panels and discussions on sustainable cities, participatory urban planning, gender equality, diversity, community building, and the role of games in addressing social and environmental challenges.

The three photographs below document the Games for Change Türkiye Festival 2025 held at Bahçeşehir University's Beşiktaş Campus, illustrating the event's international participation, expert discussions, and interactive activities that brought together stakeholders from academia, civil society, public institutions, and the creative industries to explore sustainability and social impact through games.







Bahçeşehir University and SheWorks: Skills-Based Career Preparation Programme for Displaced Women

The photograph below shows programme participants during the face-to-face training sessions.



During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), in collaboration with SheWorks and the Bahçeşehir University Center of Migration and Urban Studies (BAUMUS), delivered the Skills-Based Career Preparation Social Responsibility Programme between 18 August and 5 September 2025, providing face-to-face career development training for displaced women from Syria and the MENA region residing in Türkiye.

Organized over three weeks in three separate cohorts, each receiving five days of training, the programme focused on self-awareness, career planning, CV writing, LinkedIn profile development, professional communication, and interview preparation. Individual mentorship complemented the sessions, helping participants identify their strengths, develop career goals, and prepare for employment opportunities.

By extending practical career education to women facing additional barriers to employment, BAU strengthened its commitment to inclusive education, women's empowerment, and community engagement. The initiative contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing accessible skills-based learning, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by supporting women's professional development, SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by improving employment readiness, and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by promoting more equitable access to career opportunities.

The image below presents a sample certificate issued to participants upon completion of the programme.



Bahcesehir University 2025 Legacies of Women Forum – Istanbul: Inspiring Young Women to Pursue Education and Careers in Underrepresented Fields



Bahçeşehir University (BAU) hosted the 2025 Legacies of Women Forum – Istanbul at its Fazıl Say Conference Hall in collaboration with the Global Summit of Women, BAU Branding, CIFAL Istanbul, and UNITAR. Bringing together prominent women leaders from different industries, the forum aimed to inspire young women to pursue educational and professional pathways in fields and leadership positions where women remain underrepresented, particularly technology, business management, and corporate leadership.

The forum opened with remarks by Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu, Rector of Bahçeşehir University, followed by Irene Natividad, President of the Global Summit of Women, who chaired the discussion. Natividad presented global data on women's representation in management and emphasised the importance of increasing the visibility of women leaders and connecting younger generations with successful female role models.

The panel featured Nazlı Altıpat, CEO of Estée Lauder Companies Türkiye; Işıl Kılınç Gürtuna, CEO of IBM Türkiye; Bahar Uçanlar, CEO of Diageo Türkiye; and Eda Uluca Özcan, CEO of Pluxee Türkiye. The speakers shared their professional journeys, challenges, and experiences in leadership, while discussing artificial intelligence, technological transformation, evolving leadership models, and the future of business.

By introducing female students to accomplished women in senior positions, particularly in technology-driven industries, the forum sought to challenge gender stereotypes and encourage young women to consider academic pathways leading to fields in which women remain underrepresented. The opportunity to engage with successful female role models helped broaden students' awareness of educational and career possibilities, including technology-related disciplines and business leadership.

The discussions also addressed the glass ceiling and structural barriers to women's advancement, highlighting the importance of equal access to professional networks, mentorship, and decision-making opportunities. Through this university-hosted outreach initiative and its international partnerships, BAU promoted greater awareness of women's potential in traditionally male-dominated professional environments.

The forum contributed to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by promoting women's representation and leadership, SDG 4 (Quality Education) by inspiring students to explore broader educational pathways, and SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by addressing equal opportunities for women's professional advancement.

The photographs below present highlights from the 2025 Legacies of Women Forum – Istanbul, showcasing the participating women leaders and discussions on gender equality, leadership, and career opportunities.

The pictures below display highlights from the 2025 Legacies of Women Forum:





Sexually Transmitted Infections and Prevention Methods



In the 2024-2025 academic year, the event “Sexually Transmitted Infections and Prevention Methods” at Bahçeşehir University provided participants with comprehensive information on sexually transmitted infections (STIs), including transmission routes, symptoms and potential health consequences when left untreated. The programme emphasised evidence-based prevention methods such as safe sexual practices, regular screening, vaccination where available and open communication between partners.

Through the event, Bahçeşehir University supported access to accurate sexual and reproductive health information, presenting it as an integral component of overall health and well-being. By addressing misconceptions, stigma, embarrassment and misinformation, the session sought to reduce barriers to testing, treatment and professional advice. It also highlighted the importance of confidential and non-judgmental healthcare services, connecting health education with individuals’ ability to make informed decisions about their bodies.



The initiative reflected Bahçeşehir University's commitment to health awareness and gender equality. It contributed directly to SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being by promoting STI prevention, early diagnosis and informed health behaviours. It also supported SDG 5: Gender Equality by strengthening access to sexual and reproductive health information, supporting bodily autonomy and drawing attention to the need for equitable, stigma-free preventive healthcare for people of all genders.

PLURIEX Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence: Plural Knowledge, Inclusive EU Governance and International Cooperation



Established at Bahçeşehir University, PLURIEX is a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence designed to advance epistemic pluriversality in European Union studies. It expands conventional approaches to Europe by integrating interdisciplinary expertise, diverse intellectual traditions and perspectives historically marginalised in the production of European knowledge. Through teaching, research, expert panels, policy seminars, early-career researcher workshops, writing retreats and the participatory Youth Voices platform, PLURIEX connects students and researchers with policymakers, public administrators, EU practitioners, regulatory experts and civil society actors. Its work addresses areas including EU–Türkiye relations, migration governance, digital transformation, energy transition, environmental regulation and regulatory harmonisation.

PLURIEX contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by challenging male-dominated narratives in EU studies and placing feminist scholarship, gender politics and epistemic justice within its teaching and research agenda. Building on BAU's Jean Monnet Chair on Feminist Epistemic Justice in the EU and Beyond (FEJUST), the Centre continues the Gender Politics in the EU course, which examines the relationship between gender, nationalism and policymaking. By incorporating feminist perspectives and increasing the visibility of women and other underrepresented knowledge producers, PLURIEX addresses not only women's participation in academic life but also the gendered structures that influence whose knowledge is recognised in political and institutional decision-making.

The Centre supports SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by expanding the representation of marginalised, overlooked and non-European perspectives within academic and public discussion of Europe. PLURIEX deliberately includes the scholarship and experiences of Black, Muslim, Asian, Latin American, African and other underrepresented communities, connecting European debates with perspectives from the Global South. Its open and non-hierarchical Youth Voices platform further enables students, young researchers, activists and engaged young citizens—including those not formally affiliated with the project—to contribute policy reflections, research-based outputs and creative work. Through these mechanisms, BAU reduces inequalities in knowledge production by treating young people and historically excluded groups as active producers of knowledge rather than solely as recipients of established narratives.

PLURIEX contributes to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening inclusive, evidence-informed and plural approaches to governance and policymaking. The Centre brings EU experts from Türkiye's ministries, regulatory bodies and local government into dialogue with students, scholars and practitioners, providing practical insight into policy implementation, public administration and regulatory alignment. Its courses and policy-oriented activities examine how technical experts, bureaucratic institutions and sectoral policymakers shape EU governance and EU–Türkiye relations. By connecting research with institutional practice and creating space for diverse voices to engage with democracy, inequality and public policy, PLURIEX supports more participatory policymaking and stronger links between academic evidence and public institutions.



PLURIEX also advances SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through its position as a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and its engagement with the wider European knowledge and policy community. Bahçeşehir University uses the Centre to connect higher education with EU practitioners, Turkish ministries, regulatory bodies, local government, civil society organisations and researchers from multiple disciplines. Collaborative research, expert panels, policy seminars, writing retreats and PLURIEX Dialogues create channels for sharing expertise and developing joint approaches to EU–Türkiye cooperation. By combining European Union-supported academic engagement with cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, PLURIEX strengthens cooperation among academic, governmental and societal stakeholders in Türkiye and Europe.

BAU's Contribution to STEM4HER: Increasing Diversity and Empowering Girls and Young People in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



Bahçeşehir University (BAU) contributed to the STEM4HER event at Kadıköy Anadolu İmam Hatip High School through the participation of Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı, Head of BAU's Department of Sociology and Founding Director of TOSAM, as a panellist. The event aimed to promote gender diversity and encourage girls and young women to pursue educational and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), fields in which women remain underrepresented. The event also featured contributions from Mahinur Özdemir Göktaş, Tuğba Işık Ercan, and Celile Eren Ökten, bringing together academic and public-sector perspectives.

During the session "Women and Girls in STEM Education and the Forgotten History of Women Scientists," Prof. Narlı highlighted the achievements of women scientists whose contributions have historically been overlooked. By introducing female students to inspiring role models, she challenged gender stereotypes surrounding scientific careers and encouraged girls to recognise their own potential in traditionally male-dominated disciplines.

Prof. Narlı also emphasised the importance of mentorship in overcoming barriers to women's participation in STEM, highlighting how guidance, encouragement, and access to professional networks can support young women in making informed educational and career choices.

Through this school-based outreach activity, BAU sought to inspire prospective female university applicants to consider STEM-related degree programmes and encourage applications to academic disciplines in which women are underrepresented. By connecting female students with academic role models and highlighting pathways into science and technology, the initiative contributed to broadening their educational aspirations and confidence in pursuing STEM studies.

The event supported SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by challenging gender stereotypes and encouraging women's participation in underrepresented disciplines, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by promoting more inclusive access to STEM education.





Encouraging Women's Participation in Animation: ANİKA and CIFAL Istanbul and Bahcesehir University's "Share What You Know" Initiative

The visual below displays the official promotional poster of the Share What You Know event:



ANİKA – Women of Animation in Türkiye is an association and WIA Collective dedicated to increasing the visibility and recognition of women's contributions to the animation industry, a field in which women have historically been underrepresented. Through professional profiles, interviews, archives, and other resources, ANİKA highlights women's achievements as writers, designers, producers, and creative professionals, challenging gender stereotypes and promoting greater female participation in animation.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, CIFAL Istanbul, hosted by Bahçeşehir University (BAU) and affiliated with UNITAR, collaborated with ANİKA to organise the first "Bildiğini Anlat" ("Share What You Know") event, bringing together 23 members and guests, including women students and emerging animators.

The event featured Arzu Demirel, screenwriter and author, and Begüm Varbil, producer and designer, who shared their professional experiences and provided guidance to women interested in pursuing education and careers in animation.

Demirel explored the influence of Turkish literature, poetry, theatre, dramaturgy, and cultural experiences on animated storytelling, drawing on the film Alma and her experiences in Latin America. Her contribution demonstrated how different educational backgrounds and creative disciplines can provide pathways into animation.

Varbil discussed her experiences in the gaming and animation industries, addressing audience engagement, production budgets, industry decision-making, and the use of Anatolian folklore in storytelling. She also offered practical advice on protecting financial interests and developing sustainable creative careers.

By connecting women students and aspiring animators with experienced female professionals, the initiative sought to inspire prospective female students to consider higher education and specialised training in animation, digital design, and related creative technology disciplines where women remain underrepresented. The exchange provided visible female role models, practical industry knowledge, and professional connections that could help participants identify educational pathways and overcome barriers to entering the field.

Through this collaboration with a professional women's association, BAU and CIFAL Istanbul supported outreach aimed at encouraging greater female participation in traditionally male-dominated creative and digital disciplines, contributing to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through women's empowerment, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through knowledge sharing and mentorship, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through institutional and community collaboration.

The pictures below portray highlights from the event:







BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY