BAU BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

SDG 16: PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



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 1000-12000 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
- 89 th in Partnership 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.

Governance Model and Administrative Structure of Bahçeşehir University

Bahçeşehir University (BAU), operating under the provisions of the Higher Education Law No. 2547, has adopted a governance model grounded in the principle of institutional sustainability. This model ensures transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness in all decision-making processes, aligning institutional management with national regulations and global best practices in higher education governance.

In accordance with its Main Regulation, BAU's governance structure consists of the Board of Trustees, Rectorate, University Senate, University Executive Board, academic units (Faculties, Graduate School, Vocational Schools, Conservatory), Research and Application Centers, and administrative departments including the General Secretariat, Directorates, and Offices. The organizational structure is reviewed regularly, updated as institutional needs evolve, and published on the university's official website to ensure public transparency and accessibility.

To strengthen participatory governance, the University Senate at BAU is composed not only of academic representatives (faculty deans, institute directors, and elected faculty members) but also includes elected representatives from undergraduate and graduate students as well as non-academic staff. This inclusive structure ensures that university-wide decisions reflect the perspectives, needs, and rights of all community members, fostering a culture of shared responsibility and institutional dialogue.

The Board of Trustees plays a central role in sustaining institutional quality standards and long-term strategic development. It collaborates closely with the Rectorate in planning, monitoring, and evaluating the university's strategic goals, while maintaining open channels of communication with academic and administrative leaders through regular meetings.

A distinctive feature of BAU's governance model is the Deans' Council, which brings together faculty deans and the Dean of Students to enhance interdepartmental coordination and institutional synergy. Chaired by the Rector, the Council meets regularly to discuss key topics such as quality assurance, accreditation, and digital transformation—promoting agile, transparent, and evidence-based decision-making across the institution.

In 2024, BAU updated its Quality Assurance Directive to further enhance stakeholder participation in decision-making processes. The appointment of new Rector's Advisors in areas such as international relations and university–industry collaboration and social impact has also reinforced the strategic and operational capacity of the governance model.

BAU's commitment to transparent, ethical, and inclusive governance is further demonstrated through its collaboration with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) via CIFAL Istanbul, one of 33 centers within the UNITAR Global Network. CIFAL Istanbul contributes to BAU's governance and sustainability efforts by promoting institutional integrity, capacity-building, and initiatives supporting the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Through its Quality Assurance System and institutional guides—including the Quality Assurance Manual, Institutional Accreditation Program Handbook, Employee and Student Handbooks, and Process Management Guide—Bahçeşehir University ensures that all academic and administrative functions operate in alignment with the principles of participation, accountability, and ethical leadership, strongly contributing to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Bahçeşehir University Institutional Framework and Governance Policies

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) operates within a robust institutional governance and ethical policy framework that ensures transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and academic integrity across all university operations. These policies collectively reinforce BAU's commitment to strong institutions, justice, equality, and responsible leadership, in alignment with Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

The following institutional policies—adopted and periodically reviewed by the University Senate —guide the university's academic, administrative, and social governance. Each policy contributes to maintaining a fair, secure, and rights-based academic environment, while promoting ethical conduct, gender equality, and participatory decision-making.

These represent selected examples of Bahçeşehir University's comprehensive policy framework, which encompasses a wide range of regulations and procedures designed to ensure transparency, ethical governance, and institutional integrity across all operations:

- Bahçeşehir University Academic Freedom and Rights Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Gender Equality and Inclusion Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Lifelong Learning Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Research Misconduct Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Research and Development Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Conflict of Interest Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Organized Crime, Fraud, Bribery, and Corruption Prevention Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Education and Training Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Ethics Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Health, Safety, and Security Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Human Resources Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Quality Assurance Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Financial Procedures Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Stakeholder Engagement and Participation Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Risk Management Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Travel and Expenditure Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Supply Chain and Incoming Funds Management Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Community Engagement Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Internationalization Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Distance Education Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Governance and Leadership Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Public Information Policy
- Bahçeşehir University Information and Communication Security Policy

These policies are publicly available and demonstrate BAU's institutional dedication to the rule of law, transparency, equality, ethical leadership, and effective governance, ensuring that the university operates with integrity and accountability in all its academic and administrative processes.



BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY

ACADEMIC FREEDOM AND RIGHTS POLICY

At Bahçeşehir University (BAU), academic freedom refers to the institutional environment that enables academicians to conduct teaching, research, and scholarly activities without undue interference. This freedom is a fundamental element of the University's mission to generate new knowledge and effectively transmit accumulated understanding to students and society. Academic freedom is inseparable from academic responsibility, which requires all members of the University community to express their views respectfully, engage constructively with others, and conduct academic work with integrity, professionalism, and adherence to ethical principles. BAU is committed to enabling individuals to freely pursue intellectual inquiry while also respecting the rights of others to learn, research, and contribute to the academic mission.

Policy Statement

Bahçeşehir University affirms its unwavering commitment to the protection and promotion of academic freedom and freedom of expression. These principles are foundational to the pursuit of knowledge, critical thinking, and scholarly excellence. BAU ensures that academic freedom is respected and upheld for all members of its community including academicians, researchers, staff, and students in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of Türkiye and internationally recognized standards on academic rights and freedoms.

Definition of Academic Freedom

At BAU, academic freedom encompasses the rights of individuals to teach, research, publish, and express ideas freely, without institutional censorship or arbitrary restriction. This freedom is essential for the advancement of science, innovation, and intellectual development.

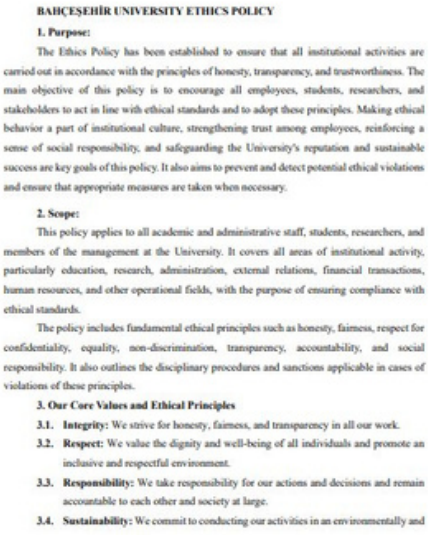
Academic freedom includes, but is not limited to:

(a) The right of academic staff to teach, conduct research, and disseminate research findings.

(b) The right of academic staff and students to engage in intellectual inquiry and public discourse within their fields of study.

(c) The right to express opinions on institutional policies, academic matters, or issues of public concern.

(d) The right of academic staff to participate in academic, professional, and



BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY ETHICS POLICY

1. Purpose:

The Ethics Policy has been established to ensure that all institutional activities are carried out in accordance with the principles of honesty, transparency, and trustworthiness. The main objective of this policy is to encourage all employees, students, researchers, and stakeholders to act in line with ethical standards and to adopt these principles. Making ethical behavior a part of institutional culture, strengthening trust among employees, reinforcing a sense of social responsibility, and safeguarding the University's reputation and sustainable success are key goals of this policy. It also aims to prevent and detect potential ethical violations and ensure that appropriate measures are taken when necessary.

2. Scope:

This policy applies to all academic and administrative staff, students, researchers, and members of the management at the University. It covers all areas of institutional activity, particularly education, research, administration, external relations, financial transactions, human resources, and other operational fields, with the purpose of ensuring compliance with ethical standards.

The policy includes fundamental ethical principles such as honesty, fairness, respect for confidentiality, equality, non-discrimination, transparency, accountability, and social responsibility. It also outlines the disciplinary procedures and sanctions applicable in cases of violations of these principles.

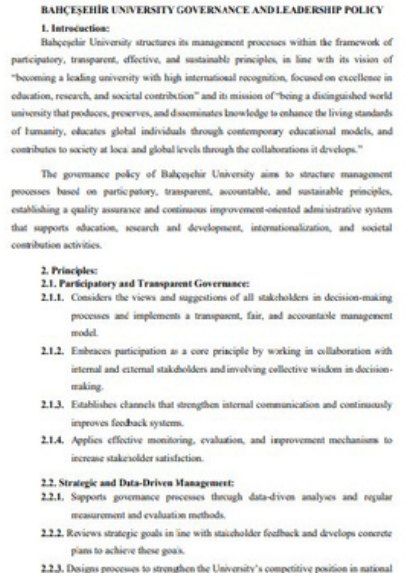
3. Our Core Values and Ethical Principles

3.1. Integrity: We strive for honesty, fairness, and transparency in all our work.

3.2. Respect: We value the dignity and well-being of all individuals and promote an inclusive and respectful environment.

3.3. Responsibility: We take responsibility for our actions and decisions and remain accountable to each other and society at large.

3.4. Sustainability: We commit to conducting our activities in an environmentally and



BAHÇEŞEHİR UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE AND LEADERSHIP POLICY

1. Introcuction:

Bahçeşehir University structures its management processes within the framework of participatory, transparent, effective, and sustainable principles, in line with its vision of "becoming a leading university with high international recognition, focused on excellence in education, research, and societal contribution" and its mission of "being a distinguished world university that produces, preserves, and disseminates knowledge to enhance the living standards of humanity, educates global individuals through contemporary educational models, and contributes to society at local and global levels through the collaborations it develops."

The governance policy of Bahçeşehir University aims to structure management processes based on participatory, transparent, accountable, and sustainable principles, establishing a quality assurance and continuous improvement-oriented administrative system that supports education, research and development, internationalization, and societal contribution activities.

2. Principles:

2.1. Participatory and Transparent Governance:

2.1.1. Considers the views and suggestions of all stakeholders in decision-making processes and implements a transparent, fair, and accountable management model.

2.1.2. Embraces participation as a core principle by working in collaboration with internal and external stakeholders and involving collective wisdom in decision-making.

2.1.3. Establishes channels that strengthen internal communication and continuously improves feedback systems.

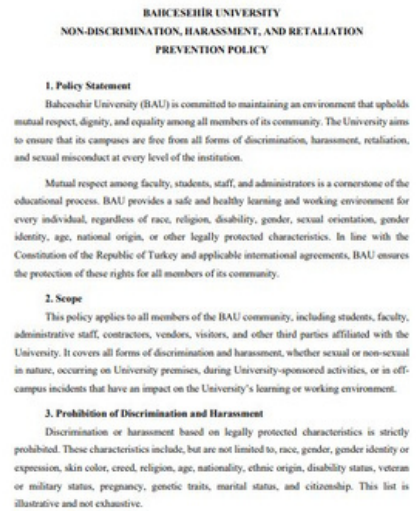
2.1.4. Applies effective monitoring, evaluation, and improvement mechanisms to increase stakeholder satisfaction.

2.2. Strategic and Data-Driven Management:

2.2.1. Supports governance processes through data-driven analyses and regular measurement and evaluation methods.

2.2.2. Reviews strategic goals in line with stakeholder feedback and develops concrete plans to achieve these goals.

2.2.3. Designs processes to strengthen the University's competitive position in national



BAHCESEHİR UNIVERSITY

NON-DISCRIMINATION, HARASSMENT, AND RETALIATION PREVENTION POLICY

1. Policy Statement

Bahcesehir University (BAU) is committed to maintaining an environment that upholds mutual respect, dignity, and equality among all members of its community. The University aims to ensure that its campuses are free from all forms of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, and sexual misconduct at every level of the institution.

Mutual respect among faculty, students, staff, and administrators is a cornerstone of the educational process. BAU provides a safe and healthy learning and working environment for every individual, regardless of race, religion, disability, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, national origin, or other legally protected characteristics. In line with the Constitution of the Republic of Turkey and applicable international agreements, BAU ensures the protection of these rights for all members of its community.

2. Scope

This policy applies to all members of the BAU community, including students, faculty, administrative staff, contractors, vendors, visitors, and other third parties affiliated with the University. It covers all forms of discrimination and harassment, whether sexual or non-sexual in nature, occurring on University premises, during University-sponsored activities, or in off-campus incidents that have an impact on the University's learning or working environment.

3. Prohibition of Discrimination and Harassment

Discrimination or harassment based on legally protected characteristics is strictly prohibited. These characteristics include, but are not limited to, race, gender, gender identity or expression, skin color, creed, religion, age, nationality, ethnic origin, disability status, veteran or military status, pregnancy, genetic traits, marital status, and citizenship. This list is illustrative and not exhaustive.

BAU Activities and Initiatives Supporting SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) actively contributes to the realization of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which promotes peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and aims to strengthen institutional transparency, accountability, and participation at all levels.

In line with its governance philosophy grounded in ethical leadership, equality, and democratic participation, BAU implements diverse programs, research projects, and educational initiatives that foster strong institutions, civic engagement, social responsibility, and rule of law awareness.

The following sections highlight key activities, collaborations, and capacity-building efforts carried out during the 2024–2025 academic year, showcasing BAU's ongoing commitment to advancing inclusive governance, institutional resilience, and the development of socially responsible citizens through education and community engagement.

Promoting Lifelong Learning, Political Literacy and Civic Engagement: Bahçeşehir University Politics School 2025 Certificate Programme







Bahçeşehir University continued its longstanding commitment to civic education and lifelong learning through the Politics School 25 (Siyaset Okulu 25) Certificate Programme, organized annually by the University's International Leadership Research and Application Center (ULMER) Government Leadership School. Established as a pioneering educational initiative in Türkiye, the programme brings together distinguished political figures, academics, diplomats, economists, business leaders, and public intellectuals to share their knowledge and experiences with participants. Over the years, Politics School has hosted presidents, prime ministers, ministers, ambassadors, members of parliament, and influential experts, providing a platform for examining political institutions, governance, leadership, and contemporary social challenges. The 2025 edition commenced on 1 March 2025 at Bahçeşehir University's South Campus, Faculty of Law, continuing the programme's tradition of connecting academic knowledge with practical insights from individuals experienced in public administration and decision-making.

A defining feature of Politics School is its inclusive and publicly accessible educational model. The programme is open to individuals of all ages, educational backgrounds, and professional experiences, without restricting participation to Bahçeşehir University students or members of the academic community. Anyone interested in politics, governance, public affairs, or leadership can apply through the programme's registration process, making it an important opportunity for lifelong learning and civic education beyond formal degree programmes. Conducted in Turkish during March and April, the programme consists of weekly Saturday sessions covering different aspects of political history, contemporary governance, and leadership. Each session includes an interactive question-and-answer component, allowing participants to engage directly with experienced speakers, raise questions, and develop a deeper understanding of political and societal issues.

The programme adopts an interdisciplinary and practice-oriented educational approach, combining theoretical knowledge with firsthand perspectives from individuals who have participated in political, diplomatic, economic, and administrative decision-making. Rather than examining Türkiye's political history and contemporary developments solely through academic frameworks, Politics School encourages participants to understand the causes, consequences, and broader implications of major political events and institutional decisions. This educational model aims to strengthen political literacy, critical thinking, analytical reasoning, and informed civic participation while encouraging participants to evaluate public affairs through objective information and evidence-based discussion. Participants who meet the 80% attendance requirement and successfully complete the final assessment are eligible to receive a certificate. Since Politics School 22, programme certificates have also been verifiable through Türkiye's e-Government system, providing formal recognition of participants' educational achievements.

The initiative makes a significant contribution to SDG 4: Quality Education by expanding access to continuing education, promoting lifelong learning, and providing structured educational opportunities for individuals beyond the university's enrolled student population.

Furthermore, Politics School strongly aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by promoting public understanding of political institutions, democratic governance, civic responsibilities, and decision-making processes. Through discussions involving policymakers, academics, and experienced public representatives, the programme encourages informed engagement with public affairs and strengthens participants' capacity to critically examine institutional practices and societal challenges. Its emphasis on objective knowledge, open dialogue, and direct interaction with experts supports the development of an informed and civically engaged society. By sustaining this educational initiative on an annual basis, Bahçeşehir University reinforces its institutional commitment to quality education, public awareness, and the development of knowledgeable individuals capable of participating thoughtfully and responsibly in democratic and civic life.

Bahçeşehir University School of Diplomacy Certificate Programme



During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through its International Leadership Practice and Research Center (ULMER) and the Government Leadership School, continued to deliver the BAU Diplomat School, a long-standing educational initiative designed to strengthen the knowledge, professional competencies, and policymaking capacities of policymakers, diplomats, public officials, senior administrators, and professionals engaged in international relations and public governance.

Celebrating its 15th year, the Diplomat School serves two complementary institutional purposes: providing structured education, professional upskilling, and capacity building for policymakers and public officials, while also offering a neutral, inclusive, and academically guided platform where individuals representing different political perspectives, ideologies, institutional affiliations, and professional backgrounds can engage in open and constructive dialogue.

Over the years, the programme has brought together ministers, ambassadors, members of parliament, senior bureaucrats, policy advisors, academics, and public-sector professionals, creating opportunities for individuals with different political identities and approaches to public policy to exchange knowledge, challenge assumptions, and examine complex national and international issues within a shared academic environment.

A defining feature of the BAU Diplomat School is its commitment to political neutrality and intellectual openness. Rather than promoting a particular political position or institutional agenda, the programme provides a non-partisan academic setting in which participants with differing and sometimes conflicting viewpoints can discuss sensitive, complex, and contested policy issues. The University facilitates respectful disagreement, constructive debate, and the exchange of diverse perspectives, supporting an environment in which participants can express their views and engage with opposing arguments without political or ideological exclusion.

This approach is particularly important when addressing subjects such as international conflicts, diplomatic crises, humanitarian challenges, climate and energy policy, and changing geopolitical relationships, where perspectives may differ significantly. By bringing different political stakeholders into the same educational and safe, neutral discussion environment, BAU supports informed dialogue across political and institutional boundaries and contributes to mutual understanding on issues of public significance.

For the 2024–2025 academic year, the Diplomat School delivered its 14-week online programme, with weekly sessions held on Mondays from 08:30 to 11:30. The structured curriculum provided sustained opportunities for professional learning, knowledge exchange, and discussion of contemporary diplomatic challenges.

The updated curriculum covered climate and energy diplomacy, humanitarian and cultural diplomacy, the characteristics and responsibilities of diplomats, traditional and contemporary diplomacy, crisis diplomacy, public and commercial diplomacy, and science and digital diplomacy.

Through these specialized modules, the programme strengthened participants' understanding of international policy frameworks, diplomatic negotiation, crisis management, climate governance, cross-border cooperation, and emerging technological challenges. It supported the development of analytical, diplomatic, and decision-making competencies relevant to effective policy formulation and implementation.

Importantly, the programme's educational and dialogue functions reinforce one another. Participants not only gain knowledge and professional competencies but also encounter alternative interpretations of complex policy challenges, engage with differing political perspectives, and develop the ability to approach disagreement through evidence-based and respectful discussion. This combination of professional education and open dialogue strengthens the University's contribution to both institutional capacity development and inclusive democratic discourse.

Through the BAU Diplomat School, the University therefore contributes to two interconnected dimensions of effective governance: strengthening the capabilities of policymakers and public officials and maintaining a neutral academic space where political stakeholders with different perspectives can come together to discuss challenging issues openly and constructively.

The initiative contributes primarily to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by advancing policymaker education, institutional capacity building, political dialogue, and inclusive governance. It also supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through diplomatic cooperation and cross-sector knowledge exchange, and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through structured professional education and lifelong learning.

Bahçeşehir University's Policy Report Contribution: Türkiye's 12th Development Plan



T.C. CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI

STRATEJİ VE BÜTÇE BAŞKANLIĞI

ON İKİNCİ KALKINMA PLANI

(2024-2028)

TÜKETİM VE TASARRUF EĞİLİMLERİ

ÖZEL İHTİSAS KOMİSYONU RAPORU

KOMİSYON ÜYELERİ

(Başkan, Raportörler ve Koordinatörler hariç alfabetik olarak sıralanmıştır.)

BAŞKAN	
Gülbin Şahinbeyoğlu	Türkiye Ekonomi Politikaları Araştırma Vakfı
RAPORTÖR	
Hakan Ulucan	Anadolu Üniversitesi
KOORDİNATÖRLER	
Ali Sabuncu	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
Sezai Ata	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
Serhat Keçeci	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
Selma Durgan	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
Hakan Terzi	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
Arzu Kurtoğlu	Strateji ve Bütçe Başkanlığı
ÜYELER	
Ahu Ergen	Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi
Ahmet Arda Gitmez	İhsan Doğramacı Bilkent Üniversitesi
Ali Burak Kurtulan	Sigortacılık ve Özel Emeklilik Düzenleme ve Denetleme
Arif Baştuğ	Ziraat Katılım
Arzu Odabaşı	Auro Portföy Yönetimi
Aslıhan Atabek Demirhan	Türkiye Cumhuriyet Merkez Bankası
Atilla Benli	Türkiye Sigorta ve Türkiye Hayat Emeklilik
Aysun Yıldız	Türkiye Sigorta, Reasürans ve Emeklilik Şirketleri Birliği
Burak Ali Göçer	Garanti Emeklilik ve Hayat
Burcu Özcan	Fırat Üniversitesi
Cem Görgün	Koç Holding
Çağaçan Değer	Ege Üniversitesi
Derya Baş Sonbul	Türkiye İstatistik Kurumu
Elif Üstündağlı Erten	Ege Üniversitesi

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University continued to contribute to national public policy development through the expertise and institutional engagement of its academic staff. An important example of this contribution is the involvement of Prof. Dr. Ahu Ergen in the preparation of Türkiye's Twelfth Development Plan (2024–2028), one of the country's principal strategic policy frameworks.

Prof. Dr. Ahu Ergen, faculty member at Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences, served as a Special Expertise Committee Member to the Republic of Türkiye Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate for the Twelfth Development Plan (2024–2028) — Specialization Commission Report on Consumption and Saving Trends.

Her participation represents a concrete example of academic expertise contributing to government policy formulation at the national level. Through this commission, academic knowledge and research-based perspectives were brought into discussions concerning consumption patterns, savings, sustainability, and Türkiye's long-term development priorities.

Building on Türkiye's ratification of the Paris Agreement, the commission advanced policy measures to accelerate the green economy transition: expanding green finance and sustainability-linked funds, incentivizing sustainable investment, improving resource efficiency and waste reduction, and scaling circular economy education to promote responsible consumption and production nationwide.

Prof. Ergen's contributions focused on SDG alignment, sustainable consumption instruments for Türkiye, and integrating sustainability into curricula to strengthen human capital for the transition.

This engagement demonstrates Bahçeşehir University's contribution to evidence-informed public policymaking through the direct participation of its academic staff in a government-established expert commission. It also illustrates how university expertise can inform national strategies addressing sustainable economic development, responsible consumption, resource efficiency, and the transition towards a more sustainable economy.

By contributing academic expertise to the preparation of a national development policy document, BAU supports the connection between higher education, scientific knowledge, and public decision-making, reflecting the University's broader commitment to contributing to government policy development at national level.

This engagement demonstrates how Bahçeşehir University provides specific expert advice to national government—through formal committee participation and evidence-based policy guidance—thereby advancing SDG 16, while directly supporting SDG 12 via systemic measures that foster responsible, circular, and resource-efficient economic behavior.

Information indicating that Bahçeşehir University provided expert support to the government's development plan can be found on the related website page of the Republic of Türkiye Presidency of Strategy and Budget Directorate.

BAU Rotary Peace Center – A Neutral Platform for Peacebuilding and Policy Development in the MENA Region

The image below shows a screenshot from the official Rotary International website indicating that Bahcesehir University hosts a Rotary Peace Center, serving as a neutral platform for peacebuilding and policy development in the MENA region.



Bahçeşehir University (BAU) plays an active role in advancing peacebuilding, inclusive governance, international policy dialogue, and institutional capacity development through the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, established at the University in partnership with Rotary International. The Centre's work is further supported by BAU's institutional partnership with the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) through CIFAL Istanbul. Serving the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, the Centre positions BAU as an international academic platform where policymakers, government representatives, civil society leaders, academics, international organizations, and peacebuilding professionals can engage in constructive dialogue on complex regional and global challenges.

The Centre reflects BAU's commitment to providing a safe, inclusive, and politically neutral environment for dialogue among individuals representing different countries, institutional backgrounds, political perspectives, and professional experiences. By encouraging open discussion, mutual understanding, and the exchange of diverse viewpoints, BAU facilitates engagement across political, cultural, and institutional boundaries, supporting collaborative approaches to conflict resolution, sustainable governance, and policy development.

Through its academic programmes, BAU combines capacity building, policy-oriented education, expert consultations, and practical field engagement. The Centre brings together Rotary Peace Fellows and professionals from across the MENA region, equipping participants with knowledge and practical skills in peacebuilding, conflict transformation, humanitarian diplomacy, migration, climate resilience, community development, and sustainable governance. Its academic coursework, workshops, seminars, and field-based projects strengthen participants' abilities to address complex challenges and contribute to informed institutional and policy responses.

The Centre's ten-week certificate programme has brought together Rotary Peace Fellows from the Philippines, Egypt, Iraq, the United States, Italy, India, Canada, Brunei, Syria, and Indonesia, including professionals engaged in policy development, law-making, public administration, and institutional decision-making in their respective countries. Through a MENA-focused curriculum addressing displacement, refugee diplomacy, migration and refugees, humanitarian diplomacy, climate-related challenges, sustainable development, conflict resolution, and post-conflict institution building, BAU provides targeted capacity building for policymakers and legal professionals, strengthening their abilities in evidence-informed policy formulation, regulatory development, institutional governance, policy implementation, and cross-sectoral coordination. While studying these interconnected issues in Türkiye, the Fellows contribute comparative legal, political, and institutional perspectives from their own national contexts. This reciprocal exchange enables BAU to strengthen policy-oriented dialogue and institutional capacity within Türkiye while extending its impact internationally, as Fellows return to their countries equipped to adapt the knowledge, analytical tools, and governance approaches developed through the programme to their own laws, policies, public institutions, and communities.

A major milestone in 2025 was the Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, "Healing in a Divided World," held in Istanbul on 20–22 February 2025. Organized under the leadership of Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, with Bahcesehir University playing a prominent institutional and academic hosting role through the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, the conference brought together more than 1,000 participants from over 80 countries, including international leaders, policymakers, peacebuilding practitioners, academic experts, NGO representatives, and stakeholders from diverse political and institutional backgrounds.

The conference provided an international platform for dialogue across differing perspectives, enabling participants to exchange experiences, examine shared challenges, and explore collaborative responses to issues affecting peace, governance, and sustainable development. Discussions addressed conflict prevention, social polarization, reconciliation, climate diplomacy, environmental challenges, and the role of institutions and communities in building sustainable peace.

BAU contributed directly to the conference's international academic and policy dialogue. BAU Rector Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu delivered a keynote address, while Prof. Dr. Esra Albayrakoğlu, Academic Director of the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center, contributed a session on Climate Diplomacy, connecting environmental challenges with international cooperation and peacebuilding strategies.

Beyond facilitating dialogue, the conference and the Centre's continuing activities support policy development and institutional capacity building by connecting academic research, policymaking perspectives, and practical experience. These exchanges create opportunities to identify emerging policy priorities, examine institutional and governance challenges, share evidence-informed approaches, and strengthen the capacity of participants to contribute to policy formulation and implementation within their respective organizations and communities.

The Centre also serves as a mechanism for international knowledge exchange and cross-sectoral cooperation, bringing together stakeholders who may hold different political positions or represent institutions with distinct priorities. Through this inclusive approach, BAU promotes constructive engagement, mutual learning, and collaborative problem-solving, reinforcing the importance of dialogue and institutional cooperation in addressing interconnected global challenges.

At the regional and global levels, BAU's participation in Rotary International's peacebuilding network, alongside its wider cooperation with UNITAR, strengthens its international engagement in sustainable development, peace education, and institutional capacity building. These partnerships support knowledge exchange among academic institutions, international organizations, governments, and NGOs and reinforce BAU's contribution to policy-oriented discussions on peace and sustainable governance.

Through the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center and its active participation in the 2025 Rotary Presidential Peace Conference, Bahçeşehir University contributes simultaneously to international policy dialogue, peacebuilding capacity development, inclusive stakeholder engagement, and evidence-informed approaches to sustainable governance. The initiative demonstrates BAU's role as a trusted academic convenor that connects individuals and institutions across different backgrounds, strengthens their capacity to address complex challenges, and supports cooperation on shared sustainable development priorities.

This engagement contributes directly to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through peacebuilding, inclusive dialogue, and institutional governance; SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through international cooperation and multi-stakeholder engagement; and SDG 4 (Quality Education) through professional education and capacity development. It also supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) through inclusive participation and dialogue across diverse backgrounds, and SDG 13 (Climate Action) through climate diplomacy and discussions connecting environmental challenges with peacebuilding and international cooperation.

Bahçeşehir University Marks Human Rights Day with a Seminar on Human Dignity, Labor Rights, and Responsible Consumption



In 2024-2025 academic year, in celebration of Human Rights Day, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) held an interdisciplinary seminar titled “Children’s Rights and the Right to Work in Consumer Societies” on 18 December 2024, organized by BAU Rights, BAU Renkli Çatı, BAU Children for Children Club, and the Dean of Students Office (DSO).

The event featured Av. Çağla Gül Bulut from the Istanbul Bar Association Children’s Rights Center, who spoke on protecting and promoting children’s rights, and Serhat Durup, Philosophy Teacher at FMV Işık Schools, who examined the ethical and social implications of labor and human rights within consumer societies.

Through these discussions, the seminar encouraged students to reflect critically on how modern consumption patterns impact human well-being, social justice, and sustainability. Participants explored the shared responsibility of individuals and institutions in ensuring ethical production, fair labor practices, and responsible consumption.

By integrating the principles of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its dedication to promoting human rights awareness, sustainable lifestyles, and civic engagement among its students and academic community.

Article: "Socioeconomic, Migration, and Political Upheaval Factors in Crime: Applying the Social Disorganization Theory in Turkey



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Socioeconomic, Migration, and Political Upheaval Factors in Crime: Applying the Social Disorganization Theory in Turkey

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ABSTRACT

This review attempts to provide a comprehensive investigation of the complex argument that socioeconomic conditions and crime are related through political instabilities and their impact on Turkey's economy, with a specific focus on social disorganization theory. By focusing on the Turkish labor market, this study examines the interplay of socioeconomic factors impacting crime rates and changing public views. This review highlights social disorganization and crime patterns via socio-economic factors, migration, and political upheaval. By exploring the transformation of Turkey's labor market over many decades, this study aims to provide insights into the ongoing issues of the country.

1 | **Introduction**

Agamben's (2003) seminal work explores the complex connection

This review analyzes the socioeconomic, migratory, and political dynamics influencing crime trends in Turkey through the lens of social disorganization theory. By synthesizing decades of research, the study examines how economic instability, migration patterns, and political turbulence can weaken neighborhood cohesion, strain social networks, and shape the distribution of crime across regions. It highlights the connection between employment opportunities, social inequality, and perceptions of safety, providing an integrated understanding of how structural and institutional factors affect community well-being.

The findings contribute to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by offering policy-relevant insights for strengthening social resilience, public trust, and community safety. At the same time, by addressing how economic and social disparities contribute to patterns of crime and exclusion, the study supports SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)—advancing the goal of building more inclusive, equitable, and secure societies.

Panel: “War and Women: Examining Human Rights Violations in the Syrian Civil War”



In 2024-2025 academic year, held at Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Law and jointly organized by BAU TOSAM (Center for Health, Society, Behavior, and Prevention Studies) and ULMER-HLO (Human Rights and Law Organization), this panel examined the gendered dimensions of human rights violations during the Syrian Civil War. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Esra Albayrakoğlu, the event convened experts, academics, and practitioners to discuss the systemic effects of war on women’s rights and wellbeing.

Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Narlı presented an analysis of human rights violations against women during forced displacement, exploring the physical, psychological, and social impacts of armed conflict. Hayrunnisa Çiçek complemented this perspective with insights drawn from field research, shedding light on issues such as sexual violence, forced migration, and the long-term social marginalization of affected women.

By fostering an evidence-based dialogue on protection, justice, and empowerment, the panel directly contributed to SDG 5 by advocating for women’s rights and equality in conflict settings, SDG 10 by addressing the vulnerabilities and disparities faced by displaced populations, and SDG 16 by promoting human rights, accountability, and peacebuilding efforts through interdisciplinary collaboration and policy engagement

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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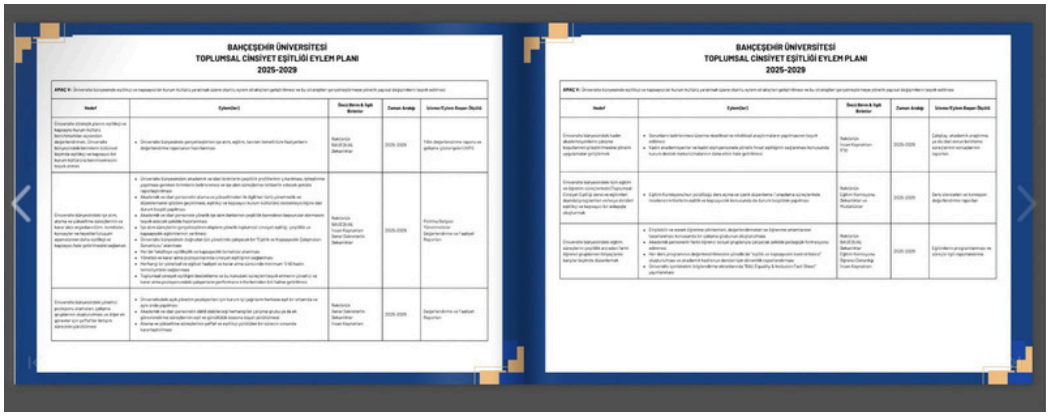
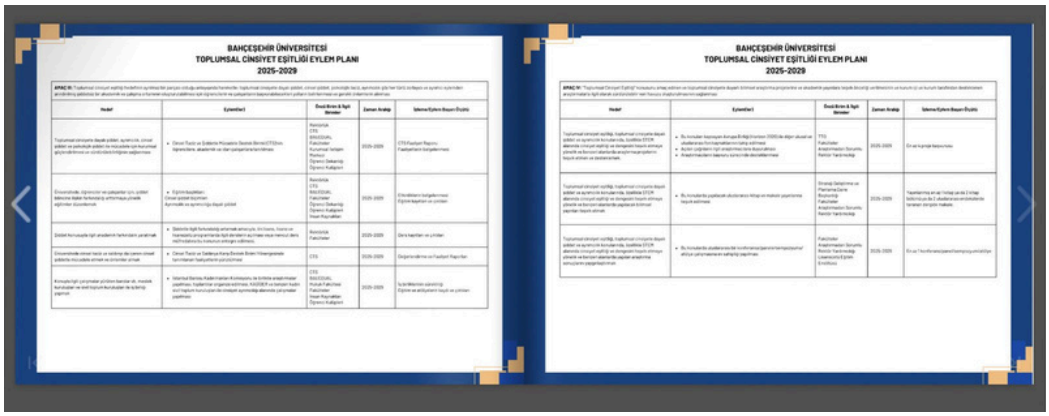
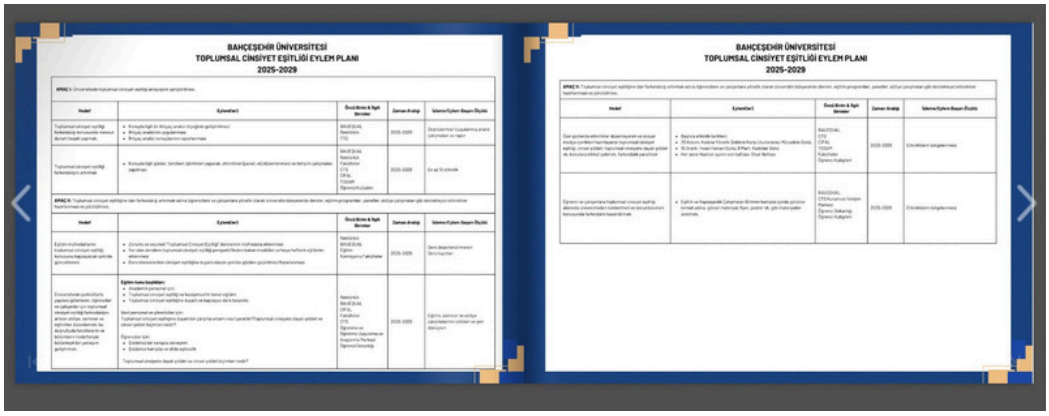
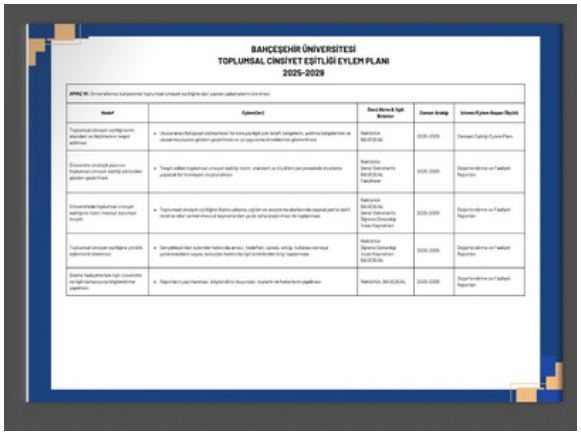






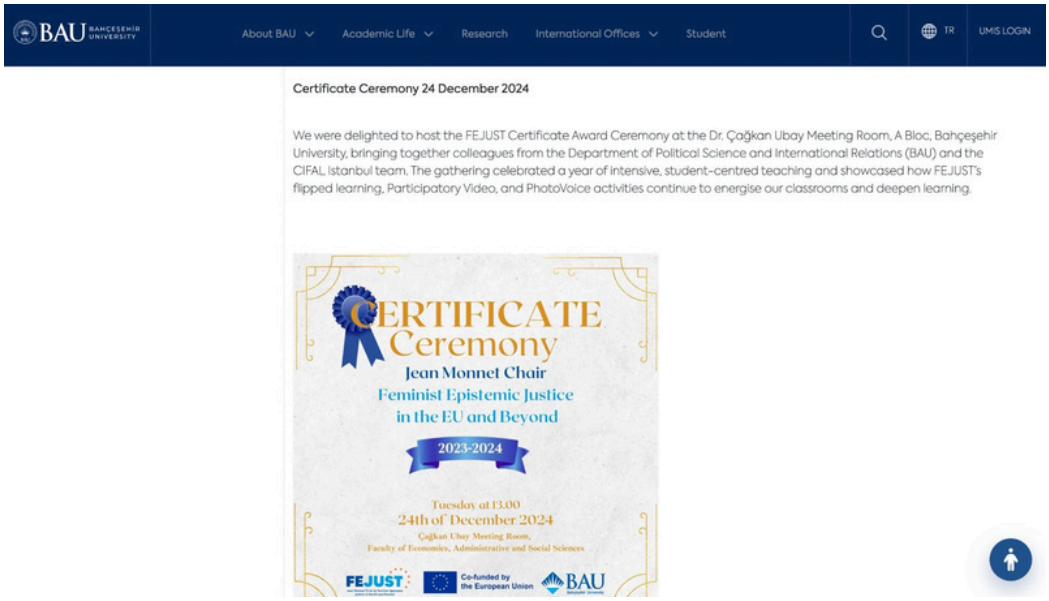


FEJUST Training Programme on Gender, Justice and Policy (2024-2025)

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.



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.





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.

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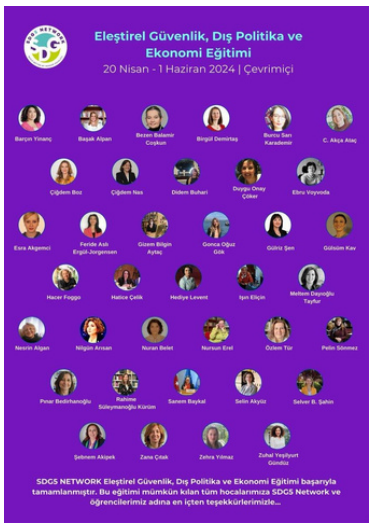
Participatory Action Research and Training with SDG5 Network (2023–2025)

Carried out in partnership with the SDG5 Network, this ongoing initiative focuses on participatory research and training activities addressing gender equality and women's empowerment. The project integrates academic expertise with community engagement, emphasizing collaborative learning and co-created knowledge to tackle gender-based disparities in social, educational, and professional contexts.

Through workshops, training sessions, and joint research studies, participants explore strategies to promote inclusive governance, leadership, and advocacy for gender justice. The initiative also supports capacity-building for young researchers and practitioners, encouraging them to design policies and interventions that advance equal opportunities for all genders. By combining theory, practice, and participation, Bahçeşehir University contributes to building sustainable frameworks for gender-sensitive policy development and social transformation.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by promoting participatory approaches to women's empowerment and gender justice. It also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education, SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, through its focus on inclusive education, equitable participation, and collaborative policy innovation.







Seminar: "Dating Violence and Stalking"

In 2024-2025 academic year, organized by IGUL and PALS Global under the invitation of Prof. Dr. Feridun Yenisey, this seminar was delivered by Attorney Lerzenur Asan Elik at Bahçeşehir University Court Hall and online. The session addressed the legal and social dimensions of dating violence and stalking, focusing on mechanisms for prevention, protection, and justice.

By examining real-life cases and legislative frameworks, the event contributed to raising awareness on gender-based violence and the importance of safeguarding women's rights in both public and private spheres. It also encouraged students and legal professionals to reflect on gender-sensitive approaches within the justice system.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing violence against women and promoting protective legal frameworks, and it also aligns with SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on justice, prevention, and institutional accountability.



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.



Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series: Bargaining Meaning in the European Union – Meaning Negotiations and the Concept of Gender Equality

In 2024-2025 academic year, held on November 28, 2024, in collaboration with FEJUST, the Gendering EU Politics Seminar Series session titled "Bargaining Meaning in the European Union: Meaning Negotiations and the Concept of Gender Equality" provided a critical academic platform to examine how the European Union's policymaking processes engage with the principles of equality, representation, and justice. Scholars and students discussed how gendered perspectives shape institutional practices, policy discourses, and decision-making mechanisms within the EU. The dialogue also addressed how social and political meanings of equality are negotiated across member states, influencing both policy outcomes and the broader democratic framework of the Union.

By encouraging open debate on fairness, inclusivity, and the rule of law within supranational institutions, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its dedication to fostering transparent, participatory, and accountable governance structures that ensure equal access to justice and representation for all individuals. The seminar underscored the need for collaborative engagement between academic institutions, policymakers, and networks to advance a governance culture grounded in equality and human rights.



This session also contributed to SDG5 (Gender Equality) and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by promoting cross-sector collaboration and academic inquiry into inclusive policymaking processes at the European level.

Politics and Society Seminar Series: A Second Trump Term – What It Means for the US and the World

In 2024-2025 academic year, as part of Bahçeşehir University's Politics and Society Seminar Series, the session titled "A Second Trump Term: What It Means for the US and the World" on December 3, 2024, offered an in-depth exploration of the potential political, economic, and diplomatic repercussions of a renewed Trump presidency. Scholars and students examined how such a development could reshape U.S. domestic governance, transatlantic relations, and the broader international order. The discussion emphasized the challenges posed to multilateralism, democratic institutions, and global peace initiatives, while encouraging participants to consider alternative frameworks for cooperation and conflict prevention.

Through this exchange of perspectives, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its commitment to promoting civic awareness, informed dialogue, and transparent governance as essential tools for maintaining global stability and justice.

This event also aligned with SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering open academic collaboration and collective reflection on issues that influence international peace and institutional resilience.



Violence Awareness Workshop

In 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.

By combining reflection, dialogue, and experiential learning, Bahçeşehir University encouraged students to critically examine gender norms and promote equality and respect in social interactions. This initiative directly contributes to SDG 5: Gender Equality by addressing gender-based violence and discrimination, and it also aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its emphasis on awareness, inclusion, and empowerment.



Webinar: "Women's Leadership and Governance in Sports" (16.11.2024)

In the 2024-2025 academic year, hosted by Bahçeşehir University in collaboration with the Sport Integrity Global Alliance (SIGA) during the 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. The initiative also contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by promoting transparent, accountable, and inclusive governance within sports organisations, particularly through greater representation of women in leadership and decision-making roles. By addressing structural barriers to women's participation in sports governance, the webinar supports SDG Target 16.7, which calls for responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making at all levels.

Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange with Malatya Metropolitan Municipality



On 15 December 2024, the BAU-CIFAL Istanbul delegation met with the Head of the Strategy Development Department at Malatya Metropolitan Municipality as part of its engagement with local public authorities.

The discussions focused on sustainable post-earthquake reconstruction, educational development, and the application of sustainability principles to local recovery priorities, particularly the reconstruction and improvement of schools.

Drawing on CIFAL Istanbul's educational expertise and its connection to UNITAR's global training network, the engagement facilitated knowledge exchange on sustainability-related approaches relevant to municipal planning and educational infrastructure.

The discussions addressed the importance of environmentally responsible reconstruction, quality learning environments, and educational initiatives that support long-term community development.

This exchange contributed to local institutional capacity development by sharing sustainability-related knowledge and educational perspectives relevant to municipal planning and recovery efforts.

The engagement also strengthened the connection between academic expertise and local government priorities, supporting the consideration of sustainability and education within the region's reconstruction and development agenda.

Also on 15 December 2024, the CIFAL Istanbul team met with the Deputy Mayor of Battalgazi Municipality to address the district's recovery process, community needs, and the role of sustainability education in supporting resilient local development.

The engagement included knowledge exchange concerning community resilience, social service delivery, sustainable development, and the importance of educational initiatives in post-disaster recovery.

By sharing educational perspectives and sustainability-related knowledge with municipal leadership, BAU and CIFAL Istanbul contributed to the discussion of approaches relevant to local institutional learning and community-oriented development.

The engagement supported capacity development through the exchange of knowledge on sustainability, community needs, and the integration of educational approaches into local recovery efforts.

It also reinforced cooperation between the University and municipal authorities in addressing the interconnected challenges of sustainable recovery, social development, and community well-being.

The Malatya initiative represents BAU's commitment to delivering sustainability education and supporting local capacity development through engagement with communities and public-sector decision-makers.

The Heroes of Nature seminar provided direct education on sustainable development and environmental responsibility, strengthening participants' knowledge and awareness of sustainability-related challenges and solutions.

The subsequent engagements with Malatya Metropolitan Municipality and Battalgazi Municipality extended the initiative's knowledge-sharing dimension to local government officials, connecting sustainability education with municipal priorities concerning school reconstruction, community resilience, and public service development.

Through these activities, BAU and CIFAL Istanbul contributed to sustainability knowledge dissemination, local institutional learning, and capacity development relevant to public-sector planning and decision-making.

The initiative addressed themes directly relevant to policy- and lawmakers outreach and education, including climate action, sustainable cities, educational infrastructure, environmental responsibility, and disaster resilience.

By combining direct educational delivery with knowledge exchange involving municipal decision-makers, the University supported the application of sustainability-related knowledge within both community and local governance contexts.

The initiative contributed to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), reflecting BAU's commitment to strengthening education, sustainable recovery, institutional cooperation, and community resilience.

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.

The research also makes a significant contribution to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by generating independent, empirical evidence that can inform more transparent, accountable, and inclusive public policymaking. By identifying structural barriers to women's employment and documenting inequalities across Istanbul's labour market, the study provides a valuable evidence base for institutions seeking to develop fairer and more responsive labour policies. Its findings are particularly relevant to SDG Target 16.6, which promotes effective, accountable, and transparent institutions, and Target 16.7, which calls for inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making. Through this research, Bahçeşehir University supports the development of evidence-based institutional responses to gender inequality, strengthening the relationship between academic knowledge, social justice, and inclusive governance.

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/

Trial Practices III: A Case Before the Juvenile Court

In 2024-2025 academic year, organized by the Global Principles of the Rule of Law Program (IGUL) at Bahçeşehir University in cooperation with PALS Global, the event "Trial Practices III: A Case Before the Juvenile Court" took place on December 17, 2024, featuring Attorney Aynur Tuncel Yazgan from the Istanbul Bar Association. The session offered students and participants an applied understanding of juvenile justice through a simulated court case, enabling them to explore the procedural and ethical dimensions of trials involving minors. Under the guidance of Prof. Dr. Feridun Yenisey and Dr. Hande Ulutürk, the event bridged academic learning with real-world legal practice, emphasizing the protection of children's rights and the role of law in safeguarding vulnerable groups.

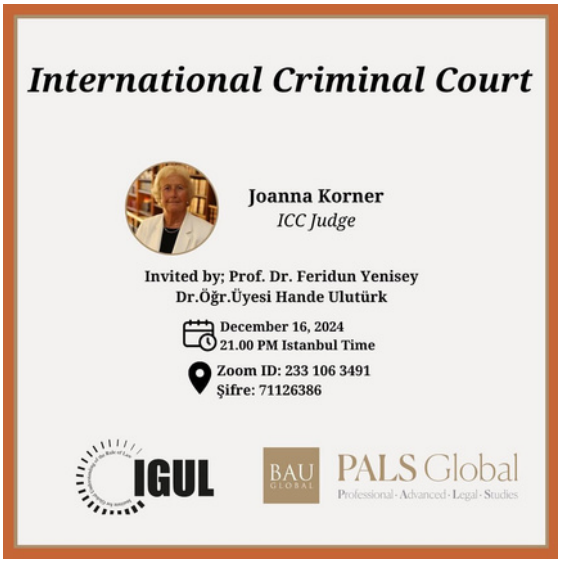
By promoting legal literacy, transparency, and respect for human rights within judicial education, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to fostering fair, accountable, and rights-based institutions that strengthen justice and equality.



International Criminal Court Seminar

In 2024-2025 academic year, on December 16, 2024, the Global Principles of the Rule of Law Program (IGUL) at Bahçeşehir University, in collaboration with PALS Global, organized an online seminar featuring Joanna Korner, Judge at the International Criminal Court (ICC). Invited by Prof. Dr. Feridun Yenisey and Dr. Hande Ulutürk, the session offered students and legal professionals an opportunity to gain first-hand insights into the functioning of international criminal justice, the prosecution of serious human rights violations, and the role of the ICC in maintaining global peace and accountability. Judge Korner shared her extensive experience in adjudicating crimes against humanity and war crimes, while emphasizing the principles of fairness, due process, and global cooperation in the pursuit of justice.

By promoting awareness of international law, the rule of law, and judicial independence, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its dedication to strengthening justice mechanisms, upholding human rights, and cultivating institutional transparency as cornerstones of peaceful and accountable governance.



This seminar also contributed to SDG4 (Quality Education) through its educational value in international law and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering collaboration between academia and global judicial institutions.

Arbitration Seminar (13.12.2024)

Seminar on Arbitration

In 2024-2025 academic year, on December 13, 2024, the Global Principles of the Rule of Law Program (IGUL) at Bahçeşehir University, in cooperation with PALS Global, organized an online seminar on Arbitration featuring distinguished speakers Prof. Stephen Ware (University of Kansas), Melis Taşpolat Tuğsavul (Bahçeşehir University), Çiğdem Yazıcı (MEF University), and Sami Özgür Memişoğlu (Doğuş University). Moderated by Prof. Dr. Feridun Yenisey and Dr. Hande Ulutürk, the event provided an in-depth exploration of arbitration as a key mechanism for resolving disputes outside traditional courts, focusing on transparency, neutrality, and procedural justice. Participants examined international and domestic arbitration practices, gaining insights into how such mechanisms enhance access to justice and institutional trust.

By promoting the study of fair dispute resolution and the rule of law, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its dedication to strengthening judicial integrity, ensuring equal access to justice, and fostering institutional accountability within national and global legal systems.

This seminar also supported SDG4 (Quality Education) by offering advanced legal learning opportunities and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by facilitating collaboration among universities and international legal experts.



Law Professions Summit

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the BAU Law Club, in collaboration with the Dean of Students Office (DSO), organized the Law Professions Summit at Bahçeşehir University's South Campus Conference Hall. The summit brought together legal professionals, academics, and students to discuss diverse career paths within the field of law, including advocacy, judiciary, corporate law, and public service. Participants gained valuable insights into the ethical, procedural, and institutional dimensions of the legal profession, as well as the responsibilities of legal practitioners in upholding justice and the rule of law.

By cultivating awareness of ethical conduct, accountability, and professional integrity within the legal system, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to developing competent and principled professionals who contribute to the establishment of fair and transparent institutions.

This event also supported SDG4 (Quality Education) by strengthening experiential learning and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through collaboration between academia and the legal community.



International Criminal Law Seminar

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University PALS Global hosted an online seminar on International Criminal Law led by Prof. Dr. Durmuş Tezcan, one of Türkiye's foremost experts in the field. The session provided a comprehensive examination of the foundations and evolution of international criminal law, including key mechanisms for prosecuting crimes against humanity, war crimes, and genocide. Participants explored the principles of individual responsibility, due process, and global justice while gaining insight into the functioning of international judicial bodies such as the International Criminal Court and the International Criminal Tribunal.

By promoting awareness of international legal norms, accountability, and human rights protection, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening justice-oriented institutions and cultivating a deeper understanding of global legal frameworks that uphold peace and the rule of law.

This seminar also contributed to SDG4 (Quality Education) through its academic emphasis on international legal studies and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering collaboration among legal scholars and practitioners.



Moot Court Preparations Seminar

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Bahçeşehir University Global Principles of the Rule of Law Program (IGUL) and PALS Global jointly hosted an online seminar titled Moot Court Preparations, featuring Phyllis Cox, Attorney at Law. The session offered an interactive training experience designed to enhance students' advocacy, research, and oral argumentation skills in preparation for international moot court competitions. Participants explored strategies for case analysis, procedural conduct, and persuasive legal reasoning, gaining practical insights into courtroom dynamics and the ethical standards that underpin legal advocacy.

By nurturing legal competence, ethical awareness, and procedural fairness, Bahçeşehir University reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening justice-oriented education and fostering responsible future practitioners dedicated to the rule of law and transparent judicial processes.

This event also contributed to SDG4 (Quality Education) by advancing experiential legal learning and SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through international collaboration in legal education and professional training.



Bahçeşehir University Disability Support Unit

Bahçeşehir University has established the Disability Support Unit to promote equitable access to education for students with disabilities and to ensure that all individuals can fully participate in academic and social life without discrimination. The unit operates under the regulations of the Higher Education Institutions Disability Advisory and Coordination Directive (Official Gazette No. 27672, dated 14 August 2010) and aims to identify and eliminate barriers to education, participation, and inclusion.

The Disability Support Unit consists of academic and administrative members appointed by the University Administrative Board and functions under the supervision of a vice-rector. Its primary mission is to assess the academic, physical, psychological, and social needs of students with disabilities and to recommend measures that enhance accessibility in all university spaces. It also develops informational materials, provides individual guidance, and coordinates efforts across departments to ensure that university services and facilities are inclusive.

Through these actions, Bahçeşehir University reaffirms its strong commitment to creating an inclusive academic environment that guarantees equal access and opportunities for all students, regardless of disability status. This effort reflects the university's dedication to promoting equality within education systems and reducing structural and social disparities.

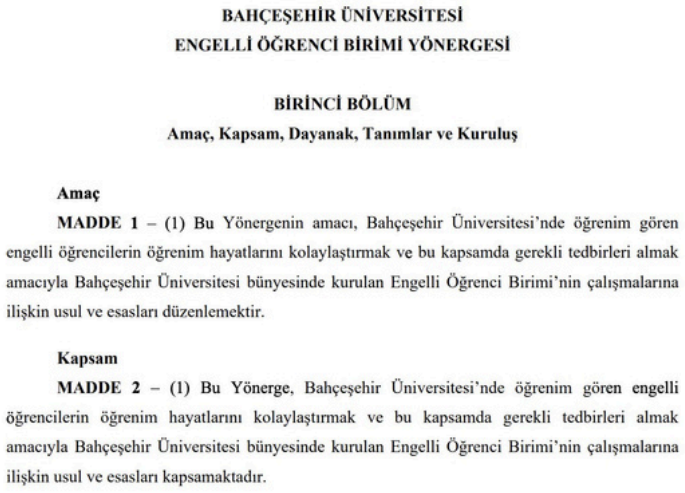
The unit's responsibilities include preparing accessible information materials, developing a database for students with disabilities, organizing seminars and awareness events, and ensuring that assessment and evaluation systems are fair and accommodating. It also provides recommendations to improve the university's physical and digital infrastructure, ensuring that all academic and administrative activities are accessible. Furthermore, the unit

works to facilitate access to assistive devices for students facing financial hardship and advocates for their rights and needs within the university community.

By focusing on inclusive education practices and ensuring full participation of persons with disabilities in higher education, Bahçeşehir University actively contributes to creating a fairer, more accessible society—one that values diversity and removes barriers to equal participation.

This initiative also supports SDG 4 (Quality Education) by ensuring inclusive and equitable learning environments, SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by addressing intersectional challenges faced by students with disabilities—particularly women and girls—and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by fostering fairness, transparency, and equal access within institutional governance and practices.

https://cdn.bau.edu.tr/content/2wvry5i4pq0qb-Engelli_Birimi_Yonergesi.pdf



BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ
ENGELLİ ÖĞRENCİ BİRİMİ YÖNERGESİ

BİRİNCİ BÖLÜM
Amaç, Kapsam, Dayanak, Tanımlar ve Kuruluş

Amaç

MADDE 1 – (1) Bu Yönergenin amacı, Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi'nde öğrenim gören engelli öğrencilerin öğrenim hayatlarını kolaylaştırmak ve bu kapsamda gerekli tedbirleri almak amacıyla Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi bünyesinde kurulan Engelli Öğrenci Birimi'nin çalışmalarına ilişkin usul ve esasları düzenlemektir.

Kapsam

MADDE 2 – (1) Bu Yönerge, Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi'nde öğrenim gören engelli öğrencilerin öğrenim hayatlarını kolaylaştırmak ve bu kapsamda gerekli tedbirleri almak amacıyla Bahçeşehir Üniversitesi bünyesinde kurulan Engelli Öğrenci Birimi'nin çalışmalarına ilişkin usul ve esasları kapsamaktadır.

COOPERATION PROTOCOL BETWEEN BAHÇEŞEHIR UNIVERSITY, ISTANBUL METROPOLITAN MUNICIPALITY, AND ISTANBUL FIRE DEPARTMENT



İSTANBUL BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ
İTFAİYE DAİRE BAŞKANLIĞI
İLE

BAU
Bahçeşehir University

T.C.
BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ
arasında imzalanan
İYİ NİYET SÖZLEŞMESİ

Bahçeşehir University signed a cooperation protocol with the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality and Istanbul Fire Department. According to the protocol, the stakeholders declared their commitment to working together to raise awareness, particularly among children and the general public, about ways to protect against various disasters and emergencies. The parties will collaborate on projects, identify challenges and issues, and conduct educational activities aimed at addressing these challenges as part of their partnership. As part of the collaboration, Bahçeşehir University will also provide capacity-building training for officials working on relevant issues at the Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality. The website for one of the projects implemented under the cooperation, the "Heroic Firefighters" project, can be accessed via the following link.

BAU Rector’s Membership in the Turkish Football Federation’s Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee



During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) continued to contribute to Türkiye's national sports governance framework through the ongoing membership of its Rector, Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu, in the Turkish Football Federation's (TFF) Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee. Her continued service in 2025 reflects the University's sustained engagement with national sports institutions and public-interest initiatives.

By maintaining this representation throughout 2025, BAU demonstrates its continuing contribution to national discussions on ethical sports governance and social responsibility, within a broader public policy environment shaped by Türkiye's Ministry of Youth and Sports.

Bahçeşehir University Rector, Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu, serves as a member of the Turkish Football Federation's (TFF) Fair Play and Social Responsibility Committee. The TFF is an autonomous national sports governing body operating within Türkiye's legislative framework for sports, a policy area overseen at the national level by the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Youth and Sports.

In this capacity, Prof. Hatipoğlu contributes expert opinions and ethical guidance to support the Federation's efforts in advancing fair play principles, social inclusion, and institutional accountability in sports governance.

Through this role, Bahçeşehir University contributes academic expertise to an institution operating within Türkiye's national sports governance and public policy framework, supporting discussions on ethical conduct, social responsibility, and community engagement in sports.

Her continued participation in 2025 strengthens the connection between higher education and national sports governance, enabling academic perspectives to contribute to discussions on fairness, integrity, responsible institutional practices, and the societal role of sports.

The committee's work aligns with BAU's broader mission to promote integrity, equality, and participatory governance across different sectors of public life.

This engagement contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by fostering transparency and ethical governance; SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by supporting inclusive participation and representation in sports; and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by promoting active, fair, and socially responsible sporting environments.

Bahçeşehir University's Ministry of Justice-Authorized Mediation Training: Upskilling and Capacity Building for Legal and Public Sector Professionals



T.C.
ADALET BAKANLIĞI
Hukuk İşleri Genel Müdürlüğü
(Arabuluculuk Daire Başkanlığı)

Sayı : E-73590746-770-28/93/14830 15.05.2023
Konu : Tüketici, İnşaat, Sağlık, Fikri-Sınai Haklar, Enerji ve Maden Hukuku Uzmanlık Eğitimi

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜNE
(Hukuk Fakültesi Dekanlığı)

İlgi : 08.05.2023 tarihli ve bila sayılı yazınız.

Bahçeşehir Üniversitesinin tüketici, inşaat, sağlık, fikri-sınai haklar, enerji ve maden hukukunda arabuluculuk uzmanlık eğitim izni talebiniri içeren ilgi yazınız ve ekleri ile konu incelendi.

Kayıtlarımızın tetkikinden, Üniversitenize daha önce Bakanlığımızın 28.09.2021 tarihli "Onur"u ile 3 yıl süreyle arabuluculuk eğitim izni verildiği, eğitim kuruluşları siciline ve elektronik ortamdaki listeye kaydının yapıldığı anlaşılmıştır.

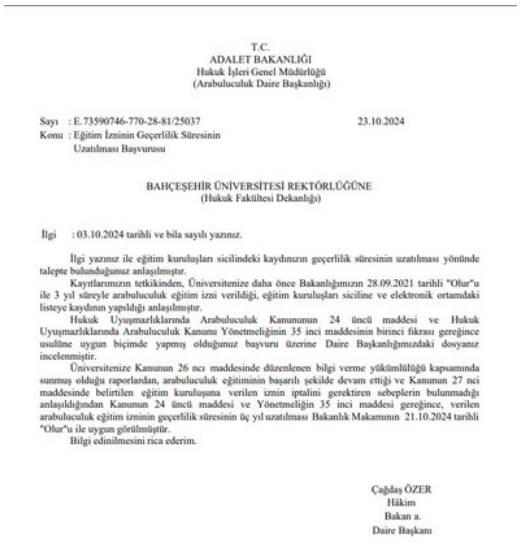
6325 sayılı Hukuk Uyuşmazlıklarında Arabuluculuk Kanununun 6 ncı maddesinin üçüncü fıkrası gereğin, Bakanlığımızca iş hukuku, ticaret hukuku ve tüketici hukuku, genel uzmanlık alanları olarak belirlenmiş, ayrıca banka ve finans hukuku, sigorta hukuku, inşaat hukuku, fikri ve sınai haklar hukuku, enerji hukuku, sağlık hukuku ve spor hukukuna yönelik özel uzmanlık alanları oluşturulmuştur.

Bahçeşehir Üniversitesinin, eğitim kuruluşlarına izin verilmesi hususuna düzenleyen 6325 sayılı Hukuk Uyuşmazlıklarında Arabuluculuk Kanununun 23 üncü ve Hukuk Uyuşmazlıklarında Arabuluculuk Kanunu Yönetmeliğinin 34 üncü maddesi ile tüketici, inşaat, sağlık, fikri-sınai haklar, enerji ve maden hukukunda uzmanlık alanına ilişkin yaptığı başvuruda; İstanbul'da yapılacak eğitimin, sunulan belgelere dayalı olarak, eğitimin amacına ulaşacağı ve eğitim kuruluşunda eğitim faaliyetinin devamlılığının sağlanacağı değerlendirildiğinden,

Anılan hükümler gereğince, Bakanlığımızın 12.05.2023 tarihli "Onur"u ile Üniversitenize İstanbul'da 28.09.2024 tarihine kadar tüketici, inşaat, sağlık, fikri-sınai haklar, enerji ve maden hukukunda arabuluculuk uzmanlık eğitimi izni verilmiş olup, Daire Başkanlığımızca tutulan eğitim kuruluşları sicilinin 28 numara sırasına ve elektronik ortamdaki listeye kaydınız yapılmıştır.

Bilgi edinilmesini rica ederim.

Uğur YAZICI
Bakan a.
Tetkik Hâkimi



T.C.
ADALET BAKANLIĞI
Hukuk İşleri Genel Müdürlüğü
(Arabuluculuk Daire Başkanlığı)

Sayı : E.73590746-770-28-81/25037 23.10.2024
Konu : Eğitim İzninin Geçerlilik Süresinin Uzatılması Başvurusu

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜNE
(Hukuk Fakültesi Dekanlığı)

İlgi : 03.10.2024 tarihli ve bila sayılı yazınız.

İlgi yazınız ile eğitim kuruluşları sicilindeki kaydınızın geçerlilik süresinin uzatılması yönünde talepte bulunduğunuz anlaşılmıştır.

Kayıtlarımızın tetkikinden, Üniversitenize daha önce Bakanlığımızın 28.09.2021 tarihli "Onur"u ile 3 yıl süreyle arabuluculuk eğitim izni verildiği, eğitim kuruluşları siciline ve elektronik ortamdaki listeye kaydının yapıldığı anlaşılmıştır.

Hukuk Uyuşmazlıklarında Arabuluculuk Kanununun 24 üncü maddesi ve Hukuk Uyuşmazlıklarında Arabuluculuk Kanunu Yönetmeliğinin 35 inci maddesinin birinci fıkrası gereğince usulüne uygun biçimde yapmış olduğunuz başvuru üzerine Daire Başkanlığımızdaki dosyanız incelenmiştir.

Üniversitenize Kanunun 26 ncı maddesinde düzenlenen bilgi verme yükümlülüğü kapsamında sunmuş olduğu raporlardan, arabuluculuk eğitiminin başarılı şekilde devam ettiği ve Kanunun 27 nci maddesinde belirtilen eğitim kuruluşuna verilen izinin iptalini gerektiren sebeplerin bulunmadığı anlaşıldığından Kanunun 24 üncü maddesi ve Yönetmeliğin 35 inci maddesi gereğince, verilen arabuluculuk eğitim izninin geçerlilik süresinin üç yıl uzatılması Bakanlık Makamının 21.10.2024 tarihli "Onur"u ile uygun görülmüştür.

Bilgi edinilmesini rica ederim.

Çağdaş ÖZER
Hâkim
Bakan a.
Daire Başkanı

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) contributes to professional upskilling and capacity building in law, governance, and dispute resolution through mediation training programmes officially authorized by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Türkiye under the Law on Mediation in Civil Disputes.

These programmes provide specialized legal education and professional development opportunities for legal practitioners, public officials, and professionals working in fields relevant to legal and regulatory decision-making. Covering areas such as energy, healthcare, and environmental law, the training strengthens competencies in mediation, negotiation, conflict management, and alternative dispute resolution, supporting more effective and accessible mechanisms for resolving disputes.

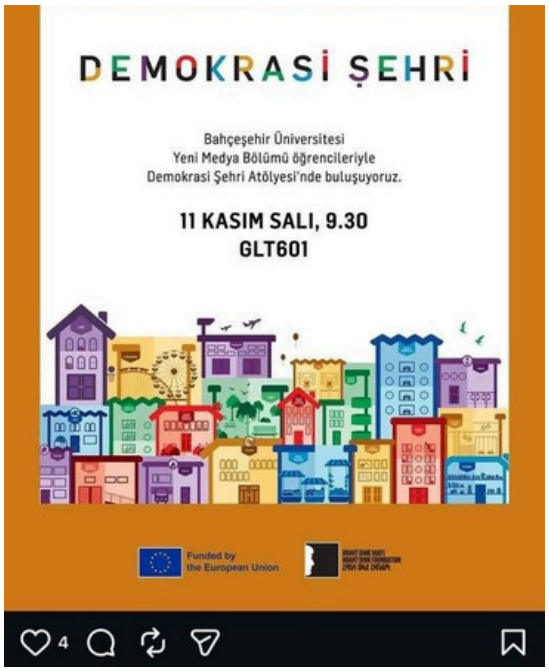
Initially authorized in 2021, BAU's authorization to provide mediation training was renewed by the Ministry of Justice in 2024 for an additional three years. Under this renewed authorization, BAU continued delivering mediation training programmes throughout 2025, demonstrating its sustained contribution to professional capacity building within Türkiye's legal and institutional framework.

Through these programmes, BAU supports the development of professional expertise relevant to the implementation of legal frameworks, effective dispute resolution, and institutional capacity, contributing to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

City and Democracy Workshop

On 11 November 2025, as part of the NMD4102 Political Economy of Media course, the Hrant Dink Foundation met with New Media students at Bahçeşehir University and conducted the City of Democracy workshop. Drawing on the Foundation's work in promoting minority and cultural rights, equal citizenship, pluralism, and the elimination of discrimination, the workshop invited students to consider how democratic life can become more inclusive of different identities, experiences, and voices.

By examining equality as a fundamental condition of democratic participation, the workshop contributed directly to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), particularly its emphasis on social and political inclusion regardless of identity or background. Its focus on dialogue, coexistence, and equal citizenship also supported SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by encouraging students to reflect on the role of human rights, non-discrimination, and inclusive institutions in building peaceful and democratic societies. Through this collaboration, BAU integrated rights-based civil society perspectives into media education and strengthened students' awareness of how media and public discourse can either reproduce inequalities or contribute to a more equitable society.



Seminar on "Advertising that is Offensive to Chinese Consumers" in Collaboration With Hong Kong Baptist University

On 23 December 2025, as part of the AMONG US Guest Speaker Series, organized by Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Communication and the Creative Industries Center, Prof. Dr. Kara Chan from the School of Communication at Hong Kong Baptist University met with students to discuss cultural perspectives on advertising and consumer responses.

In her talk, titled "What Kinds of Advertising Are Offensive to Chinese Consumers?", Prof. Dr. Chan shared insights into how Chinese consumers perceive potentially offensive advertising, highlighting the importance of cultural values and sensitivities in advertising communication. The session provided students with an international and cross-cultural perspective on consumer behavior and encouraged them to consider how advertising messages may be interpreted differently across cultural contexts.

The event contributed to SDG 4 – Quality Education by enriching students' learning through international academic expertise and cross-cultural knowledge beyond the regular curriculum. It also supported SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals by promoting international academic exchange and knowledge sharing between Bahçeşehir University and a scholar from Hong Kong Baptist University.

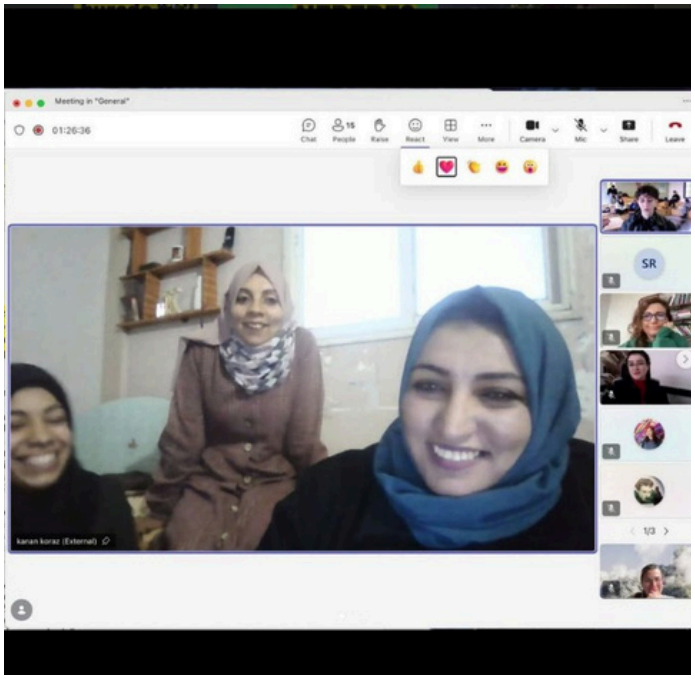


Open Public Informational Seminar: Art as a Tool for Psychosocial Healing—Gaza Stop-Motion Animation Seminar for Solidarity

In 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.



“Vote and Beyond: Equal Voting Rights for All” Workshop: Participating in Elections from Abroad: Trends, Processes and Normative Debates

In the 2024-2025 academic year, on 6 October 2024, Assoc. Prof. Damla Bayraktar Aksel of the Department of Political Science and International Relations presented “Participating in Elections from Abroad: Trends, Processes and Normative Debates” at the “Equal Voting Rights for All” workshop organized by the Vote and Beyond Association (Oy ve Ötesi) at the Çankaya Municipality Yaşar Kemal Culture Centre in Ankara. The workshop examined barriers to voting for groups such as citizens abroad, prisoners and women in shelters, and its outputs were published in a workshop report. By contributing expertise to inclusive electoral processes, the activity directly contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by promoting responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making and equal access to political rights.



1st International Turkish Diaspora Symposium in the Century of Türkiye: "International Migration from the Perspective of the Origin State: The Case of Türkiye"

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Assoc. Prof. Damla B. Aksel of the Department of Political Science and International Relations presented the paper "International Migration from the Perspective of the Origin State: The Case of Türkiye" at the 1st International Turkish Diaspora Symposium in the Century of Türkiye, hosted by Erzincan Binali Yıldırım University in cooperation with the Erzincan Governorship and the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities. The symposium brought together public officials, academics and diaspora representatives. By sharing research-based knowledge with policymakers working on migration and diaspora policy, the activity contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by supporting evidence-based policymaking and effective, accountable institutions.



How to Save Peacekeeping? An Innovative Financing Proposal for UN Peacekeeping Operations – IERFM 2025

In the 2024-2025 Spring semester, F. S. Sezgin and Y. Gümüşsoy of the Department of Political Science and International Relations presented the paper "How to Save Peacekeeping? An Innovative Financing Proposal for UN Peacekeeping Operations" at the Economic Research and Financial Markets Congress with International Participation (IERFM) – Turkey, 2025. The study proposes an innovative crypto-based funding method to support United Nations peacekeeping operations with public contributions, contributing to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by exploring sustainable financing for peacekeeping, conflict prevention and the reduction of violence.

History of Identity Documentation in European Nations (HIDDEN) – EU COST Action CA21120 Membership (2024-2025 Fall & Spring)

Throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University academician Dr. Damla Aksel contributed as a member of the EU-funded COST Action CA21120, "History of Identity Documentation in European Nations: Citizenship, Nationality and Migration" (HIDDEN). Bringing together researchers from fields including history, migration studies, law, sociology, geography, human rights and postcolonial studies, HIDDEN examines the evolution of identity-documentation regimes in Europe and beyond. The network connects the history of passports and other identity documents with contemporary systems of citizenship, migration governance and digital identification.

The project investigates how states facilitate or restrict access to identity documents, how documentation affects mobility and everyday life, and how factors such as place of birth, gender, geopolitics and colonial or family legacies shape individuals' access to citizenship and rights. It also considers the role of technology in modern identification systems and the ethical questions involved in accessing personal data. Dr. Aksel participated in the working groups "Documents as Proof, Documents as Past" and "Losing Citizenship," contributing to research on the evidentiary and historical functions of identity documents and the processes through which citizenship may be withdrawn or lost.



DIGITAL ECONOMY: GREEN INNOVATION & SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

HOW TO SAVE PEACEKEEPING? AN INNOVATIVE FINANCING PROPOSAL FOR UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Firuze Simay SEZGİN[196], Yunus GÜMÜŞSOY[197]

This participation made a significant contribution to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. In direct alignment with Target 16.9, which calls for legal identity for all, the project advances understanding of how identification systems can either secure access to rights and public institutions or deepen exclusion and inequality. By critically examining the relationship between documentation, citizenship, migration and state authority, HIDDEN supports more inclusive, equitable and rights-based institutions while promoting informed public dialogue on legal identity and belonging.

https://www.cost.eu/actions/CA21120/#tabs+Name:Working%20Groups%20and%20Membership



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 contributes to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by promoting transparent, accountable, inclusive and participatory governance in local administrations. Its emphasis on gender-sensitive decision-making also supports SDG 5: Gender Equality, while its focus on learning and equitable institutional structures aligns with SDG 4: Quality Education and SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities.



Strengthening Dialogue through the History of Türkiye–Europe Relations: "Neither With You Nor Without You: The Story of Relations with Europe from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic of Türkiye" Book Launch

Strengthening Dialogue through the History of Türkiye–Europe Relations: "Neither With You Nor Without You: The Story of Relations with Europe from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic of Türkiye" Book Launch On 21 March 2025, organized by Bahçeşhir University Department of Political Science and International Relations, the launch of Neither With You Nor Without You: The Story of Relations with Europe from the Ottoman Empire to the Republic of Türkiye explored the historical development of Türkiye–Europe relations. By encouraging informed and open discussion on a relationship shaped by diplomacy, cooperation and recurring tensions, the event contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. In particular, it promoted constructive dialogue, mutual understanding and peaceful international engagement as foundations for stronger and more cooperative institutions.



Public Educational Seminar: The Emotions of Populism – Anger, Resentment and Identity

On May 13, 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through its Department of Political Science and International Relations, organized a public educational talk titled "The Emotions of Populism: Anger, Resentment and Identity." Open to the general public, including individuals beyond the BAU academic community, the event provided an opportunity to explore the emotional dimensions of contemporary politics and their implications for democratic governance, political participation, and social cohesion.

The talk examined how anger, resentment, and collective identity shape political attitudes, public discourse, and patterns of political participation. Drawing on political science perspectives, the discussion explored the emotional foundations of populist politics and the ways in which political actors may mobilize shared grievances, perceptions of exclusion, and collective identities to influence public opinion.

Particular attention was given to the relationship between political emotions, social polarization, institutional trust, and democratic debate. Participants were encouraged to consider how emotional appeals can influence political engagement, shape perceptions of political institutions, and affect relationships between different groups within society. The discussion provided a critical framework for understanding these dynamics without reducing complex political developments to individual attitudes or isolated events.

Importantly, the event was publicly accessible and not restricted to Bahçeşehir University students or staff, extending opportunities for political education and academic discussion beyond formal university curricula. By making research-based perspectives on populism and democratic participation available to the wider community, the talk supported political literacy, critical thinking, and informed public dialogue.

The initiative contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing publicly accessible educational opportunities that strengthen understanding of contemporary political developments, democratic participation, and the relationship between emotions and political behavior. It also supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by encouraging informed reflection on inclusive governance, constructive political dialogue, institutional accountability, and the conditions that sustain resilient democratic societies.



Through this public educational initiative, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its commitment to sharing academic knowledge beyond the university community and fostering informed, critical engagement with the social and political challenges affecting democratic institutions and public life.

Public Educational Talk: Understanding South Korean Politics and Its Recent Crisis



On April 18, 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), through its Department of Political Science and International Relations, organized a public educational talk titled “Understanding South Korean Politics and Its Recent Crisis.” Open to the general public, including individuals beyond the BAU academic community, the event provided an opportunity to explore South Korea's contemporary political landscape, recent institutional challenges, and the broader implications of political instability for democratic governance.

The talk examined the political and institutional dynamics underlying South Korea's recent crisis, encouraging participants to consider how democratic institutions respond to periods of uncertainty and political tension. Particular attention was given to the importance of constitutional principles, the rule of law, political accountability, and institutional checks and balances in maintaining democratic stability.

By placing developments in South Korea within a broader political science perspective, the discussion encouraged participants to reflect on the relationship between democratic governance, institutional resilience, and public trust. The event also provided an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of how political systems respond to institutional challenges and the mechanisms available to safeguard democratic processes.

Importantly, the talk was publicly accessible and not restricted to enrolled BAU students, extending opportunities for political education and informed discussion beyond formal university curricula. By sharing academic perspectives on international political developments with the wider community, the initiative supported public understanding of democratic institutions, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

The event contributes directly to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing publicly accessible educational opportunities focused on political literacy, democratic governance, and international affairs. It also strongly supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by promoting awareness of the rule of law, accountable governance, and the importance of resilient institutions in responding to political crises.

Through this public educational initiative, Bahçeşehir University reinforced its role in making academic knowledge accessible beyond the university community and encouraging informed engagement with contemporary political and institutional challenges.

Transatlantic Relations and the World Order after Trump



On 14 May 2025, organized by Bahçeşehir University Department of Political Science and International Relations, the panel "Transatlantic Relations and the World Order after Trump" examined the changing global role of the United States, the future of Europe–US relations and the implications of these developments for the international order. By providing a platform for informed and open discussion of global governance challenges, the event contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. It particularly advanced dialogue on multilateral cooperation, peaceful international relations and the role of strong institutions in maintaining a stable and rules-based global order.

Economy and Politics of Good and Evil

On 1 December 2025, as part of a series commemorating the legacy of Václav Havel—a Czech playwright, dissident and human rights advocate who became the last president of Czechoslovakia and the first president of the Czech Republic—Bahçeşehir University hosted a panel in collaboration with ULMER-HLO and the Consulate General of the Czech Republic in Istanbul. Tomáš Sedláček, Director of the Václav Havel Library, joined Professors İbrahim Ünalmış and Necip Çakır for a discussion moderated by Professor Esra Albayrakoğlu. Bringing together perspectives from economics, ethics and political thought, the panel encouraged participants to examine the values underlying economic policies and public decisions, as well as their wider consequences for society.





By promoting dialogue on ethical leadership, democratic values and responsibility in public life, the panel contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. It highlighted the importance of integrity, transparency and moral judgment in building accountable institutions and sustaining public trust. The cooperation among the University, ULMER-HLO, the Czech Consulate General and the Václav Havel Library also supported SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by facilitating international academic and institutional exchange.

Strengthening Child Protection and Institutional Disaster Response: Practitioner Training for Ministry Personnel

Between 12 and 16 May 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) contributed to a five-day practitioner training programme entitled “Post-Disaster and Emergency Psychosocial Support Guide for Children”, held in Ankara through collaboration among the Trauma and Disaster Mental Health Studies Association (TARDE), UNICEF, and the Ministry of Family and Social Services of the Republic of Türkiye.

BAU's contribution was provided through Prof. Dr. Özlem Karaırmak, a faculty member of the University's Department of Guidance and Psychological Counseling, who led the training alongside expert trainers Şenol Demirhan, Sevcan Aktaş, and Rıdvan Şahin. The programme delivered specialized professional education to 50 mental professionals employed by the Ministry, directly supporting public-sector capacity development in child protection and disaster response.

The training focused on strengthening participants' knowledge and practical competencies in child-sensitive psychosocial support, post-disaster interventions, emergency response coordination, and the protection of children affected by crises. By connecting academic expertise with the operational responsibilities of Ministry personnel, the programme supported the translation of specialized knowledge into effective public service delivery.

Through Prof. Dr. Karaırmak's leadership, BAU directly contributed to the education, professional upskilling, and capacity building of public-sector practitioners responsible for implementing child protection and emergency response policies. This contribution strengthened institutional expertise and supported more coordinated, informed, and child-sensitive approaches to psychosocial interventions during disasters and emergencies.



The initiative contributed primarily to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by strengthening the professional capacities of government personnel and supporting effective, responsive child protection institutions. It also advanced SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) through psychosocial support, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through specialized professional training, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through cooperation among public institutions, civil society, UNICEF, and academic expertise.

Article on Deepfakes, Cyber Violence and Digital Rights

On 30 June 2025, Bahçeşehir University academician Seda Gökçe Turan published the review article "Deepfake Technology, Cyber Violence and Digital Communication: Interactive Threats and Social Consequences" in Niğde Ömer Halisdemir University Faculty of Communication Academic Journal, 4(1), pp. 49–61. The article examines how developments in artificial intelligence are transforming interpersonal and digital communication while also creating new forms of cyber violence. It explains that deepfake technologies can use individuals' photographs and voices to produce fabricated images and videos, enabling harassment and reputational harm without relying on conventional verbal abuse.

Adopting a descriptive framework grounded in human–computer interaction and communication studies, the article considers deepfakes as instruments of cyber harassment. It draws particular attention to fabricated revenge content and videos targeting public figures and politicians, emphasizing their potential to damage privacy, personal dignity and reputation. The study thereby highlights the wider social and ethical consequences of synthetic media, including the growing difficulty of distinguishing authentic audiovisual material from manipulated content.

By advancing awareness of digitally enabled violence, privacy violations and threats to trustworthy public communication, the publication contributes primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. Its examination of manipulated political content is especially relevant to protecting access to reliable information, public trust and accountable democratic institutions. The article also supports SDG 4: Quality Education by strengthening critical digital literacy and encouraging informed, responsible engagement with artificial intelligence and online media.

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Seminar on Safe Internet, Digital Ethics and Responsible Artificial Intelligence

As part of the 2025 Safer Internet Day and an eTwinning project, Dr. Sezin Eşfer Öndünç from Bahçeşehir University's Department of Computer Education and Instructional Technology delivered the online seminar "Safe Internet, Ethics and Responsible Use of Artificial Intelligence." Held via Zoom, the seminar brought together project coordinator Hacer Tokay and participating students from BTSO Hüseyin Sungur Anatolian High School.

The seminar addressed online safety, ethical internet practices and the responsible use of artificial intelligence. It helped students recognize potential risks in digital environments, use online resources more consciously and evaluate AI applications within an ethical framework. Through this combination of practical digital-safety guidance and ethical reflection, the session encouraged students to become more informed and responsible participants in digital society.

By promoting ethical conduct, online safety and responsible engagement with emerging technologies, the seminar contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. It supported the development of safer and more trustworthy digital spaces while strengthening young people's capacity to access and use information responsibly. The initiative also contributed to SDG 4: Quality Education by advancing students' digital literacy, AI awareness and responsible technology use.



Artificial Intelligence Law, Accountability and Responsible Innovation

On 24 December 2025, organised as an online panel within the Extracurricular Tech Talks series, the event brought together Bahçeşehir University academicians Dr. Çakır, Buse Nazan Taşkın and Ece Sülüngür to examine the legal and ethical responsibilities arising from the growing use of artificial intelligence. By connecting perspectives from law and technology, the discussion helped participants understand how the rapid adoption of AI is creating new questions concerning rights, duties and accountability in both professional and everyday contexts.

The panel addressed AI-related legal risks, emerging regulatory frameworks, copyright and intellectual property, the protection of personal data, and the limitations of AI-generated legal advice. It also considered how responsibility should be determined when an AI system generates inaccurate or discriminatory results, infringes individual rights or otherwise causes harm. Through these topics, the speakers highlighted the need for clear legal safeguards, transparent decision-making processes, effective oversight and accessible mechanisms through which individuals can seek redress.

By advancing public understanding of accountability, rights protection and the rule of law in digital environments, the panel contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. It demonstrated that trustworthy AI depends not only on technological development but also on institutions capable of establishing standards, protecting personal rights and responding effectively to emerging harms. As an extracurricular learning opportunity combining technology, law and professional practice, the event also supported SDG 4: Quality Education through accessible and interdisciplinary education on a rapidly evolving field.

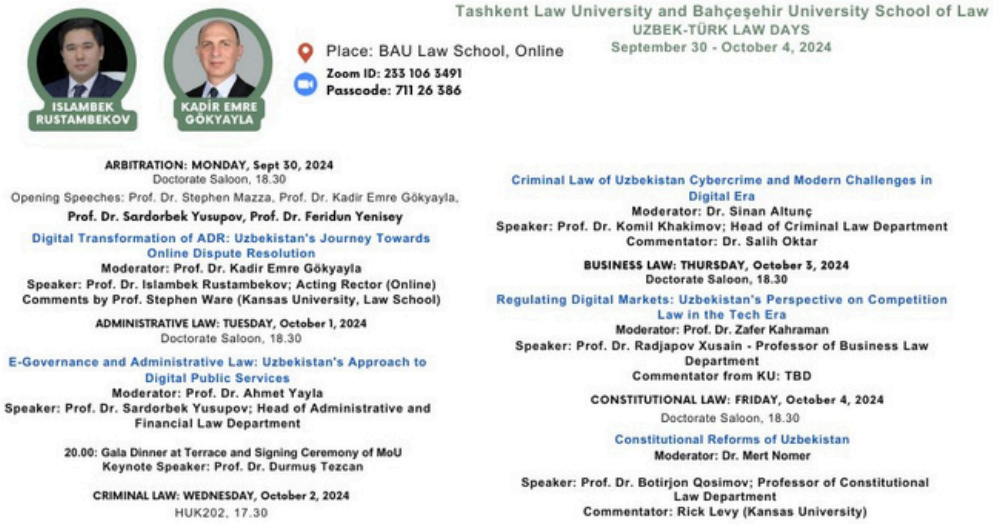


Uzbek–Turkish Law Days: International Dialogue on Legal Reform and Institutional Development

In the 2024-2025 academic year, co-hosted by Tashkent Law University and Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Law, the Uzbek–Turkish Law Days brought together prominent legal scholars and practitioners for a week of comparative legal discussion. Held in a hybrid format at BAU's Faculty of Law and online via Zoom, the programme enabled broader participation in sessions covering arbitration, administrative law, criminal law, commercial law and constitutional law.

The event addressed contemporary legal challenges and ongoing legislative reforms in Uzbekistan, with particular attention to digital transformation and e-governance. By enabling experts from Türkiye and Uzbekistan to compare legal systems, institutional practices and approaches to reform, the programme supported the exchange of knowledge relevant to more transparent, responsive and effective public institutions. A gala dinner held on 1 October also included the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a foundation for continued academic and institutional cooperation between the participating universities.

The Uzbek–Turkish Law Days contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by promoting dialogue on legal frameworks, access to justice, accountable governance and institutional development. Its hybrid expert sessions also supported SDG 4: Quality Education by expanding access to interdisciplinary legal knowledge and professional learning. Through the MoU and sustained cooperation between universities in Türkiye and Uzbekistan, the event additionally contributed to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening international academic collaboration.



Conversations on the Business World and Law: Preparing Future Legal Professionals

In the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University's "Conversations on the Business World and Law" event brought law students together with representatives from the private sector to explore the relationship between legal practice and contemporary business activity. Drawing on practitioners' professional experience, the discussion introduced students to the legal dimensions of energy, financial technologies, banking and the protection and management of corporate economic assets.

By connecting academic legal education with real-world professional contexts, the event enabled students to better understand how legislation, regulatory requirements and institutional frameworks shape commercial decision-making. Participants also gained insight into career opportunities across different industries and the knowledge and professional competencies required to address complex legal questions in rapidly changing economic environments.

The event contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening future legal professionals' understanding of the rule of law, regulatory compliance and responsible institutional practice. It also supported SDG 4: Quality Education by complementing classroom learning with practice-oriented knowledge and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by improving students' career awareness, professional readiness and capacity to contribute to responsible economic activity.



Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights: Protecting Creativity through Law

In the 2024-2025 academic year, the Bahçeşehir University's “Introduction to Intellectual Property Rights” event introduced participants to the legal protections granted for works, inventions, designs and other intellectual creations. By explaining the purpose and scope of intellectual property, the session highlighted how legal systems recognise creative and innovative labour while establishing enforceable rights for authors, inventors and other rights holders.

The event helped participants understand the importance of protecting original work, respecting ownership rights and using intellectual outputs in accordance with legal and ethical standards. This knowledge is increasingly important in educational, professional and digital environments, where creative works and information can be reproduced and distributed rapidly. Awareness of intellectual property law enables individuals both to protect their own creations and to avoid infringing the rights of others.

The event contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by advancing legal literacy and awareness of rights, responsibilities and mechanisms for protecting intellectual property. It also supported SDG 4: Quality Education by expanding participants' practical legal knowledge and encouraging respect for academic and creative work. Its emphasis on safeguarding inventions and innovation is additionally related to SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure.



Introduction to US Law and Practice: Constitutional Governance and the Rule of Law

On 10 March 2025, Bahçeşehir University's "Introduction to US Law and Practice" courses provided participants with a foundational understanding of the United States legal system. The programme covered the US Constitution, the division of authority under federalism, the structure and functions of federal and state courts, and the principal sources of legal authority, including legislation, constitutional provisions and judicial precedent.

By examining how constitutional rules distribute governmental powers and how courts interpret and apply the law, the courses enabled participants to explore the institutional foundations of justice and democratic governance. Studying case law also supported the development of legal reasoning, allowing learners to understand how judicial decisions shape legal principles and influence subsequent cases. The programme therefore combined knowledge of a particular legal system with broader reflection on judicial independence, institutional accountability and the rule of law.



The courses contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening knowledge of constitutional governance, legal institutions and mechanisms for administering justice. They also supported SDG 4: Quality Education through specialised and comparative legal learning. By facilitating the international exchange of legal knowledge and perspectives, the programme additionally related to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals.

Bahçeşehir University's Consumer Law Symposium in Collaboration with Istanbul Arel University and the Confederation of Consumer Organizations (TÖK): Policy Education, Capacity Building and Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on Consumer Rights and Regulatory Governance



On 14 March 2025, Bahçeşehir University (BAU), in collaboration with Istanbul Arel University and the Confederation of Consumer Organizations (TÖK), a non-governmental organization (NGO) representing consumer rights organizations in Türkiye, organized the "2nd Symposium on Current Issues in Consumer Law", bringing together policymakers, public-sector representatives, legal professionals, law makers, consumer rights organizations, regulatory stakeholders, and academic experts for specialized legal education and capacity building.

The symposium provided a platform for policy-oriented education, professional upskilling, and institutional knowledge exchange on consumer protection legislation, regulatory enforcement, and emerging challenges in consumer markets. By connecting academic expertise with public institutions, legal practitioners, and civil society organizations, the programme supported knowledge development relevant to consumer policy formulation, legal implementation, and institutional decision-making. It also facilitated cross-sectoral dialogue among academia, government institutions, professional organizations, and NGOs on shared challenges related to consumer rights, responsible market practices, and access to justice.

The programme featured contributions from representatives of the Ministry of Trade, the Istanbul Bar Association, the Consumer Confederation (TÖK), alongside legal scholars and practitioners from participating universities. Their involvement brought together regulatory, professional, and civil society perspectives, strengthening the exchange of practical knowledge on consumer rights and the effectiveness of consumer protection mechanisms.

The educational sessions examined consumer rights under Turkish legislation, unfair commercial practices, consumer dispute resolution, digital consumer protection, misleading advertising, product and service liability, and the responsibilities of regulatory and judicial institutions. Discussions addressed contemporary challenges in applying consumer protection rules and ensuring that legal safeguards remain effective as markets and commercial practices evolve.

Particular attention was given to the role of public authorities, consumer protection organizations, and legal institutions in enforcing consumer rights, improving regulatory oversight, and ensuring access to effective remedies. The participation of consumer advocacy organizations also introduced civil society perspectives on regulatory gaps and emerging consumer protection needs, contributing to policy-relevant dialogue and institutional learning.

Through expert-led presentations and discussions, the symposium contributed to the education, upskilling, and capacity development of policymakers, public-sector representatives, and legal professionals, strengthening their understanding of consumer protection legislation, regulatory responsibilities, and rights-based approaches to market governance.

By facilitating knowledge exchange among universities, public authorities, professional legal institutions, and consumer advocacy organizations, BAU supported evidence-informed policymaking, effective regulatory implementation, and institutional capacity building in consumer protection. The collaboration with TÖK as an NGO, alongside government representatives and academic institutions, further demonstrated BAU's role in facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and multi-stakeholder cooperation on SDG-related legal, social, and regulatory challenges.

The initiative contributed primarily to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through legal education, access to justice, regulatory accountability, and stronger consumer protection institutions. It also supported SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) through fair and transparent market practices, SDG 4 (Quality Education) through specialized professional learning, and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through cross-sectoral dialogue and cooperation among academic institutions, government authorities, professional legal bodies, and civil society organizations, including NGOs.

Workshop on the Law Applicable to Employment Contracts

On 21 May 2025, Bahçeşehir University's workshop examined the legal and practical consequences of the Constitutional Court's decision of 5 November 2024 (Docket No. 2023/158, Decision No. 2024/187) concerning Article 27 of the Law on Private International Law and International Civil Procedure (MÖHUK). Article 27 determines the law applicable to employment contracts containing a foreign element, making it particularly important for employees working abroad, multinational employers and cross-border labour disputes.

The Constitutional Court annulled the first paragraph of Article 27 because a contractual choice of law could prevent the application of a more closely connected legal system and thereby deprive employees of stronger protections available under that law. The workshop discussed the fundamental legal questions arising from this decision and considered possible solutions to the uncertainty and practical difficulties it created. Its focus included balancing contractual autonomy with the protection of employees as the weaker party, maintaining legal predictability and ensuring fair outcomes in cross-border employment relationships.

The workshop contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by encouraging informed analysis of constitutional review, legal certainty, access to justice and the protection of rights through effective legislation and judicial institutions. It also supported SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by addressing legal safeguards for fair employment conditions in international labour relationships. Through specialised discussion of a significant and evolving area of law, the workshop additionally contributed to SDG 4: Quality Education and continuing professional legal development.



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.



Comparative Criminal Procedure Law Workshop: Cross-Border Learning on Justice Systems

Between July and August 2025, Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Law organised Comparative Criminal Procedure Law classes every Tuesday and Thursday for students from the University of Greenwich undertaking an internship at the Faculty during July and August 2025. The programme combined academic study with international mobility, providing visiting students with a structured opportunity to examine criminal procedure within a comparative legal framework.

By comparing different approaches to criminal investigation, prosecution and adjudication, the classes encouraged participants to reflect critically on the institutional and procedural foundations of criminal justice. Comparative study enabled students to consider how legal systems safeguard due process, protect individual rights and balance effective law enforcement with fair-trial guarantees. It also strengthened their ability to analyse legal rules beyond a single national jurisdiction and to understand how different institutional arrangements respond to shared justice-related challenges.

The programme contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by advancing knowledge of fair judicial procedures, rights protection and the effective administration of criminal justice. It also supported SDG 4: Quality Education through specialised, practice-connected and comparative legal training. Cooperation between Bahçeşehir University and the University of Greenwich further contributed to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by promoting international academic exchange, cross-cultural legal dialogue and sustained institutional collaboration.



The Role of Constitutional Courts and Judges in the Formation of Law

Held at the BAU Law Conference Hall on 7 November 2025, “The Role of Constitutional Courts in the Formation of Law” was organised through collaboration among Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Law, the Constitutional Court and the University of Greenwich. Bringing together academic and judicial perspectives, the event examined how constitutional adjudication influences the interpretation, development and practical operation of legal systems.

The discussion explored how constitutional courts interpret constitutional norms, define the scope of fundamental rights and address questions that may not be resolved clearly through statutory provisions alone. In this context, judges do not merely apply existing legislation; through reasoned judgments and constitutional precedent, they also contribute to the continuing evolution of law. The event therefore encouraged reflection on judicial independence, the separation of powers and the responsibility of courts to protect rights while acting within the boundaries of constitutional authority.

The event contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by advancing dialogue on constitutional governance, judicial independence, rights protection and the rule of law. It also supported SDG 4: Quality Education by strengthening constitutional literacy and facilitating advanced learning for students and legal professionals. Collaboration among the Faculty, the Constitutional Court and the University of Greenwich additionally contributed to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through institutional cooperation, comparative legal exchange and international academic dialogue.



The Future in Work 2: Labour Rights, Social Protection and Legal Institutions

Organised jointly by Bahçeşehir University Faculty of Law, the Istanbul Bar Association and the Center for Labour and Social Security Law on 8 December 2025, “The Future in Work 2” brought together academic expertise, legal practice and specialised research in labour law. The event provided a platform for examining how legal frameworks and institutions must respond to changing employment relationships and emerging challenges in the world of work.

The programme addressed key issues including workers’ rights, fair employment standards, social protection and occupational health and safety. By approaching these subjects from a contemporary labour-law perspective, the event highlighted the role of legislation, judicial mechanisms, bar associations and other professional institutions in protecting employees and balancing the rights and responsibilities of workers and employers. It also encouraged dialogue on how labour regulations can remain effective, equitable and responsive as working practices continue to evolve.

The event contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by advancing legal knowledge on rights protection, access to justice and the institutional enforcement of labour standards. It also supported SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth through its focus on fair, safe and legally protected employment, and SDG 4: Quality Education through specialised professional learning and knowledge exchange. Cooperation among the Faculty, the Bar Association and the research centre further demonstrated the value of institutional collaboration in addressing complex labour-law challenges.



Panel on the Law of Intellectual and Artistic Works: Copyright, Creativity and Access to Knowledge

Held on 9 December 2025 by BAU Faculty of Law, this panel examined the law governing intellectual and artistic works, a field that protects creative products such as literature, music, fine art, cinema and computer programs while regulating copyright ownership and use. The discussion highlighted the economic rights that allow creators to control and benefit from their works, alongside moral rights that protect the creator's personal and reputational connection to those works.

The panel also addressed the need to balance copyright protection with the wider public interest in accessing knowledge, educational materials and cultural resources. This balance has become increasingly important in digital environments, where creative works can be copied, modified and distributed rapidly. By considering lawful use, licensing and statutory limitations and exceptions, the event encouraged greater awareness of both creators' rights and users' legal responsibilities.

The panel contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening legal literacy on intellectual property rights, lawful use and the institutional protection of creative work. Effective copyright systems support access to justice by providing creators with mechanisms to defend their rights while establishing clear and predictable rules for users. The event also supported SDG 4: Quality Education by improving access to specialised legal knowledge and encouraging responsible engagement with academic, artistic and digital content.



Green Dialogue Meeting: Climate Law, Accountability and the Green Transition

Held on 27.12.2025, The Green Dialogue Meeting examined the role of climate law in translating environmental commitments into binding and enforceable public policy. The discussion addressed how legal frameworks can support Türkiye's 2053 net-zero emissions and green development objectives by regulating greenhouse gas emissions, establishing reduction mechanisms and defining the responsibilities of public institutions and economic actors.

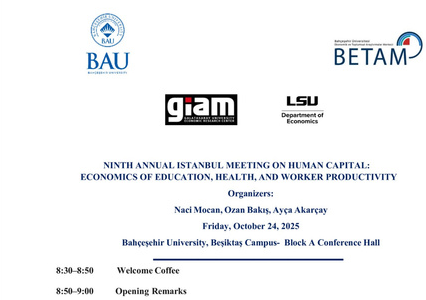
The meeting also considered the importance of aligning domestic climate policy with the Paris Agreement and other international commitments. By creating clear rules, monitoring systems and accountability mechanisms, climate legislation can improve policy continuity and ensure that emission-reduction targets are supported by effective implementation. The discussion connected this regulatory framework with the transition to renewable energy, improved energy efficiency, protection of water resources and wider public understanding of climate action.

The meeting contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by highlighting the need for transparent, accountable and effective institutions capable of implementing and enforcing climate policy. It also directly supported SDG 13: Climate Action through its focus on emissions reduction and net-zero planning, while relating to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy through the green-energy transition and SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation through the legal protection of water resources. Its contribution to climate literacy and informed public dialogue additionally aligned with SDG 4: Quality Education.



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

Organised by Bahçeşehir University's Center for Economic and Social Research (BETAM) on 24 October 2025, the Ninth Annual Istanbul Meeting on Human Capital brought together researchers to discuss the relationships among education, health, employment and worker productivity. The meeting created an academic platform for presenting evidence on public policies and major socioeconomic developments affecting workers, migrants and the wider population.



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 session "Heterogeneous Convergence in the Public–Private Wage Gap: Identifying the Impact of Türkiye's 2016 Minimum Wage Increase" examined how a nationwide wage-policy intervention affected differences between public- and private-sector earnings. By analysing the distributional consequences of the minimum-wage increase, the research provided evidence relevant to fair wage policies, institutional accountability and the assessment of how regulatory decisions affect different groups of workers. The session "Does Immigration Affect Natives' Mental Health? Causal Evidence from Forced Syrian Migration to Turkey" investigated whether large-scale forced migration influenced the mental health of the host population. This research contributed to a more evidence-based understanding of migration's social effects and the need for public institutions to develop informed, inclusive and socially responsive migration policies.



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)

The meeting contributed to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by promoting evidence-based discussion of wage regulation, migration governance and institutional responsibility. Research assessing the actual consequences of minimum-wage and migration-related developments can help public authorities design fairer policies, address social pressures and make decisions based on reliable evidence rather than assumptions. By connecting rigorous academic analysis with issues of major public importance, the meeting supported more transparent, responsive and effective institutions.

Strategic Cooperation Protocol between Bahçeşehir University and the Turkish Competition Authority



On 28 January 2025, Bahçeşehir University Rector Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu and BauRHM Director Prof. Dr. Zafer Kahraman hosted Birol Küle, President of the Turkish Competition Authority, for an institutional cooperation visit. During the meeting, Bahçeşehir University and the Competition Authority signed a strategic cooperation protocol aimed at expanding education, research and joint initiatives in the field of competition law.

The protocol establishes a framework for sharing institutional knowledge and professional experience while developing joint projects, seminars, training programmes and research activities. By connecting academic expertise with the practical knowledge of a national regulatory authority, the partnership aims to strengthen the capacity of students, researchers and legal professionals to understand and address contemporary competition-law issues. It is also expected to support innovative research and continuing education concerning the effective regulation of markets and the protection of fair competition.

The cooperation contributes primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by strengthening collaboration between a university and a public regulatory institution responsible for supporting fair and rules-based markets. Advancing expertise in competition law can enhance regulatory capacity, institutional effectiveness and the consistent application of legal standards. The protocol also supports SDG 4: Quality Education through specialised education and research, SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through sustained institutional cooperation, and SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by contributing to fairer and more competitive economic environments.

https://bau.edu.tr/haber/18986-bahcesehir-universitesi-ve-rekabet-kurumu-arasinda-stratejik-isbirligi-protokolu-imzalandi

Competition Law and Institutional Practice Internship Programmes at the Turkish Competition Authority



Under the cooperation protocol between Bahçeşehir University and the Turkish Competition Authority, two in-person, certificate-bearing internship programmes were held at the Authority's headquarters. The first programme, organised on 7–11 July 2025, attracted students from BAU's Faculty of Law and Faculty of Economics, Administrative and Social Sciences. During the programme, Rector Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu visited the participating students and observed the training activities.

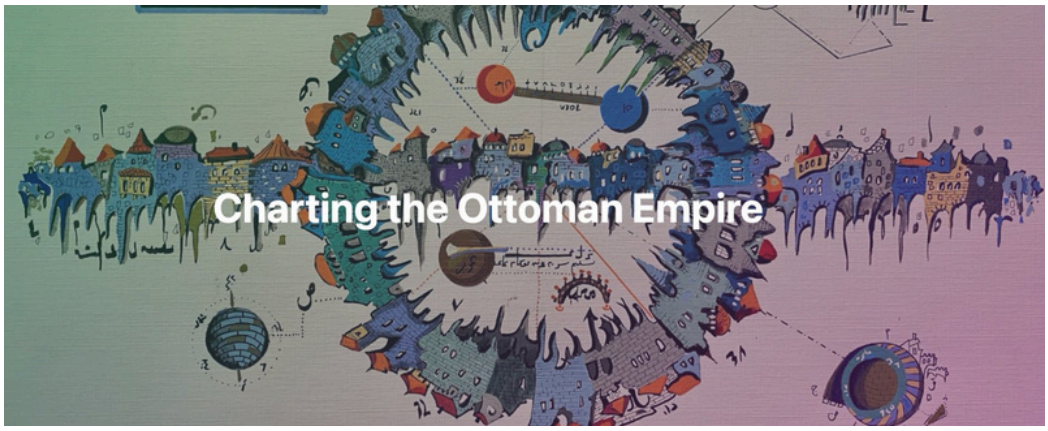
Throughout the programme, students learned about the Turkish Competition Authority's mandate, organisational structure, working procedures and areas of responsibility. They also examined selected institutional decisions, allowing them to connect their theoretical knowledge of competition law with its practical interpretation and enforcement. This case-based approach helped participants understand how competition rules are applied to protect fair markets, prevent anticompetitive conduct and ensure that regulatory decisions are supported by legal and economic analysis.

The internship programme contributed primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by giving students direct insight into the work of a public regulatory authority and the institutional enforcement of competition law. Effective competition regimes depend on transparent procedures, reasoned decisions, regulatory expertise and consistent application of legal standards. By introducing future legal professionals to these principles and to the practical responsibilities of an independent regulatory institution, the programme supported legal literacy, institutional capacity and confidence in rules-based market governance.

The programme also contributed to SDG 4: Quality Education by complementing university teaching with experiential, case-based learning in a professional institutional environment. Students were able to apply academic knowledge, develop analytical skills and gain a clearer understanding of regulatory practice. Their exposure to competition-law careers, public-sector responsibilities and professional decision-making further supported SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by strengthening career readiness and preparing graduates to contribute to fair, competitive and effectively regulated markets.



Charting the Ottoman Empire: Digital Research on Fiscal Governance, Economic Networks and State Power



Charting the Ottoman Empire (COE) is a digital humanities project investigating the economic, political and financial networks of the Ottoman Empire during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Based at Stanford University's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA) and developed in collaboration with Bahçeşehir University's Center for Ottoman Studies (BAU-OTAM), the project brings together historians, economists, political scientists, digital humanists, archivists and data scientists from institutions in Türkiye, the United States, Italy, the United Kingdom and Greece.

The project draws on Ottoman fiscal codices documenting financial transactions, credit relationships and administrative decisions involving individuals, state bodies and financial agents. A central area of research is fenn-i siyaqat, the specialised accounting system used to record fiscal transactions. By deciphering these records and examining the bureaucratic practices that preceded the Tanzimat reforms, COE provides new evidence on how public finance was administered, how state authority operated through economic relationships and how institutional decision-making shaped the distribution of wealth, debt and power.

COE transforms complex archival materials into a structured relational database through data extraction, SQL database design, network analysis, visualisation and AI-assisted processing of Ottoman fiscal terminology. These methods allow researchers to map connections among individuals, debts and state transactions that would be difficult to identify through conventional archival reading alone. The planned open-access platform, structured datasets and interactive visualisations will make this evidence more accessible for comparative research into Ottoman governance and economic history.

The project contributes primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its direct investigation of historical institutions, fiscal administration, bureaucratic practices and the exercise of state power. By revealing how administrative and financial networks functioned, COE strengthens understanding of institutional development, governance and public accountability across time. Its research into wealth, credit, debt and alternative economic trajectories also supports SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth by expanding knowledge of the historical foundations of economic organisation and development. The sustained cooperation between Stanford University and Bahçeşehir University, supported by an interdisciplinary team across several countries, contributes to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through international research collaboration, shared digital infrastructure and cross-border knowledge exchange.

https://chartingtheempire.stanford.edu/



About the Project

Charting the Ottoman Empire (COE) is a digital humanities project that explores the economic, political, and financial networks of the Ottoman Empire in the 18th and 19th centuries. By digitizing and analyzing fiscal archives, COE sheds new light on the political economy of Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and North Africa under Ottoman rule.

Housed at **Stanford University's Center for Spatial and Textual Analysis (CESTA)** and developed in collaboration with **Bahçeşehir University's Center for Ottoman Studies (BAU-OTAM)**, COE brings together an interdisciplinary team of historians, economists, political scientists, digital humanists, archivists, and data scientists from institutions in the US, Turkey, Italy, the UK, and Greece. The project uses advanced digital tools to analyze untapped fiscal records, offering a fresh perspective on wealth, debt, and state power in the Ottoman world.

Bahçeşehir University and Rotary: Cross-Sector Collaboration through the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center 1st Capstone Conference



On February 3, 2025, Bahçeşehir University and Rotary brought academic expertise and civil society experience together at a conference hosted by the BAU Otto and Fran Walter Rotary Peace Center. The event provided a platform for the Center's first cohort of 13 Peace Fellows to present their projects and participate in workshops delivered by Bahçeşehir University academics. This cross-sector setting connected the fellows' practical peacebuilding work with university-based learning, creating opportunities to exchange ideas and strengthen approaches relevant to peace, diplomacy and civil society.

The conference opened with a welcome address by Executive Director Assoc. Prof. Yüksel Alper Ecevit, followed by remarks from Marty Helman, President of the Otto and Fran Walter Foundation; Suat Baysan, HAC Committee Chair; Erden Gökmen, Rotary District 2420 Governor-Elect; and Prof. Dr. Tunç Bozbura, Bahçeşehir University Vice Rector. Bringing university leadership, foundation representatives and Rotary members into the same programme demonstrated the institutional breadth of the partnership. Speakers highlighted the importance of the Center and the need for peacebuilding, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa.

Through their project presentations, the fellows shared work developed during their one-year term, while the subsequent academic workshops connected their experiences with additional knowledge and professional perspectives. The exchange between fellows, university academics, counselors and Rotary participants illustrated how cross-sector cooperation can support both learning and practical peacebuilding. The certificate ceremony marked the completion of the first cohort's programme and recognised the fellows' dedication alongside the contributions of those who supported their development.

The conference contributes primarily to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through the sustained cooperation between Bahçeşehir University and Rotary. The Center demonstrates the importance Bahçeşehir University places on working with organisations in other sectors, combining its educational and research capacity with civil society networks and philanthropic support. By providing an institutional setting for this cooperation, the university creates opportunities for academic knowledge to inform practice and for practitioners' experiences to enrich university-based learning.



This university–civil society partnership also supports SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its focus on peacebuilding and the development of professionals working in peace, diplomacy and civic life. Its workshops, project exchange and professional learning contribute to SDG 4: Quality Education. Together, these educational and peacebuilding dimensions show how collaboration across sectors can connect individual capacity development with wider sustainable development objectives.:



Bahçeşehir University: Providing Academic Expertise to Government in Digital Transformation and Policy Development



Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 24.12.2024-95055

T.C.
CUMHURBAŞKANLIĞI
Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi Başkanlığı
Yönetim Hizmetleri Dairesi Başkanlığı

Ek-1

Sayı : E-50209289-903.07.02-19870
Konu : Dr. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜNE

İlgi : 21.11.2024 tarihli ve R1858953-92693 sayılı yazınız.

Üniversitenız Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesinde Araştırma Görevlisi olarak görev yapan Dr. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK (T.C.46714331054) ilgide kayıtlı muvafakat ile Başkanlığımızda 21/6/2006 tarihli ve 5523 sayılı Cumhurbaşkanlığına Bağlı Ofislere İlişkin Bazı Düzenlemeler Yapılması Hakkında Kanunun 10 uncu maddesinin üçüncü fıkrası çerçevesinde görevlendirilmişti. Ancak adı geçenin görevlendirme unvanının yenilenmesi ihtiyacı hasıl olmuştur.

Söz konusu personelin, 21/6/2006 tarihli ve 5523 sayılı Cumhurbaşkanlığına Bağlı Ofislere İlişkin Bazı Düzenlemeler Yapılması Hakkında Kanunun 10 uncu maddesinin üçüncü fıkrası çerçevesinde yapılan görevlendirmesinin sonlandırılarak, tüm özlük, mali ve sosyal hakları Cumhurbaşkanlığı Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi tarafından karşılanmak üzere 375 sayılı Kanun Hükmünde Kararnamenin Ek 25 inci maddesi ve Kurumlar Arası Geçici Görevlendirme Yönetmeliğinin 4 üncü maddesinin birinci fıkrasının (b) bendi çerçevesinde (1) yıl süreyle Başkanlığımıza aylıksız izinli olarak görevlendirilmesi için muvafakat verilmesi hususlarında;

Bilgilerinizi ve gereğini rica ederim.

Yusuf TANCAN
Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi Başkan V.

Ek: Geçici Görevlendirme Formu (3 Sayfa)

Evrak Tarih ve Sayısı: 31.01.2025-97259

T.C.
BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜ
Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesi Dekanlığı

Sayı : E-75538006-903.07-97259
Konu : Görevlendirme - Dr. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜNE

Fakültemiz Yapay Zeka Mühendisliği Bölümü'nde Araştırma Görevlisi olarak görev yapan Dr. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK'ın, 01/01/2025 - 01/01/2026 tarihleri arasında, Türkiye/Ankara'da bulunan Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi Başkanlığı'nda 1 yıl süreyle aylıksız izinli olarak görevlendirilmesi hususunu arz ederim.

Prof.Dr. Ahmet Arif ERGİN
Dekan Vekili

Ek:
1- İlgi Yazı
2- Karar Örneği

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ YÖNETİM KURULUNUN 06.02.2025 TARİH VE 2025/03/08 SAYILI KARAR ÖRNEĞİDİR.

KARAR:2025/03/08

Üniversitemiz Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesi Arş. Gör. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK'ın Cumhurbaşkanlığına Bağlı Ofislere İlişkin Bazı Düzenlemeler Yapılması Kanunu uyarınca görevlendirilmesi konusu görüşüldü.

Görüşmeler sonunda; Cumhurbaşkanlığının 24.12.2024 tarih ve E-50209289-903.07.02-19870 sayılı yazısı ile Üniversitemiz Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesinin 07.01.2025 tarih ve 2025/01/01 sayılı Fakülte Yönetim Kurulu kararı gereği; Mühendislik ve Doğa Bilimleri Fakültesi Yapay Zeka Mühendisliği Bölümü Arş. Gör. Merve Ayyüce KIZRAK'ın, tüm özlük, mali ve sosyal hakları T.C. Cumhurbaşkanlığı Dijital Dönüşüm Ofisi tarafından karşılanacak şekilde 375 sayılı Kanun Hükmünde Kararnamenin Ek 25 inci maddesi ve Kurumlar Arası Geçici Görevlendirme Yönetmeliğinin 4 üncü maddesinin birinci fıkrasının (b) bendi kapsamında 01 Ocak 2025 – 01 Ocak 2026 tarihler arasında 1 (bir) yıl ücretsiz izinli sayılmasına oy birliği ile karar verildi.

...../...../2025
ASLI GİBİDİR
Deniz ÇALIŞ
Yönetim Destek ve Bilgi Sistemleri Direktörü

During the 2024–2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) supported the provision of specialized academic expertise to the Government of the Republic of Türkiye through the official assignment of Dr. Merve Ayyüce Kızrak, a Research Assistant in the Department of Artificial Intelligence Engineering within BAU's Faculty of Engineering and Natural Sciences, to the Digital Transformation Office of the Presidency of the Republic of Türkiye.

This institutional cooperation was formally documented through official correspondence issued by the Presidency's Digital Transformation Office on 24 December 2024, requesting the continuation of Dr. Kızrak's assignment under the applicable legal framework. The correspondence was followed by an official faculty-level request dated 31 January 2025 and a Bahçeşehir University Executive Board decision dated 6 February 2025, unanimously approving her one-year assignment covering 1 January 2025 to 1 January 2026.

The assignment represents a formal mechanism through which specialized university expertise in artificial intelligence is made available to a national government institution, with direct relevance to public-sector digital transformation and associated policy priorities. Rather than being limited to an academic event or an informal exchange of knowledge, the arrangement was established through official government correspondence and institutional university approval, demonstrating a documented relationship between BAU and a central government body.

The assignment connects BAU's academic expertise in artificial intelligence and advanced technologies with the institutional work of the Presidency's Digital Transformation Office, a national government body operating in the field of public-sector digital transformation and related digital governance and policy priorities.

Artificial intelligence expertise is increasingly relevant to government institutions addressing digital transformation, technological innovation, data-driven systems, and the development of digital public-sector capabilities. Such expertise is also important for evaluating emerging technologies, informing digital transformation strategies, and supporting evidence-based approaches to public policy and government decision-making. By authorizing the assignment of a member of its Artificial Intelligence Engineering Department, BAU enabled specialized academic knowledge and technical competencies to be made available within a governmental institutional setting.

The official documentation establishes the formal assignment of a university researcher to the government body for an extended period, providing an institutional basis for professional knowledge exchange and the application of specialized technical expertise in the public sector. This arrangement creates an opportunity for academic expertise to inform policy-related discussions and institutional approaches to artificial intelligence, digital innovation, and public-sector transformation.

This initiative contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by demonstrating Bahçeşehir University's institutional engagement with a national government body through the provision of specialized academic expertise relevant to digital transformation and public policy.

The cooperation illustrates a practical channel through which universities can contribute their scientific and technological capabilities to public institutions, supporting connections between higher education, government administration, policy-oriented knowledge exchange, and public-sector expertise.

Through the officially documented assignment of Dr. Merve Ayyüce Kızrak to the Presidency's Digital Transformation Office, BAU demonstrates its commitment to making academic expertise available to government institutions and strengthening university–government engagement in areas of strategic technological and policy importance. The initiative highlights the potential contribution of university-based expertise to evidence-informed policy development, digital governance, and the strengthening of public institutions.

Bahçeşehir University Hosts the Codes of the New Global Order Conference: A Neutral and Safe Platform for Open Dialogue among Diverse Political and Institutional Perspectives





Hosted by Bahçeşehir University on March 26, 2025, the "Codes of the New Global Order" Conference created a neutral academic platform where academics, policymakers, international representatives and experts from different sectors could come together to discuss rapidly changing political and economic conditions. The conference opened with addresses by BAU Rector Prof. Dr. Esra Hatipoğlu and Nikhil Seth, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR. By convening participants with different areas of expertise and institutional perspectives, BAU provided a safe and non-partisan environment for frank discussion of global governance, geopolitical transformation and the future of international cooperation.

The conference was structured around four panels addressing economic nationalism, tariffs and trade wars, the effects of social media on international commerce, and the global consequences of United States trade policy. These subjects involve competing national interests, conflicting political interpretations and differing approaches to global economic governance. Bahçeşehir University offered an open and academically grounded space in which these disagreements could be examined through evidence, expert analysis and constructive exchange rather than polarised debate. This capacity to bring different political and professional voices into the same conversation strengthened dialogue across institutional and ideological boundaries.

The neutral character of the conference was particularly important at a time when established security arrangements, economic relations and bilateral agreements were being questioned. Nikhil Seth described the international environment as a period of uncertainty in which the effectiveness of international organisations and institutions is increasingly contested. Against this background, BAU's role extended beyond hosting a conventional academic event: the University created a trusted forum where participants could openly identify institutional weaknesses, explore emerging risks and consider how international structures might respond more effectively. The conference thus enabled difficult global challenges to be discussed candidly within a respectful and inclusive setting.

BAU's safe dialogue space also supported the participation of voices from different disciplines and sectors. Seth emphasised the value of hearing experts from diverse academic fields when addressing interconnected issues such as security, economics and inclusion. By facilitating exchange among participants who approached the emerging world order from different standpoints, the University encouraged comprehensive and non-exclusionary thinking. Rather than promoting a single political position, the conference enabled contrasting assessments to be heard, questioned and evaluated, reinforcing the importance of pluralism and informed deliberation in addressing complex governance challenges.

The discussion of artificial intelligence further demonstrated the value of this open and balanced environment. Participants considered both AI's potential to advance peace, prosperity, security and inclusion and the risk that it could be used to impose restrictions, deepen divisions or exclude particular groups. By allowing the opportunities and dangers of technological change to be examined together, Bahçeşehir University provided a neutral setting for responsible debate on how emerging technologies should be governed. This approach encouraged dialogue on the ethical and institutional safeguards required to ensure that technological development serves people and strengthens inclusive societies.

The conference contributed directly to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by establishing Bahçeşehir University as a neutral convening institution where diverse political, academic and professional stakeholders could meet safely and discuss shared challenges with openness. Through respectful debate on international institutions, multilateral diplomacy, economic conflict, technological change, peace, security and inclusion, BAU supported participatory dialogue and the exchange of competing perspectives. The event demonstrated how a university can strengthen democratic and institutional culture by offering an independent, trusted and intellectually open space in which disagreement can be expressed constructively and possible responses to global challenges can be explored collectively. The participation of Nikhil Seth, former United Nations Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director of UNITAR, alongside academics, policymakers and sectoral experts also connected the conference to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by fostering dialogue between higher education, international institutions and wider professional communities around shared global challenges.



TÜBİTAK 1001 Research Project on Cyberbullying, Adolescent Bystanders and Safer Digital Communities



In the 2024-2025 academic year, Asst. Prof. Dr. Seda Gökçe Turan from Bahçeşehir University's Faculty of Educational Sciences received support under the TÜBİTAK 1001 Scientific and Technological Research Projects Funding Programme for the project "A Field Study on the Effects of Perceptions of Legitimised Cyberbullying on Adolescents' Cyber-Bystander Roles." With a budget of TRY 909,267 and a duration of 13 months, the project will examine how adolescents' perceptions that normalise or justify cyberbullying influence their responses when they witness harmful behaviour in digital environments.

By focusing on cyber-bystander roles, the field research moves beyond examining only perpetrators and victims and addresses the wider social environment in which online violence occurs. Adolescents who witness cyberbullying may reinforce the behaviour, remain passive, distance themselves from the incident or support the person targeted. Investigating how legitimising beliefs influence these reactions can generate evidence for prevention strategies that challenge the normalisation of digital aggression and encourage responsible intervention, solidarity and protection in online communities.

The project contributes primarily to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by addressing cyber violence affecting young people and producing evidence relevant to safer, more inclusive and rights-respecting digital environments. Its findings can support the development of informed educational and institutional responses to cyberbullying, helping schools and other organisations strengthen prevention, reporting and protection practices. The research also supports SDG 4: Quality Education by informing digital citizenship and cyberbullying education, and SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being by addressing an online form of violence that can affect adolescents' psychological and social well-being.

Foster Family and Adoption Seminar



In collaboration with the Ministry of Family and Social Services, Bahçeşehir University's Vocational School of Health Services, Department of Child Care and Youth Services organized the "Foster Family and Adoption Seminar" on March 20, 2025. The seminar provided comprehensive information on the frameworks and practices of foster care and adoption. Featuring expert speakers such as Lect. Ayşen Yalın and Specialist Child Development Expert Cansu Gökbek, the event aimed to raise awareness and educate participants on the vital role of family-based care for vulnerable children.

Through this initiative, Bahçeşehir University has strengthened its dedication to societal contribution and the empowerment of disadvantaged groups. The seminar encouraged participants to deeply understand the social, psychological, and institutional dimensions of adoption and foster care, promoting lifelong learning and community responsibility. By collaborating directly with governmental bodies, the event fostered awareness of inclusive social practices and the protection of children's rights to a healthy and supportive family environment.

This initiative directly contributes to SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities by focusing on the empowerment of disadvantaged groups, particularly vulnerable children in need of protective care. It also supports SDG 4: Quality Education through its emphasis on lifelong learning and raising public awareness, as well as SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions by working in partnership with the Ministry to promote effective, accountable, and inclusive social service mechanisms.

Green Constitutionalism against Climate Change: A Book by Bahçeşehir University Academic Serkan Köybaşı

Published in December 2025, Bahçeşehir University academic Serkan Köybaşı's book İklim Değişikliğine Karşı Yeşil Anayasalcılık (Green Constitutionalism against Climate Change) examines the relationship between the climate crisis and contemporary constitutional, political and economic structures. It explores the transition from human-centred to nature-centred legal systems, identifying sustainability, climate justice, rethinking rights and an economic model compatible with nature as foundations of green constitutionalism. The book also examines international and national judicial decisions concerning climate change and the role of high courts in advancing ecological responsibilities.

The publication contributes primarily to SDG 13: Climate Action by examining how constitutional principles and judicial mechanisms can support responses to the climate crisis. Köybaşı argues that effective climate action requires scrutiny of the legal and economic structures underlying environmental degradation. By bringing together climate justice, sustainability and climate litigation, the book contributes to academic understanding of how legal systems can strengthen accountability for climate-related responsibilities.

The book's nature-centred constitutional perspective also provides a conceptual connection to SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation. Its discussion of sustainability and the reconsideration of rights offers a basis for understanding the protection of water resources as a legal and ecological responsibility. From this perspective, safeguarding freshwater ecosystems and considering the water needs of present and future generations become relevant applications of a constitutional order that recognises humanity's dependence on nature.

Its relevance to SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy lies in its examination of the relationship between economic structures, legal systems and climate change. The proposed shift towards an economic model compatible with nature provides a framework for considering the legal responsibilities surrounding energy production and consumption. Applied to the energy sector, this perspective can inform discussion of cleaner energy transitions and the need to align energy decisions with climate justice and long-term ecological sustainability.

The publication relates to SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production through its critical examination of the economic arrangements underlying ecological harm. Its emphasis on sustainability and an economic model compatible with nature provides a foundation for questioning resource-intensive production and consumption practices. By examining how constitutional principles might constrain environmentally damaging economic power, the book contributes to debate on the legal conditions needed for more responsible resource use and economic activity.

The book also contributes directly to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions through its focus on constitutionalism, the rule of law and the role of high courts in climate governance. Its analysis of international and national climate judgments examines how judicial institutions can interpret environmental responsibilities and scrutinise the exercise of power. By placing climate justice within constitutional debate, the publication supports scholarly discussion of accountable institutions and legal mechanisms capable of addressing the climate crisis.



Bahçeşehir University, CIFAL Istanbul, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Bağcılar Municipality and VMI Consulting: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration on Digital Transformation and Leadership in Local Government



During the 2024-2025 academic year, "Digital Transformation and Leadership in Local Government" brought together Bahçeşehir University, CIFAL Istanbul, the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Bağcılar Municipality and VMI Consulting to explore digital change in local public services. Held at Bahçeşehir University's Law Building Doctoral Hall, the event also involved the university's Leadership and Entrepreneurship Club. Its cross-sectoral format provided a platform for connecting research and education with the practical organisational and technological challenges facing municipalities.

The programme connected higher education through Bahçeşehir University, the public sector through Bağcılar Municipality, private-sector cybersecurity expertise through VMI Consulting, and international sustainability training through CIFAL Istanbul and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. This cross-sectoral partnership brought complementary perspectives to digital transformation and leadership, linking academic knowledge with municipal experience and technical expertise. The exchange offered an opportunity to consider how cooperation across sectors can strengthen institutional capacity and support the digital development of local government.

The event highlights Bahçeşehir University's role in facilitating cross-sectoral dialogue and knowledge exchange around public-sector challenges. It contributes primarily to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals through cooperation between academic, public, private and international actors. Its focus on digital transformation also supports SDG 9: Industry,

Innovation and Infrastructure, while its attention to local government capacity relates to SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions and SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

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.

Bahçeşehir University's Ministry of Justice-Authorized Legal and Administrative Capacity-Building Programme



T.C.
ADALET BAKANLIĞI
Hukuk İşleri Genel Müdürlüğü
Bilirkişilik Daire Başkanlığı

Sayı : E-80584529-650(650.04.4.2025)-46/7262 20.03.2025
Konu : İflâs İdare Memurluğu Eğitim İzni

BAHÇEŞEHİR ÜNİVERSİTESİ REKTÖRLÜĞÜNE

İlgi : 25.2.2025 tarihli yazınız.

İflâs idare memurluğu eğitim izni başvurunuzu içeren ilgi yazınız incelendi.

2004 sayılı İcra ve İflâs Kanununun 223 üncü maddesinin altıncı fıkrası, İflâs İdare Memurluğu Yönetmeliğinin 19 uncu maddesi ve Bakanlığımızın 2025/1 sayılı İflâs İdare Memurluğu Temel ve Yenileme Eğitiminin Usul ve Esaslarına İlişkin Genelgesi gereğince 6.3.2025 tarihli Bakanlık "Olur"u ile Üniversitemize İstanbul'da 3 yıl süre ile iflâs idare memurluğu temel eğitim izni verilerek, Daire Başkanlığımız resmi internet sitesinde yayımlanan İsteye kaydınız yapılmıştır. Bilirkişilik Daire Başkanlığı Eğitim Portalı (www.bildep.net) girişi için gerekli kullanıcı ad ve şifresi ise Kurumunuzca belirlenen koordinatöre iletilmiştir.

Bu itibarla;

1) Eğitim taleplerinin Portaldan gönderilerek onay alınması,

2) Eğitimlerin onaylanan yerlerde ve Ek-1'de yer alan listedeki eğitmenlerle yapılması,

3) Portalda kayıtlı eğitmenler harici'nde yeni bir eğitmen talebinize ilişkin bilgi ve belgelerin yine Portaldan gönderilerek onay alınması,

4) Eğitimlerin, Daire Başkanlığımızca hazırlanıp internet sitesinde yayımlanan İflâs İdare Memurluğu Temel Eğitimi Kaynak Kitabı esas alınarak ve iflâs idare memurluğuna ilişkin mevzuat ve içtihat değişiklikleri takip edilerek verilmesi,

5) Eğitim programlarının Ek-2'de yer alan eğitim müfredatına göre oluşturulması,

6) Eğitimlerin en fazla 30 kişilik sınıflarda yapılması,

7) En geç eğitimlerin başladığı gün eğitim verenlerin ad ve soyadları, ünvanları ile eğitime katılanların ad ve soyadları, unvanlık alanı ve mesleklerinin yer aldığı listelerin Portaldan gönderilmesi,

8) Derslerin 1/12'sine devam etmeyenlerin eğitim programı ile ilişiğinin kesilmesi,

9) Eğitimler bitirilenin sonra bir hafta içinde her ders için ayrı ayrı olmak üzere eğitim veren ve eğitime katılan kişilerin ad ve soyadları ile imzalarını içeren ders çizelgelerinin Portaldan gönderilmesi,

10) Daire Başkanlığımızca doğrudan veya bilirkişilik bölge kurulları marifetiyle Kurumunuzun eğitimle ilgili belirlenen hususlar yönünden her zaman denetlenebileceği,

11) Her yıl ocak ayında düzenli olarak bir önceki yıl içinde gerçekleştirilen eğitim faaliyetinin kapsamı, içeriği ve başarısı konusunda düzenlenecek raporlara, eğitim programı sayısı, eğitime katılan ve tamamlayan kişi sayısı, eğitime katılan kişilerin ad ve soyadları, imzaları, unvanlık alanı ve meslekleri, eğitmenlerin ad ve soyadları, ünvanları ile imzalarını içerir ders çizelgeleri ve eğitim verilen yerler eklenerek Daire Başkanlığımıza gönderilmesi,

Aksi halde, Bakanlığımızın 2025/1 sayılı Genelgesi gereğince Kurumunuza verilen eğitim izninin iptal edilebileceği hususlarında,

Bilgilerinizi ve gereğini rica ederim.

Abdulkadir KUTLUK
Hakim
Bakan a.
Daire Başkanı

Ek:
1- Eğitimci Listesi (1 Sayfa)
2- Eğitim Müfredatı (3 Sayfa)

Bahçeşehir University (BAU) contributes to professional upskilling and institutional capacity building in law, economics, public administration, and financial governance through specialized education authorized by the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Türkiye. The initiative reflects the University's commitment to extending its academic expertise beyond conventional degree programmes and strengthening knowledge and professional competencies in areas directly relevant to policy-makers, law-makers, legal professionals, and public-sector institutions.

In 2025, BAU received official authorization from the Ministry of Justice to deliver a specialized legal and administrative training programme for a three-year period. Granted on 6 March 2025 and formally communicated on 20 March 2025, the authorization places the programme within a nationally regulated framework, with Ministry-approved educational standards, curriculum requirements, and qualified academic instructors.

Throughout 2025, BAU maintained its institutional commitment to professional education and capacity building in fields relevant to policy-makers and law-makers, supported by its Ministry of Justice authorization and established academic expertise. This framework provides a basis for specialized training designed to strengthen legal, economic, and administrative competencies and support professional development within the justice and governance sectors.

The programme adopts an interdisciplinary approach to professional capacity building, integrating legal knowledge with economic and financial competencies. Its 36-hour curriculum includes 18 hours of legal education covering commercial law, judicial procedures, enforcement and insolvency law, and legal administration, alongside 18 hours addressing economics, public finance, financial management, accounting, and financial reporting.

Through this combination of disciplines, the training is designed to strengthen participants' understanding of legal procedures, economic principles, institutional responsibilities, and the financial dimensions of administrative decision-making. These areas of expertise are also relevant to the broader knowledge and capacity-building needs of policy-makers and law-makers, particularly in understanding the implementation of legal frameworks, the functioning of judicial institutions, and the economic implications of regulatory decisions.

An important feature of the initiative is its formal institutional connection with the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry establishes the regulatory framework, approves educational requirements and instructors, and defines procedures for monitoring, reporting, and quality assurance. This framework demonstrates BAU's recognized capacity to provide specialized professional education aligned with national legal and institutional standards.

The initiative contributes to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) through legal education, professional capacity building, and the development of competencies supporting effective judicial and administrative processes. By providing an institutional framework for interdisciplinary education in law, economics, and public financial management, BAU also contributes expertise in fields relevant to informed policymaking, legislative understanding, and institutional governance.

Strengthening Education through Collaboration: Bahçeşehir University Partners with the Ministry of Education



In the 2024-2025 academic year, Bahçeşehir University signed a cooperation protocol with the Beşiktaş District Directorate of National Education, which operates under the Ministry of National Education of the Republic of Türkiye. Under this protocol, BAU will serve as a "trainer of trainers," providing educational programs and academic support for instructors affiliated with the Ministry, focusing on strengthening professional capacity, promoting innovation, and improving educational practices.

Bahçeşehir University Global Leadership Forum: Ongoing Policy Education, Capacity Building, Leadership Development and a Neutral Platform for International Dialogue Since 2021







Since its establishment in 2021, Bahçeşehir University (BAU) has developed the Global Leadership Forum as an ongoing platform for policy-oriented education, leadership development, and inclusive dialogue on international affairs, governance, peace, and security. Led by BAU's International Leadership Practice and Research Center (ULMER) and Government and Leadership School (HLO), the initiative reflects the University's sustained commitment to connecting academic expertise with the professional development of policymakers, public officials, and individuals engaged in public affairs, while providing an academic environment for the exchange of diverse perspectives on international and political issues.

Organized in the 2024-2024 academic year, in cooperation with academic and institutional partners, including Global Akademi, and supported across its documented editions by organizations such as the Council on International Relations (UİK), Panorama Portal, and UNITAR-affiliated CIFAL Istanbul, the forum brings together policymakers, local government representatives, diplomats, academics, and experts from diverse professional, institutional, academic, and political backgrounds. By facilitating engagement among individuals representing different institutions, experiences, and perspectives, the forum creates opportunities for dialogue across professional and political viewpoints. This collaborative approach also supports SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through institutional cooperation, interdisciplinary knowledge exchange, and engagement across academic, public-sector, and international networks.

The Global Leadership Forum is structured around evolving themes that reflect emerging international developments and changing policy priorities. Its thematic agenda encompasses the transformation of the international system, the emergence of a new world order, shifting global power dynamics, regional peace and stability, and contemporary challenges to international security. Discussions also explore the changing balance between global and regional powers, the future of multilateral cooperation, geopolitical uncertainty, and the implications of these developments for international governance and public policy. By addressing different dimensions of global leadership and international relations, the forum provides an academic platform for examining complex policy challenges from multiple perspectives.

These thematic discussions are closely connected to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), particularly through their focus on peace, international stability, governance, and the challenges facing public institutions. The forum encourages participants to examine different approaches to international cooperation, conflict resolution, and institutional responses to complex geopolitical developments, contributing to a deeper understanding of issues relevant to effective governance and policymaking.

A central objective of the forum is to strengthen the knowledge, analytical capabilities, and strategic competencies of policymakers, public officials, and policy practitioners. Through expert-led presentations, policy analysis, and interactive discussions, participants engage with issues concerning international governance, conflict resolution, institutional resilience, and global cooperation. The forum's educational approach connects academic knowledge with contemporary policy challenges, contributing to professional upskilling and capacity building in areas relevant to effective leadership and evidence-informed policymaking.

This educational dimension also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by extending university-based learning opportunities to professional audiences and supporting interdisciplinary knowledge exchange and continuing professional development.

A Neutral and Inclusive Platform for Dialogue Across Diverse Perspectives

Beyond its educational function, the Global Leadership Forum provides an academically guided, inclusive, and politically neutral environment for dialogue among stakeholders representing different perspectives, institutional interests, and professional backgrounds. Held during the 2024-2025 academic year, the forum creates opportunities for individuals with diverse political viewpoints, academic approaches, and institutional experiences to engage in constructive discussions on international affairs, governance, peace, and security.

An important characteristic of the forum is its emphasis on open academic exchange rather than the promotion of any particular political position or institutional agenda. Participants are encouraged to examine different interpretations of international developments, challenge assumptions, exchange arguments, and engage respectfully with perspectives that may differ from their own. This approach is particularly relevant when discussing sensitive and contested issues such as geopolitical tensions, regional conflicts, international security, and global governance.

By bringing together individuals from different professional, institutional, and political backgrounds, BAU provides an academic setting in which diverse and potentially contrasting viewpoints can be expressed, examined, and discussed through constructive dialogue. The forum's emphasis on respectful disagreement, critical reflection, and mutual understanding supports meaningful engagement across differences while maintaining an educational and academically grounded approach.

This dialogue-oriented dimension strengthens the forum's relevance to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions) by encouraging peaceful engagement, mutual understanding, and informed discussion on international and governance-related challenges. It also reinforces SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by facilitating communication, cooperation, and knowledge exchange among stakeholders from different institutional and professional backgrounds.

The combination of policy-oriented education and dialogue across political, institutional, and professional perspectives supports leadership development while strengthening connections between academia, public institutions, and international organizations. Through this ongoing initiative, BAU promotes knowledge exchange, institutional cooperation, and informed approaches to complex governance challenges.

Overall, the Global Leadership Forum contributes to three interconnected Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), through policy education, professional capacity building, peaceful dialogue, and governance-related discussions; SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), through institutional cooperation and knowledge exchange across diverse stakeholders; and SDG 4 (Quality Education), through interdisciplinary learning and professional development. Together, these dimensions reflect BAU's broader commitment to supporting informed leadership, international understanding, and constructive academic dialogue on contemporary global challenges.



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