

# SHARING INFORMATION OF PROGRESS REPORT SEPTEMBER 2018 İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY



## I. LETTER OF RENEWED COMMITMENT MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



Istanbul Bilgi University has become, in a relatively short lap of time, a reputable and particular institution in the Turkish high education. With a strong tradition of liberal and pluralistic thinking, coupled with a strong commitment to teaching excellence, BILGI has earned an enviable position within the intellectual scenery of our country.

Our commitment to excellent teaching has been greatly achieved through our efforts to abide by universal values and regulations. Our endeavor to obtain high profile, reputable international and national accreditations has been crowned with success. Our main objectives in international accreditation continue.

A University is a never-ending development and research space, continuously enriched by multiple

layers of experience, accumulated through years and activities. Needless to say that we take great pride of the social responsibility achievements of our University, together with the performance of our publishing house, which has earned a well-deserved reputation in Turkish university press domain.

Our present biannual report, prepared in line with the PRME principles is eloquent enough to show the development of our University. We are confident that in coming years, even better evaluations will be on the agenda within our cooperation with the PRME.

Best regards.

Prof. Dr. Ege Yazgan

Rector

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



As the Dean of the Business Faculty of İstanbul Bilgi University, we are very pleased to renew our commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME).

During these last two academic years, İstanbul Bilgi University has consolidated its local and international presence, demonstrating that it is not only an innovative university, but also incorporates “Social responsibility, ethical decision making, equality, diversity, sustainability and environmental consciousness”. This allows students to be able to conduct an evidence-based management, an ethical decision-making and the social innovation.

The following report is an overview of some of Bilgi University’s past, present and future efforts not to become but to be a responsible university. İstanbul Bilgi University always been committed to utilizing best practices, we have also increased our commitment to develop educational activities on issues such as sustainability, environment, human rights, labor standards, corporate citizenship, and anti-corruption to help our students understand the needs of both the local and global society that they are part of. Also, our research interests are now moving into an examination of the best practices of teaching sustainability and corporate social

responsibility to students from different countries and cultures.

The PRME framework perfectly fits our goals and inspires us in our efforts to reach our targets. PRME principals help us further strengthen our leadership role in the dissemination of these values in our educational sphere, the business world and the entire society.

İstanbul Bilgi University supports the six major Principles espoused by the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). This support is not given because İstanbul Bilgi University is a signatory to PRME but because the ideals associated with PRME have been emphasized in the founding principles and mission statement of İstanbul Bilgi University.

As a part of this initiative, our students and faculty members are well aware of their responsibilities towards making the world a better place. Therefore, responsible management and sustainability are guiding principles of Bilgi University’s activities and play an important role in research, education, university management and knowledge exchange with external stakeholders. The PRME principles will certainly shed a light to our way and increase our motivation to work for a more responsive and caring future in collaboration with our faculty, students and alumni.

Prof. Dr. Benan Orbay

## II. Major Achievements Regarding the Principles

**Principle 1 - Purpose:** We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Istanbul Bilgi University, is an institution not only with great academic achievements, but also a meeting point of open-minded and entrepreneurial individuals, who are aware of the social issues and brave enough to take steps for change. Istanbul Bilgi University, a Turkish academic institution, dedicated to the education of responsible business leaders, differentiates itself by offering high quality education and engaging in socially responsible endeavors for the benefit of all its stakeholders by working devotedly to offer the knowledge of the academy to the people, the society and the city.

Istanbul Bilgi University contributes to science, artistic production, and the development of technology, puts effort in educating individuals whose research and problem solving skills have developed in an atmosphere of free thought and an awareness of social responsibility, and who embraces and respects the ethical principles, professional objectivity and also serves society within multi-dimensional standards of quality.

The University, a member of the United Nations Global Compact Academic Network, participates in the global initiative of responsible management education by integrating PRME into the curriculum, teaching, research activities and partnerships of the Faculty of Business.

Through the incorporation of topics such as business ethics, social responsibility, sustainability, environment, human rights, gender studies, labor standards, corporate citizenship and anti-corruption into the curricula and research, the Departments of Business Administration and Economics become role models to the business environment and educate the responsible leaders of tomorrow. The PRME framework inspires our faculty's efforts to further strengthen its role as a

leader in the dissemination of these values within the educational sphere and the business world.

With the aim of integrating PRME values into the curriculum of the faculty, from first year till graduation, most of the courses attempt to incorporate UN PRME principles and make students ready for the opportunities and challenges of the World. The faculty aims to contribute to knowledge production by conducting various research projects in PRME related areas.

**Principle 2 - Values:** We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

The array of successful electives continues to expand and now includes areas such as social enterprise, global civics, active citizenship, sustainable financing. We have a growing number of students choosing to do examined projects on aspects of corporate responsibility in Faculty of Business.

### Undergraduate Course Offerings

The Faculty of Business has two departments; Business Administration and Economics. The Department of Business Administration offers six degree programs:

- Business Administration
- Business Informatics
- International Finance
- International Trade and Business
- Marketing
- BİLGİ - University of Liverpool Business Administration Dual Degree program.

The Department of Economics offers six degree programs:

- Business-Economics
- Business-Economics (BİLGİ-University of Liverpool / Dual Degree)
- Economics
- Economics and Finance (Honors)

Economics and Management (Honors)  
Political Economy and Social Philosophy

In its programs, the faculty offers courses related to business ethics, corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, environment and ecology. The listing of the courses is as follows:

#### **BUS 179 – Experiencing Business in Society I**

This course aims to integrate experiential learning practices with issues of business and society with the expectation that such techniques can create a positive experience, enhancing learning potential. The course covers economics, environment, globalization, culture and values, communication, consumption and life-styles, corporate social responsibility and ethics topics.

#### **BUS 311 – Principles of Marketing**

In this course, the societal marketing approach emphasizing the responsibilities of the companies towards their customers, the environment and larger society is discussed. Sustainable marketing and examples of ethical versus deceptive marketing practices of the companies are also presented to the students.

#### **BUS 434 - Corporate Governance**

Corporate social responsibility is discussed as a special topic. Course content is enriched with movies like “The Corporation” and “Enron”.

#### **BUS 495- Projects in Social Entrepreneurship**

Interested students working with faculty members in this course are able to work in groups on a real-life issue that addresses a societal need. The live projects help students as a group to get involved with the problems of their immediate community or other organizations. The projects have to be ‘live’ (a real life problem) and are to be completed in real time, with a clearly defined end result. In this course real and theoretical, practice and education are not separated and students have to find creative solutions to the issue tackled. During this course, besides completing a real project that fulfills a societal need, students are getting experience in team work, group processes, project

management and project delivery. In 2015, the students work on a social responsibility project on diabetics to be presented to a pharmaceutical company’s Board of Directors. Students are expected to diversify society’s understanding of this disease, through how to create awareness and how to take preventive action in terms of creating consciousness of “integrating healthy nutrition and exercise to our lives”.

#### **BUS 481 - Business Ethics**

The course aims to provide an understanding of ethical issues in the contemporary business life. The aim is to develop in students a critical approach in implementing ethical behavior in organizations in relation to various stakeholders as well as the institutionalization of business ethics in the corporations. The students are presented real-life examples to identify the ethical issues confronted by the managers of Turkish and global companies, and learn the importance and role of social responsibility activities within companies. Within this course, concepts of ethics, values, morality and the development of these concepts through history in different contexts are studied. At the end of the course, students are expected to develop a critical approach toward evaluating ethical behavior of organizations in relation to topics like environmental responsibility, consumerism and work ethics.

#### **HRM 514 – Corporate Social Responsibility and Work Ethics**

This course examines the responsibilities of business corporations and corporate executives towards shareholders and stakeholders. The course also studies best practices used by Turkish and global companies to engage in socially responsible business. Another goal of the course is to inform the students about ethical issues and to stimulate thinking on the ethical dimension of business conduct.

#### **INT 437 - International Trade**

The impact of international trade and agreements on working conditions and labor market, and the impact of globalization on environment are some

of the topics discussed in this course. The “fair trade” concept is introduced to the students.

### **BUS 221 - Current Issues in Management and Business**

This course aims to give students a comprehensive perspective on challenges faced by contemporary managers. The primary focus will be on new practices and issues that have had an impact on the understanding and nature of the management field. Some of the topics that will be covered during the course are: globalization, nonprofit management, corporate citizenship.

### **BUS 332 - Organization and Organizing**

Key issues in the analysis of organizations, population ecology and corporate governance are some of the topics discussed in this course.

### **EC 179 – Social Issues and Critical Thinking I**

The main goal of this course is to improve the analytical skills of students in a framework at which their social awareness is triggered as the links between economics and sociology, psychology, law and political science are highlighted. The students are introduced several controversial topics of socioeconomic focus, such as the roots of global inequality, globalization and environmental concerns. For each topic covered, as a sample of complementary and conflicting approaches in the literature is introduced, the course provides a platform for students to discuss and compare these approaches.

### **EC 316 – Environmental Economics**

Increasing pressure on the environment calls for urgent solutions. International organizations are trying to draw attention to the importance of solutions to environmental problems. Some of the topics covered in this course include economy and the environment, sustainable economy, optimal pollution, environmental standards, measuring environmental damage, global pollution problems, ethics and future generations, environmental policies, green tax reforms, emission trading and international policies.

### **EC 404 - Energy Economics**

The importance of energy in economic development is indisputable. Globalization and the trend towards liberalization, deregulation and privatization has also made energy markets centers of interest. Energy economics studies energy resources and energy commodities and includes the forces motivating firms and consumers to supply, convert, transport, use energy resources and to dispose of residuals. It also covers market structures and regulatory structures, distribution and environmental consequences and economically efficient use. The course on energy economics also covers energy market models around the globe.

The University wide offered general elective courses related to sustainability, environment, social responsibility and ethics.

### **GE 114 - Environmental Studies**

Through this course, in which concepts of "human" and "nature" will be problematized through their relation with each other, there will be discussions on Ancient Greek, Modernity and Anthropocene period. The problematization of the nature in Ancient Greek, which was possible only when the cities had arisen, will be analyzed in conjunction with the dynamic and non-essentialist nature of psukhe and with the apprehension of a dialectical life. Then, the relation between modernity and nature will be discussed in conjunction with the "second nature" and with modernity's glance on nature. In the last part of the theoretical chapter of the course, it will be focused on the history and the arriving point of the relation between nature and human. The source of the critique of traditional creation narratives which is developed under the influence of modernity; the progress of the geological view; and the evolution theory will also be examined. Within this framework, the evolution of the plants, animals and human will be studied and some workshops will be organized under the title of "Homo sapiens" and "social ecology". **WARNING:** This course will be held in Çanakkale-Güzelköy as part of BİLGİDoğada Summer School Module. Students who have not received the approval of program authorities cannot select this course, in

case of selecting this course their selection will be invalid.

#### **GE 208 - Special Topics on Global Civics**

This course is predicated on the conviction that a well-rounded university experience in the 21st century has to include a conversation about our responsibilities towards the whole of humanity, and the corresponding rights we all have.

#### **GE 212 - Social entrepreneurship in Turkey**

Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey course aims to give a basic understanding of social entrepreneurship and its current situation in Turkey. Social entrepreneurs are those individuals who claim to contribute to the solution of the problems we face, through the social innovation projects they develop. Each project carried out by the social entrepreneurs does not only contribute to the solution of the relevant problem, but also changes the attitude, perception, behavior and methods that cause the problem. Through guest speakers, case discussion, lecture, film screening, and student presentations the course will be implemented in an interactive way.

#### **GE 220 - Introduction to Corporate Social Responsibility**

This course explores the concept of corporate social responsibility (CSR) through interactions of society and business. The purpose of the course is to give an in-depth understanding of the meaning and the practice of social responsibility in companies. Besides reviewing theoretical approaches, the module will look into real life examples of what has worked for companies and what hasn't in the CSR domain.

#### **PUB 311 - Corporate Social Responsibility Practicum**

Practices of social responsibility is the main concentration of this course where basic information is delivered about CSR concepts. Practices of main actors of social responsibility are examined with the emphasis on volunteerism. Corporate Social Responsibility is one of the major topics of communication sector therefore by taking this course students will gain detailed information and about the dynamics of Corporate

Social Responsibility and the necessary skills for their profession.

#### **BIOE 438 – Green Biotechnology**

The course covers exploitation of plants and algae for the sustainable production of food and their utilization as a source of renewable energy as a biofuel. In addition possibilities of using plants and algae as a novel means to generate pharmaceuticals and other novel products are discussed. The technologies of plant genetic engineering used to generate more efficient crop plants, healthy and nutritious foods, and other commercially attractive products are also explored in the course.

#### **ESEN 340 – Bioenergy: Basics and Applications**

The world energy demand has continuously increased in recent years due to the increase of world population and living standards. Most of this demand is currently supplied by fossil fuels even though they are quite harmful to the environment, and they are estimated to be depleted in the near future. On the other hand, energy derived from biomass is a clean and sustainable way of energy generation; hence, developing the current bioenergy technology is quite important. The subjects covered in this course are heat and energy contents of biomass, the technology of bioethanol production and purification, production of biodiesel from vegetable oils, algae biofuel and production of gaseous fuels from wastes as well as the new trends of research on bioenergy.

#### **ESEN 408 – Energy, Environment and Law**

In this course, the energy-environment legislation, environmental impact assessment procedure for energy investments, climate change and carbon trading, green economy policy are evaluated in the scope of "sustainable development" principle. Energy production, transmission, distribution and retail processes, institutions and organizations located within these processes are evaluated within the legal perspective; energy law legislation is discussed within the framework of general principles of law.

### **GE 101- Introduction to Practical Ethics**

The online course on practical ethics deals with everyday situations and value-based choices that individuals make within their own context. Students discuss and analyze concepts such as responsibility, morality and values around a variety of cases within daily life, business and work life, education, health, social life and other forms of public confrontations. Controversial cases are analyzed through readings, case studies, infographics, cartoons and videos as well as interactive web sites prepared by relevant NGOs.

### **GE 103 - Global Civil Society**

This course aims to provide a learning environment for students who would like to know more about civil activism and civil society organizations globally. At the beginning of the course, it is aimed to raise awareness among the students about the concept of civil society and related literature. At the second part of the course, examples of civil activism and civil society organizations from Turkey and around the world are examined. The course tries to elaborate elementary level discussions on the activities, structures, networks and global impacts of the civil society organizations.

### **GE 104 - Contemporary Issues in Environment and Ecology**

The course aims at developing an understanding of the issues concerning the environment and ecology from a multidisciplinary perspective, especially focusing on problems arising from human intervention and attempted solutions thereof, trying to develop a universal approach by starting from everyday life and problems in Europe, Turkey and İstanbul. Within this framework, earth system, ecosystems and their dynamics and the impact of human intervention are analyzed by dealing with: a) causes like resource use (renewable and non-renewable practices), industrialism and industrial production and consumption practices, global trade and consumption economy, waste, energy (production and use) and urbanization: b) effects like loss of biodiversity and natural habitats, global climate change and deterioration of urban environment:

c) impacts and reflections on human health, ecosystem resilience, human rights, cultural rights, gender equality, social justice and politics.

### **GE 105 - Gender in Everyday Life**

The course aims to provide an introduction to the idea and practice of gender equality. It aims to provide an understanding of the meaning of the terms such as gender, gender equality, and gender based discrimination, substantive equality and how these terms come into play in the everyday relations we have within our society.

### **GE 107- Ecological Literacy and Sustainability**

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity be able to assess ecological literacy and sustainability as a thought and action style as well as deal with the sustainability debate with an innovative, inclusive and holistic view and concrete examples. The course includes topics such as the limits and boundaries of the planet, sustainability debate, and concept of ecological literacy and practices of eco-literacy.

### **GE 201- Social Responsibility Project I**

This course with a general aim to raise students' awareness about human rights, democracy and associated values and to improve their abilities to conceptualize the problems they face/witness in daily life within a human rights framework, aspires to enrich students' attitudes to position themselves against human rights violations and their sense of respect about diversities in and multicultural aspects of society. The course is carried out in a participatory and student-centered way making use of group work and discussions based on students' experiences. By applying non-formal, participatory experiential learning methods, it is intended to provide a space for students where they can learn from each other's' experiences and from other active agencies in civil society. The concepts of democracy, voluntarism/active citizenship, civil society, human rights, youth and social rights are discussed by using experiential learning techniques. Students also develop a social responsibility project proposal that they can realize in following semesters.



## **GE 202- Social Responsibility Project II**

This course provides opportunities for students where they can take part in activities of non-governmental organizations and have an experience of right-based voluntarism, and to increase their motivation to volunteer. It also makes it possible for students to implement the project proposal they have developed in the GE 201 course.

## **GE 321 - NGO Capacity Building and Management**

This course is designed to discuss the notions of civil society, civil society organizations, the structures and functions of the civil society organizations working, particularly, in Turkey.

## **GE 401 - Ethics and Life Course**

The course is an introduction to ethics as a conceptual tool and its reflections in daily and professional life, business and politics and public discussions in order for the students to develop an ethical point of view on situations they might encounter during their life course. Therefore, contemporary and controversial cases are analyzed in class and debates, problems and dilemmas of various ethical approaches are discussed. The course uses active learning methodology and interactive methods like documentary and fiction movies, debate and role playing, simulations, case studies and online discussions. The course is designed to address students from all departments.

## **PUB 303 - Social Responsibility and Sustainability**

Main concepts of social responsibility and sustainability are discussed in this Public Relations department course while concentrating on volunteerism. During the course by working together with NGOs students get the opportunity to practice their theoretical knowledge about public relations. By active participation in the projects the students gain the necessary skills they will need in their professional life.

**Principle 3 - Method: We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.**

The faculty uses various methods such as lectures, projects, case studies, film series, and guest speakers to teach their students social responsibility, corporate governance, business ethics, organic farming, gender and sustainability topics. In many of the courses, case studies based on responsible, ethical, environmental and sustainable practices of the local and global companies are used. Students present their own best action to the solution of the problems presented in the cases, they also take the role of the decision maker to come up with a right, proper, just, socially responsible and sustainable solution.

**Principle 4 - Research: We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.**

- Arikan, E. Kantur, D. Maden, C., & Telci, E. (2016). Investigating the mediating role of corporate reputation on the relationship between corporate social responsibility and multiple stakeholder outcomes. *Quality & Quantity*, 50(1), 129-149.
- Karaosmanoglu, E., Altinigne, N., & Isiksal, D. G. (2016). CSR motivation and customer extra-role behavior: Moderation of ethical corporate identity. *Journal of Business Research*, 69(10), 4161-4167.
- Karaosmanoglu, E., Isiksal, D. G., & Altinigne, N. (2018). Corporate brand transgression and punishing the transgressor: moderation of religious orientation. *Journal of Product & Brand Management*, 27(2), 221-234.
- Gunluk-Senesen, G., Yucel, Y., Yakar-Onal, A., Yakut-Cakar, B., & Ergunes, N. (2015). Gender Budgeting in Turkey: An Assessment of Local Practices from the Well-Being Perspective. *Politica economica*, 31(2), 175-194.

- Yucel, Y., & Gunluk-Senesen, G. (2018). Sustainability of Gender Budgeting in Local Administrations in Turkey: An Assessment from the Well-Being Perspective. In *Gender Budgeting in Europe*(pp. 271-291). Palgrave Macmillan, Cham.

**Principle 5 - Partnership: We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.**

Istanbul Bilgi University has regular and ongoing interactions with business leaders, a number of former students of the Faculty are now in a leadership positions at companies that are forefront of the sustainability issues. Faculty members seek to engage these people as contributors in the courses, talks and wider discussions.

In 5 June, 2018, İstanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Business has become a member of AACSB (Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) that expects from its members to renew and revitalize their commitment to the centrality of ethical responsibility at both the individual and corporate levels in preparing business leaders for the twenty-first century.

**Principle 6 - Dialogue: We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.**

The faculty engages in dialogue with the local municipalities and the local community in terms of environmental, ethical and civil rights issues. **Asst. Prof. Yelda Yücel**, from the Department of Business Administration, studies the gender well-being impact of policies carried out by the local governments in Turkey within a well-being gender budgets approach and hence works closely with several local municipalities.

Istanbul Bilgi University started the Bilgi Young Social Entrepreneur Awards in Turkey in 2010. Every year, 20 social entrepreneurs are selected from all around the globe for founding or co-founding options. Since 2010 İstanbul Bilgi University organizes the competition.

### **III. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT 24 MONTHS**

In the next period, the Faculty of Business will continue to integrate the principles of the PRME initiative into its curriculum, teaching and research practices with the aim of moving the Departments closer to the goal of wholly implementing and embracing the principles for responsible management education. In this respect, the Faculty of Business plans to organize informative seminars and trainings for the faculty and students to increase awareness and help them learn more about these principles.

The Department of Business Administration plans to organize some seminars with the Business Administration and Economics Student Club such as “Ethical Leadership and Business Ethics”; in cooperation with the EDMER (Etik Değerler Merkezi, the Center of Ethical Values). The department also plans to have closer ties to the international body of academicians in the future by joining PRME working groups, attending PRME conferences, and presenting the Turkish cases.

### **IV. DESIRED SUPPORT FROM THE PRME COMMUNITY**

We would like to continue to share information and experience with the PRME community. We would like to act with solidarity and contribute to other PRME initiatives through working groups.

### **V. UNIVERSITY WIDE ACTIVITIES**

Beside academic teaching and research İstanbul Bilgi University is proud of contributing to the welfare of the society. Several research centers of the University are working to contribute to a more socially and economically just world thinking through projects, researches and trainings. Some of these centers are the Center for Migration Research, Children’s Studies Unit, NGO Training

and Research Center, the Center for Environment, Energy and Sustainability. Between 2015 and 2018 these centers engaged in various projects, workshops, trainings and researches.

## **1. Center for Civil Society Studies**

The main purpose of the Center for Civil Society Studies is to support the development of civil society both in Turkey and in the world. The Center aims to contribute to this progress by means of conducting scientific research, application and training programs, publications and documentation on the social, economic and cultural dimensions of this development. Working in cooperation with official and private institutions, and non-governmental organization, it strives to contribute to the accumulation of knowledge on related fields.

**The Center for Civil Society Studies** of Istanbul Bilgi University is hosting the Children Studies Unit, NGO Training and Research Unit, Bilgi Social Incubation Center, MA Program on Civil Society Studies as well as the Youth Studies Unit.

- NGO Training and Research Unit is designing and giving specific trainings for improving capabilities and capacities of NGOs by qualified academicians. The alternative training modules are; NGO and Strategy formulation, Project Management for NGOs, Project Budgeting for NGOs, Impression Tracking and Assessment, Organizational Management for NGOs, National and International Funding for NGOs, Volunteer Cooperation and Human resources Management in NGOs, Gender in the Society.

- Power2Youth: Youth empowerment: Freedom, Honor and Justice: A Comprehensive Approach for Understanding the Exclusion of Youth and Prospect for Youth-Led Change in the South and East Mediterranean: This was a three-year project designed to conduct a comparative analysis of youth policies, especially in the areas of employment and political participation, regarding youth in South and East Mediterranean countries, to determine the areas where youth are socially excluded and the reasons why they are excluded, to make policy recommendations based on those reasons so that youth can experience greater social inclusion.

- Project to support the active participation of youth organizations in the forum: The purpose of the project is to help youth organizations function more effectively in their areas of operation by mentoring working groups they formed as part of the forum.

**Youth Studies Unit** is focusing mainly on youth research, youth work related to innovative projects and youth policy. The Unit has been trying to implement a right based approach in the area of youth work policy in Turkey since it has been founded. By 2015 the unit conducted a qualitative research on youth unemployment in 5 cities. Also, benefiting from the election period in the country, the unit published several documents on interpreting political parties' declarations on youth problems such as civil rights and unemployment.

- Shaping European Youth Policies in Theory and Practice – Seminar on Youth Policy Making: This is an international project where the knowledge and experiences of young people coming from different European countries and people who work with youth with regard to youth policymaking processes and strategies for increasing youth participation in these processes are shared.

**Children's Studies Unit (ÇOÇA)** founded in 2007, works in the training, research and advocacy fields aiming at the realization of children's rights. With the active participation of the children, ÇOÇA endeavors to contribute to the policies developed concerning children in Turkey. The main stakeholders of ÇOÇA are children aged between 0-18, people and organizations working for and around the children and those who contribute to the development of child policies. In the past years unit, undertook several serious projects. ÇOÇA's objectives are increasing awareness concerning children's rights and empowering children, their families and other relevant parties in their environment for their protection; the development and dissemination of innovative training models on children's rights for children and adults; enhancing participation of children in every field including decision and policy-making; keeping the children's rights on the agenda and enabling active participation of the related stakeholders; serving as a facilitator in matching and mobilizing the resources of the university and

the society; enabling sustainable interdisciplinary cooperation concerning children's rights within and outside the university.

- The Gender Equality Project of the Center is a significant analysis of existing social and cultural values and attitudes that are the foundation of gender discrimination or level of gender equity in the daily environment of children by means of a research to be carried out with fathers and mothers. Reinforcing the Participation of Civil Society in Preventing Violence against Children project is designed to reinforce the participation of civil society at local and national levels in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies aimed at preventing violence against children.

**Social Incubation Center (SIC)** established in 2014 under Civil Society Studies Center (CSSC). Aims to create and nurture a network between NGOs to contribute democratic attempts in Turkey. To fulfill that objective, the Center is working on establishing direct relationships with citizenship and organizational initiatives and supporting these entities. The center offers various supports for its beneficiaries; like Office, training-workshops, mentorship, face to face consultation, financing, academic and legal backup. The center calls for these supports twice a year. In the first period 13 corporations and in the second term 10 corporations were supported. "Things" Project is a current project that the center is carrying out, whereby youth, programmers, activists and NGOs come together and form a community, to create a synergy for social technology and social change issues.

- Civil society support project: The objective of this program is to empower the organizational sustainability and capacities of CSOs in Turkey and to provide an opportunity to develop innovative methods and tools to empower developing civil society in Turkey.

## **2. Center for Environment, Energy and Sustainability Studies**

The Research Centre for the Environment, Energy and Sustainability established in fall 2010 aims to contribute to studies carried out in the field of the environment, taking into account all aspects of environmental problems, including energy and sustainability. The center also targets to construct

a bridge between all stakeholders (universities, NGOs, public institutions, private sector etc.).

Istanbul Bilgi University is the pioneer university in Turkey, giving support to "Earth Hour" campaign, which is a project initiated by WWF to create awareness and interest to global environmental problems. Every year in the "Earth Hour", in the three campuses of the University, the lightings - except safety precautions- had been turned off.

- Environment, Energy and Sustainability Research Center of Istanbul Bilgi University has started a new project in order to increase environmental awareness among house wives and primary school students. The education project was launched in collaboration with my climate Turkey, the company with the mission of developing and supporting projects around the world that directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect the climate. The aim of the project is to increase environmental awareness in Turkey especially among housewives and primary school students. In order to reach this goal, three different slots are prepared. Primary school teachers are also included in the group targeted for ensuring the continuity of the project.

- Global Climate Change and Emissions Commerce Recommendations for Building a Green Economy: The purpose of the project is to enable educators to take an active role to foster equal participation of people with disabilities in education. Research on the Disability in Textbooks was conducted and the results were revealed in an Evaluation Report. Based on this report, a Recommendations Report containing concrete recommendations for how disability should be dealt with in textbooks will be published. In addition, alternative educational materials will be developed as part of the project.

## **3. The Human Rights Law Research Center**

The Human Rights Law Research Center is an initiative of the Law Faculty of the University. It is the academic unit focusing on research and education in human rights law.

- Equality and Human Rights Project: The project, implemented by Bayrampaşa Tuna Vocational High School aims to make young people more aware on human rights, raise their level of active

participation in social life, strengthen the cooperation among youth to protect human rights, and foster the development of values based on fundamental rights and freedoms. Within the framework of this project the Center provided a training seminar on "Equality and Human Rights" to high school students.

- 2016 Annual Conference of European Network on Gender and Violence: The European Network on Gender and Violence (ENGV) is an informal association of approximately 250 scholars and professionals. It addresses a wide range of topics in research on violence against women, gender-based abuse, child abuse, elder abuse and related issues. The network holds annual conferences to facilitate interdisciplinary discussion of the latest European research in the field. 2016 Annual Conference of the European Network on Gender and Violence was organized and hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center between 1-3 June 2016. The conference brought together around 40 members of ENGV from different European countries and Turkey. Sevinç Eryılmaz from the Human Rights Law Research Center, is a member of the ENGV and has participated in the annual conferences of ENGV since 2013. She took part in the Organizing Committee of 2016 Annual Conference of ENGV and organized the conference at Istanbul Bilgi University with the support of Seda Peker from the Human Rights Law Research Center.

- International Community and Refugees: Responsibilities, Opportunities, Human Rights Violations: This was an initiative by Amnesty International for organizing a one-off international conference on academic work on migration. Asst. Prof. Dr. Lami Bertan Tokuzlu contributed as a researcher representing the Center.

#### **4. İstanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research**

İstanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research, is the first migration research center to carry out large scale, multi-dimensional scientific researches.

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Emerging trends in migration from, to and through Turkey present ever-increasing challenges both

Historically Turkey has been affected by, and has produced, diverse forms of migratory movements and refugee flows. The social, economic, demographic and human rights aspects of emerging trends in migration from, to and through Turkey present ever-increasing challenges both for social scientists and policy makers. As a result, Turkey's position in the international migration scene has changed. And presently Turkey has become both a country of emigration and immigration.

- Child Labor in Seasonal Migratory Agriculture-Round Table Meetings: The roundtable meetings were designed to share knowledge and experience by bringing people who conduct research on child labor in seasonal agricultural labour together with stakeholders that may be interested in the subject, and to contribute to recommendations that will make the problem more visible.

- Network on Seasonal Labour Migration: A network designed to increase the communication between researchers and academicians, local, national and international public and private organizations, NGOs and the representatives of affiliated social parties, and individuals working on seasonal labor migration in Turkey; to support partnerships; to collect information on the topic; to create awareness and to recommend social policies.



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