



17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



Message From the Rector

In an era when the world faces mounting environmental, social, and economic challenges, the role of universities has become more vital than ever. Institutions of higher education are not only centers of learning but also agents of transformation — shaping knowledge, values, and actions that define the future of our planet and humanity.

At Biruni University, we embrace this global responsibility with determination and vision. Guided by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are committed to advancing sustainability through excellence in education, innovative research, and community-centered impact.

Our mission extends beyond academic achievement; it is about producing knowledge that heals, transforms, and sustains life in all its forms.

As a pioneering health sciences university, we channel our scientific expertise toward creating solutions that enhance well-being and social equity. Our multidisciplinary approach allows us to integrate health, innovation, and sustainability — transforming research into real-world benefits for people and communities. The projects and studies we carry out, particularly in the fields of medicine, health, and technology, stand as concrete reflections of this commitment.

Our understanding of sustainability transcends academic boundaries. It is woven into the fabric of our campuses, hospitals, and community initiatives — from energy efficiency and environmentally friendly infrastructure to nurturing students with the awareness and capacity to become responsible global citizens.

Through the dedication of our academic and administrative teams, and the unwavering support of our partners, Biruni University continues to build a resilient, inclusive, and sustainable future. Together, we reaffirm our pledge to serve humanity through science and compassion — today and for generations to come.



Prof. Dr. Adnan Yüksel
Rector, Biruni University

Message From the Editor

The world is entering an age of profound transformation — one that demands wisdom as much as it demands action. Climate disruption, social fragmentation, and economic imbalance have made it clear that the systems which once defined progress can no longer sustain it. Humanity needs a new compass — one that points toward balance, compassion, and collective renewal.

Universities stand at the very heart of this change. They are not merely institutions of teaching and research; they are the laboratories of humanity's future — places where science, conscience, and purpose must meet.

At Biruni University, we see sustainability not as a goal to be reached, but as a way of being. It is the thread that weaves through our research, our classrooms, our hospitals, and our partnerships. It is how we measure success —

by the difference we make in people's lives and the legacy we leave for the generations to come.

Guided by the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals**, we are reimagining higher education as a force for healing — for reconnecting human progress with planetary well-being, for bridging innovation with empathy, and for transforming knowledge into impact.

Our mission is both scientific and moral: to cultivate minds that create, question, and care; to generate ideas that build a more equitable, peaceful, and sustainable world. Every discovery, every collaboration, every act of learning becomes part of a larger story — the story of humanity's renewal through knowledge.

This report is more than an evaluation of where we stand; it is a reflection of who we choose to be. Biruni University stands as a living commitment

to the idea that education can heal, science can serve, and together we can build a future worthy of hope.



Aslıhan Güzin ALSAN, P.h.D. FHEA
Director of Institutional Impact,
Visibility and Corporate Reputation



BIRUNI UNIVERSITY COMMITMENT TO PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

No vision can become reality in isolation. The challenges that define our age — from climate change to inequality, from health crises to digital divides - transcend borders, disciplines, and institutions. To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, humanity must learn not only to innovate, but to cooperate.

At Biruni University, we recognize Sustainable Development Goal 17: Partnerships for the Goals as the connective tissue of global sustainability. We believe that meaningful progress is built through collaboration - when knowledge, compassion, and collective intelligence come together in service of the common good.

Our mission is to transform partnership into a living practice - to bridge universities, governments, industries, and civil society through shared purpose and shared accountability. We see collaboration not as a strategy of convenience, but as a moral and intellectual necessity. In a world facing systemic challenges, no single actor can succeed alone; but together,

we can redefine what success means.

Biruni University's partnerships reflect our identity as a global institution rooted in local

action and data with empathy. Every partnership we build is guided by a single question: How can this relationship contribute to a more equitable, sustainable, and compassionate world?



This report represents our unwavering belief that knowledge gains value only when it is shared — and that true leadership is measured not by independence, but by interdependence.

responsibility. From academic alliances and research collaboration to social impact networks and policy dialogues, we connect ideas with

Our Approach: Building Bridges Across Sectors and Societies

At Biruni University, partnerships are not peripheral - they are foundational to how we think, act, and evolve. Our approach to SDG 17 is grounded in three principles: Collaboration, Co-creation, and Continuity.

- **Collaboration:** We engage with universities, research institutions, and NGOs worldwide to advance scientific discovery and social progress.
- **Co-creation:** We develop multi-stakeholder projects that unite academia, industry, and government around common challenges such as health equity, digital transformation, and sustainability.
- **Continuity:** We design partnerships that endure beyond individual projects - rooted in trust, shared learning, and long-term vision.

We believe that partnerships must be dynamic ecosystems - spaces where disciplines merge, knowledge multiplies, and humanity's collective capacity to solve problems expands.



Institutional Framework: Connecting Knowledge, Policy, and Purpose

Biruni University's partnership model integrates global engagement with local impact - ensuring that every collaboration contributes both to institutional excellence and to society at large.

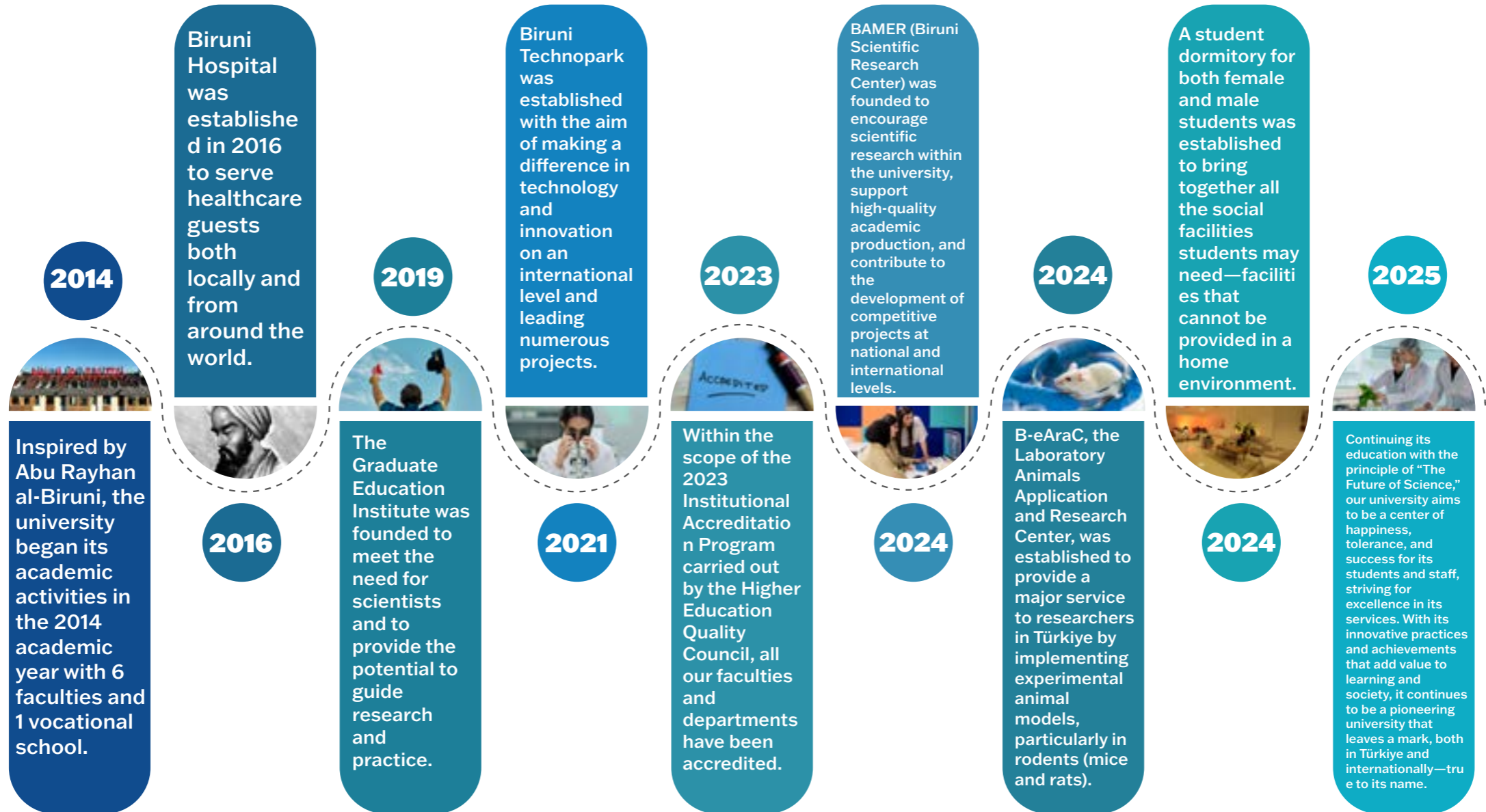
- **Global Academic Networks:** Collaborations with universities such as King's College London, Trinity College Dublin, and Giessen University foster research mobility, dual degrees, and joint publications.
- **International Rankings and Alliances:** Active participation in initiatives such as the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings and the QS Reimagine Education Awards strengthens visibility, credibility, and shared learning.
- **Industry and Health Sector Partnerships:** Cooperative programs with hospitals, technology firms, and pharmaceutical companies accelerate innovation while upholding ethical and sustainable practices.
- **Public Policy and NGO Collaboration:** Engagement with municipalities, ministries, and civil organizations translates academic expertise into social action and evidence-based policymaking.
- **Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:** Workshops, webinars, and international conferences hosted by Biruni University create open platforms for exchanging ideas and inspiring joint action.

Through these partnerships, Biruni University acts as a bridge - connecting local challenges with global solutions, and transforming knowledge into collective progress.

At Biruni University, we believe that the path to a sustainable future is paved not by competition, but by connection; not by isolation, but by shared purpose.

Partnerships are how humanity remembers its unity - and how we, together, create a world worthy of that remembrance.

O U R S T O R Y



O u r V i s i o n

To be a pioneering university that, true to its name, leaves a lasting mark — leading change through knowledge, innovation, and impact.

O u r M i s s i o n

To be an innovative and leading university that cultivates qualified individuals through transformative education, produces original knowledge at both national and international levels, and contributes to solving societal challenges with scientific and ethical responsibility.

C O R E V A L U E S



K n o w l e d g e

Commitment to learning, discovery, and the pursuit of truth as the foundation of progress.



W i s d o m

Using knowledge with depth, reflection, and ethical judgment to serve humanity.



H u m a n i t y

Placing human dignity, empathy, and compassion at the heart of education, research, and service.



A c a d e m i c F r e e d o m

Protecting the right to think, question, and create freely within an environment of respect and integrity.



P i o n e e r i n g S p i r i t

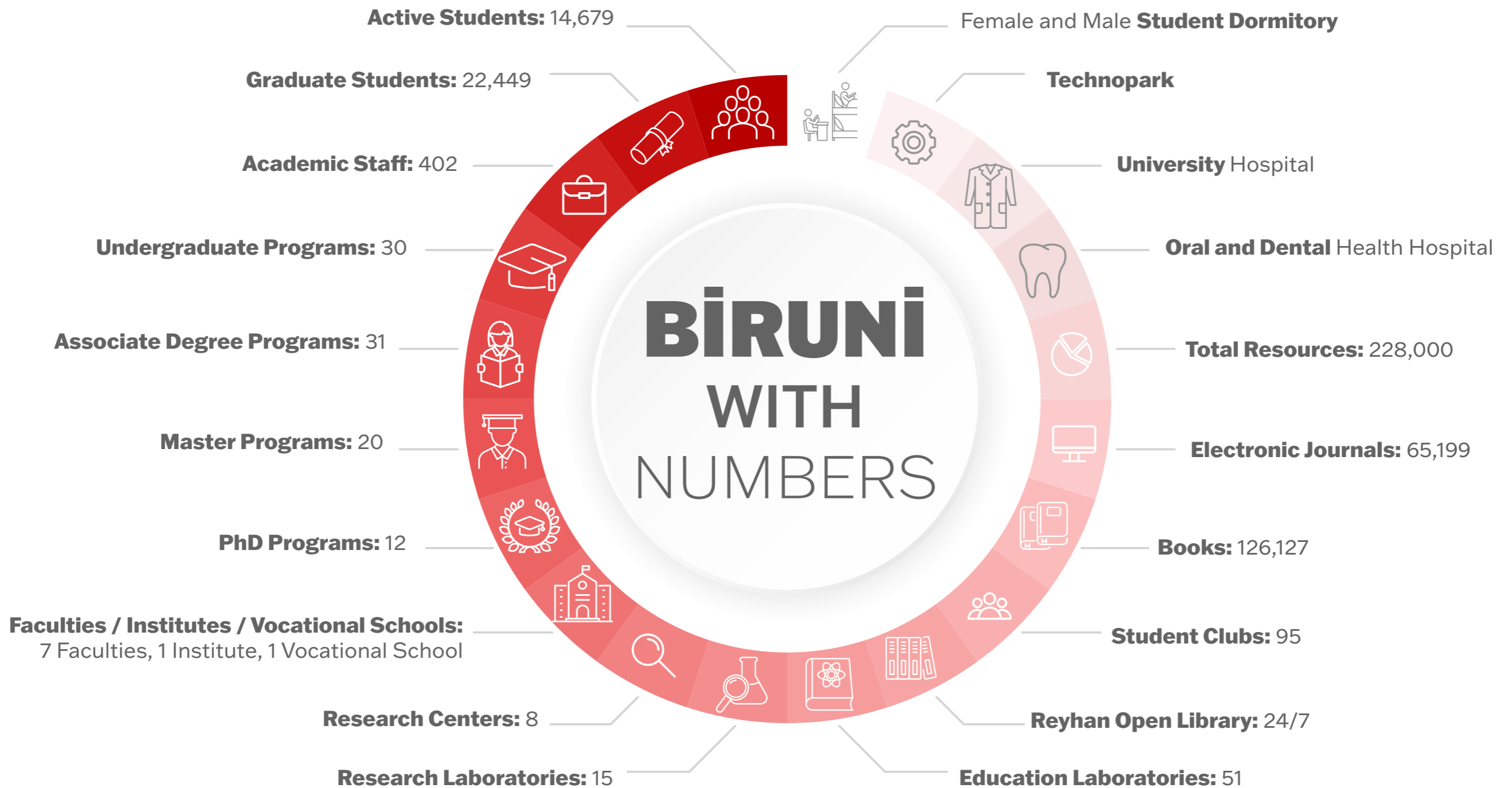
Challenging conventions with creativity and vision; leading transformative change in education and science.



C o u r a g e

Acting with integrity and resilience in the face of uncertainty — daring to stand for what is right and meaningful.

BİRÜNİ WITH NUMBERS



Neutral Dialogue and Safe Spaces for Democratic Engagement



Biruni University serves as a neutral, inclusive, and academically grounded platform where diverse political, civic, and institutional stakeholders can meet on equal footing to engage in constructive dialogue about pressing social, economic, cultural, and environmental challenges.

The university's mission extends beyond traditional teaching and research-it includes fostering peaceful dialogue, mutual understanding, and civic responsibility, thus strengthening democratic resilience in society.

Academic Principles and Governance Ethos

The institution's approach is deeply rooted in the principles of academic freedom, impartial facilitation, and social responsibility, ensuring that Biruni operates as a non-partisan convener of knowledge and ideas.

All dialogue activities-whether policy-oriented, civic, or educational-are conducted under the Ethical Communication and Dialogue Code, a Senate-approved framework that sets clear guidelines for transparency, equal representation, and respect for differing viewpoints.

This code explicitly prohibits political endorsement, exclusionary rhetoric, hate speech, or ideological bias, thereby guaranteeing an environment where participants can engage freely and safely.

Every event is designed around evidence-based discourse, with emphasis on scientific data, lived experience, and mutual learning, rather than ideological confrontation.



Institutional Neutrality and Ethical Safeguards



Institutional neutrality is maintained through robust governance mechanisms that protect academic independence and psychological safety.

Oversight is provided jointly by two key bodies: The Ethics Board, responsible for reviewing the ethical compliance of all public events, ensuring they adhere to university-wide principles of inclusivity, non-discrimination, and balanced representation; and The Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC), which ensures that public engagement activities remain mission-aligned, transparent, and free from political influence.

Trained moderators facilitate sessions using conflict-sensitive dialogue techniques, promoting active listening, empathy, and reflective discussion.

These facilitators are specifically trained in non-violent communication, trauma-informed moderation, and intercultural sensitivity, helping maintain a tone of respect and safety even during contentious debates.



Flagship Dialogue Mechanisms

Biruni's dialogue architecture includes several recurring platforms that institutionalise democratic engagement and multi-stakeholder participation:



Biruni Policy & Society Dialogues



An ongoing series of moderated discussions convening policymakers, NGO leaders, business representatives, and academics to explore current issues of national and regional importance—such as migration management, gender equality, digital governance, public health, and climate resilience.

Each session is documented and translated into a Policy Insight Brief, summarising evidence-based recommendations for relevant ministries and local authorities.

These dialogues are co-designed by faculty experts and civil society partners, ensuring balance between academic input and community realities.

Biruni–Zeytinburnu Urban Dialogue Series

A long-term collaboration between Biruni University and Zeytinburnu Municipality, designed as a neutral civic space for residents, political representatives, planners, and academics. The series addresses challenges in urban sustainability, disaster preparedness, inclusivity, accessibility, and community health.

By design, participants include stakeholders from multiple political affiliations, NGOs, and neighbourhood associations—creating a rare example of cross-party consensus-building in a local governance context.

Outputs are translated into policy briefs that inform the municipality’s annual planning and are published in the university’s Sustainability Action Report.



Peace, Justice & Dialogue Seminars



These seminars provide a reflective, research-informed setting for open discussions on peacebuilding, civic participation, and democratic ethics.

Participants include scholars, civic leaders, youth organisations, and journalists exploring how evidence, ethics, and empathy can be used to resolve conflicts, prevent polarisation, and promote social harmony.

Topics have ranged from “Mediating Conflict through Dialogue” to “Building Trust in Times of Disinformation,” linking local discourse with global democratic challenges.

Student-Led Dialogue Circles

Recognising the importance of youth voices, Biruni also supports student-led Dialogue Circles where university students moderate sessions on tolerance, equality, and civic values.

These are coordinated through the Student Council, providing safe, peer-based spaces for young people to discuss sensitive issues like gender identity, mental health, or socio-political change within a framework of respect and inclusivity.



Collaborative Networks and External Partnerships



Biruni's dialogue ecosystem extends beyond campus. The university collaborates with:

Municipal governments (Zeytinburnu, Fatih, and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipalities), National NGOs such as AKDEM, TÜSİAD, and the Turkish Red Crescent,

These partnerships enable Biruni to host multi-level forums- from local consultative meetings to international policy dialogues- strengthening Turkey's role in regional SDG 16 implementation.

Biruni's role as a knowledge mediator ensures that academic evidence informs civic decision-making, while policy needs guide research priorities.

Dialogue Ethics and Safety Framework

Each dialogue is preceded by a Risk and Sensitivity Assessment, conducted by the Ethics Board to ensure psychological safety and to protect participants from harm or intimidation. All sessions employ:

Chatham House Rules for confidentiality,

Accessibility protocols for inclusion of persons with disabilities, and

Gender-balanced panels to ensure equal representation. Anonymous post-event feedback forms allow participants to report any bias, discomfort, or procedural issues, which are reviewed by the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) and integrated into continuous improvement cycles.



Outreach and Capacity-Building for Policy and Law-Makers



Biruni University plays an active and measurable role in strengthening policy-making capacity, public sector governance, and institutional resilience through a continuum of training, knowledge transfer, and evidence-based policy advisory programmes.

These initiatives translate scientific research into actionable insights for policymakers and civil servants, ensuring that national and regional governance systems are informed by up-to-date, ethical, and sustainable practices.

Biruni's policy outreach aligns directly with SDG17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by cultivating cross-sector collaboration, multi-level institutional partnerships, and policy-learning ecosystems that connect academia, government, NGOs, and international organisations.

Strategic Framework

Biruni's outreach to policymakers operates within a structured governance model coordinated by:

The Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) - responsible for identifying national and regional policy needs and matching them with Biruni's research and training capacities.

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) - tasked with measuring impact, documenting policy outcomes, and aligning training activities with SDG targets.

The Rectorate's Policy & Institutional Relations Unit - which manages formal cooperation protocols with ministries, local governments, and professional chambers.

Together, these units create an evidence-based feedback loop where research informs policy, and policy priorities reshape research agendas - ensuring a dynamic and mutually reinforcing system of collaboration.



Health and Governance Programmes



Health policy and management stand as core areas of Biruni's policy capacity-building agenda, reflecting Türkiye's strategic priorities in sustainable healthcare and equitable service delivery.

Public Health & Policy Leadership Series (in cooperation with the Ministry of Health)

This high-impact programme equips provincial health directors, hospital administrators, and district governors with advanced skills in:

Preventive and community-based healthcare models,

Data-driven decision-making in public health,

System thinking and crisis resilience (pandemic preparedness, vaccination equity), and

Designing inclusive, people-centered health policies.

Developed jointly by the Faculty of Medicine, Public Health Department, and Sustainability & Data Office, the programme strengthens capacity for SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 16 (Strong Institutions) by integrating ethics, analytics, and local participation into the health governance process.



Legal and Ethical Dimensions of Biotechnology Seminars



Organised by the Faculty of Pharmacy and Biomedical Engineering Department, these seminars provide national policymakers, bioethics boards, and legal professionals with:
Updates on biotechnology regulation and genetic research governance,

Data protection and patient privacy frameworks, and Ethical standards for biomedical innovation.
The programme supports the development of transparent and responsible national bioethics policy frameworks, bridging science and regulation.

Participation in Ministry of Health Reform Dialogues

Biruni faculty regularly contribute to Ministry-led reform consultations, notably around the Free Practice Regulation (Serbest Çalışma Yönetmeliği), providing expertise on:

Ethical working conditions in healthcare,

Sustainable workforce management,

Patient safety and quality assurance.

Through this, Biruni shapes health policy rooted in equity, ethics, and sustainability, linking SDG 3 with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth).



Migration, Inclusion, and Social Policy Programmes



Biruni University actively supports inclusive and humanitarian policymaking through partnerships with Zeytinburnu Municipality, NGOs, and national agencies responsible for migration and social cohesion.

Annual Migration and Inclusion Forums
These large-scale events gather local administrators, social service managers, NGOs, educators, and health professionals to address multidimensional issues of displacement and inclusion.

Key themes include:
Trauma-informed public service delivery,
Refugee education and integration frameworks,
Gender-sensitive and intercultural communication practices.

The Forums have become a model for community-informed policy learning, advancing SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 17 (Partnerships

for the Goals).

Health & Displacement Policy Workshops

Focused on the intersection of migration, health, and social justice, these workshops train public servants and NGO leaders in:

Designing community-based health outreach models,
Overcoming cultural and linguistic barriers in healthcare,
Monitoring migrant health and social indicators.

Intercultural Competence in Policy and Education

Developed by Biruni's Department Education Sciences, this training enhances bias awareness, empathy, and inclusivity among teachers, municipal officials, and policy advisors.

It fosters governance capacity for social cohesion, ensuring that institutions respond humanely and effectively to diversity.

Technology, Climate, and Innovation Policy Engagement

Biruni is also a recognized policy partner in the domains of sustainable technology, digital ethics, and climate adaptation, bringing together experts from engineering, health, and urban design.

Urban Resilience & Climate Adaptation Academy

Co-created with the Zeytinburnu Municipality and local disaster coordination units, this Academy trains:

Urban planners, engineers, and municipal officers on disaster-preparedness, risk-sensitive planning, and climate adaptation strategies,

Integrating scientific modeling and environmental psychology into urban decision-making.

Participants co-develop local climate adaptation action plans aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

The initiative has influenced municipal decisions on green infrastructure, waste management, and energy efficiency, demonstrating measurable local impact.

Technology and Ethics for Sustainable Futures Workshops

These capacity-building seminars, coordinated by Biruni Technopark, target government agencies, business leaders, and innovation policy-makers, focusing on:

AI and data governance frameworks, Cyber ethics and privacy protection, Responsible digital transformation and circular economy approaches.

The workshops advance SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) while embedding ethics into national innovation policy.



Collaborative Partnerships and Networks



All programmes are delivered through multi-actor partnerships that exemplify the spirit of SDG 17.

Key partners include:

Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment, Urbanisation and Climate Change, Directorate General of Migration Management, Zeytinburnu, Fatih, and Istanbul Metropolitan Municipalities, Local NGOs such as AKDEM and the Turkish Red Crescent.

These collaborations ensure that Biruni's expertise contributes directly to policy co-design, capacity enhancement, and institutional learning at national and regional levels. All outreach and policy training programmes are systematically monitored through the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO), using both qualitative and quantitative assessment tools:

Pre- and post-training surveys to measure knowledge gains and

behavioural change,

Focus groups to evaluate applicability of new skills in participants' institutions, Follow-up interviews to assess long-term integration into policy practice, Impact dashboards linking outcomes to SDG targets.

Through its structured, data-driven, and partnership-oriented outreach model, Biruni University has evolved into a policy capacity-building hub where academia serves as a trusted partner to public institutions.

By fostering scientific literacy among policymakers and embedding ethics, inclusion, and sustainability into governance processes, Biruni not only supports evidence-based policymaking but also operationalises SDG 17 in practice—building resilient, knowledge-driven systems that connect science, society, and state.

Direct Involvement in SDG Policy Development

Biruni University maintains direct,

structured, and sustained involvement in national and regional SDG policy development through the active participation of its experts in government committees, advisory councils, national working groups, and international professional associations.

This engagement ensures that Biruni's scientific research and field experience continuously inform the development, implementation, and evaluation of public policies in Türkiye — particularly across the domains of health, education, innovation, decent work, and equality.

Through this multidimensional contribution, Biruni functions not merely as an academic institution, but as a policy partner, evidence provider, and capacity builder, aligning national strategies with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Institutional Framework for Policy Engagement

Policy engagement at Biruni is embedded within its Strategic Governance Model, coordinated by:

The Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) – which identifies national SDG policy priorities and mobilises academic expertise accordingly;

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) – responsible for documenting faculty-level policy contributions, tracking alignment with SDG targets, and reporting outcomes in the annual Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report;

The Institutional Impact and Global Reputation Office – which formalises Biruni’s representation in national and international policymaking networks.

This institutionalised structure allows for systematic participation, policy coherence, and evidence-based follow-up, transforming individual academic engagement into measurable institutional influence.



National Health Policy and Sustainable Healthcare Systems



Health governance and quality assurance represent Biruni's strongest policy engagement domain. University experts hold strategic advisory roles in national and international bodies, influencing the design and evaluation of healthcare systems, accreditation frameworks, and clinical standards.

Participation in the TÜSEB-TÜSKA Executive Board

Biruni University plays an active role in the Turkish Health Care Quality and Accreditation Institute (TÜSEB-TÜSKA) Executive Board and thematic working groups.

Through these roles, faculty experts contribute to:

Developing national hospital quality and accreditation standards,

Shaping frameworks for patient safety and ethical care,
Designing monitoring and evaluation indicators for sustainable healthcare systems, and

Advising on the integration of SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) principles into healthcare service delivery.
This collaboration supports the national transition toward evidence-based, patient-centered, and environmentally sustainable health systems.



Professional Associations and International Representation



Biruni faculty members hold leadership and advisory positions in major national and international medical associations, including:

TÜSAD (Turkish Respiratory Society)
Turkish Thoracic Society
Turkish Neurology Nursing Association
Turkish Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation Association
European Respiratory Society (ERS)
European Association for Cancer Research (EACR)
European Association for Palliative Care (EAPC)
International Committee for Cardiac Pulmonary Rehabilitation (ICCPR)
World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)
International Coalition of Respiratory Nursing

Through active participation in these networks, Biruni contributes to the development of clinical guidelines, global quality frameworks, and cross-border health research collaborations, bridging national policies with international best practices.

This ongoing engagement ensures that Biruni's clinical research, especially in respiratory health, oncology, neurology, and rehabilitation, directly informs both national health policy and global SDG 3 implementation.

Education, Innovation, and Decent Work Policy

Biruni University's involvement in education and innovation policy contributes to national reforms aligned with SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Through long-term institutional agreements and advisory roles, Biruni supports the design of vocational training models, innovation ecosystems, and inclusive education frameworks.



National Education and Vocational Frameworks



Biruni has established cooperation protocols with the Ministry of Health, Provincial and District Directorates of National Education, and TÜBİTAK, focusing on teacher development, STEM education, and practice-based learning models.

University experts contribute to curriculum committees shaping health sciences, biotechnology, and digital education, ensuring alignment with labour market needs and technological innovation.

Collaborative initiatives with municipal governments integrate lifelong learning, adult education, and skills transformation programmes for unemployed youth and women re-entering the workforce.

These activities strengthen the bridge between higher education, local governance, and industry, supporting equitable access to education and employability.

Participation in Economic and Innovation Platforms

Biruni academics and Technopark representatives regularly contribute to high-level national platforms, including:

SME & Productivity Congresses,
ICT and AI Policy Summits,
TÜSİAD Innovation and Technology Forums,
Horizon Europe Coordination Meetings,
University-Industry Collaboration (ÜSİ) Networks, and
Entrepreneurship and Venture Capital Roundtables.
Within these forums, Biruni experts provide policy input on:
Entrepreneurship and digital economy regulation,
AI governance and ethical technology,
Green innovation and sustainable production, and
Decent work and inclusive employment models.

Through these channels, Biruni helps shape Türkiye's policy dialogue on the future of work and responsible innovation, ensuring that SDG 8 and SDG 9 principles are embedded in the national innovation agenda.



Policy Coherence and SDG Alignment



All policy engagements are monitored and evaluated institutionally through the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) to ensure alignment with:

Türkiye's 11th and 12th National Development Plans,
The National SDG Implementation Strategy, and
The UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The SDO maintains a Policy Engagement Database, where faculty contributions to national and international policymaking are systematically logged, categorised, and reported.

Each contribution-whether participation in a working group, authorship of a policy brief, or consultation in a regulatory reform-is evaluated according to its SDG relevance, sectoral reach, and long-term policy impact.

Annual summaries are included in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, ensuring transparency, traceability, and institutional learning.

Findings are presented to the University Senate and integrated into strategic decision-making processes, reinforcing the principle of policy coherence for sustainable development (PCSD).

Through its structured, multi-level participation in national and international policymaking, Biruni University exemplifies the principle of knowledge-informed governance.

By embedding scientific evidence, ethical insight, and social responsibility into public policy processes, Biruni contributes directly to the SDG 17 goal of multi-sector partnerships, while advancing SDG 3 (health), SDG 4 (education), SDG 8 (employment), and SDG 9 (innovation). In doing so, Biruni has positioned itself as a trusted national policy partner and a regional thought leader-turning academic expertise into tangible, measurable impact on the governance systems shaping Türkiye's sustainable future.

Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on the SDGs

Biruni University both initiates and participates in cross-sectoral SDG dialogue that unites government, civil society, NGOs, academia, and private sector actors around shared sustainability goals.

Health, Education, and Equality Partnerships:

Joint social responsibility projects such as “Minik Dişler, Sağlıklı Gülüşler”, “Gülüşüm Geleceğim”, and community screening programmes led by Biruni University Hospital engage local governments, schools, and NGOs to promote health equity.

Collaboration with AKDEM and municipal family support centres on maternal health and women’s empowerment directly supports SDG 3, 5, and 10. Substance abuse prevention and organ donation awareness events, co-led with the Narcotics Division and Marmara KANOPE Organ Table, integrate law enforcement, healthcare, and youth in open dialogue on public health.



Innovation, Climate, and Decent Work



Through Biruni Technopark, the university co-organises YEPPLUS acceleration programmes, TÜSİAD Demoday, Horizon Europe briefings, SME Congresses, and AI & Cybersecurity Summits, linking academia, ministries, financial institutions, and start-ups to shape sustainable industry and employment ecosystems (SDG 8, 9, 13).

Participation in global environmental education networks such as NAAEE connects Biruni's local climate initiatives with international dialogue.

Impact and Integration

By providing neutral academic venues, expert facilitation, and continuity through joint projects, Biruni ensures that each dialogue produces measurable outcomes.

Insights from these events are compiled in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report and inform the university's Strategic Action Plan, ensuring that cross-sector dialogue evolves into concrete social impact.

Cross-Sectoral Dialogue on the SDGs

Biruni University serves as a neutral convener and catalyst for cross-sectoral dialogue on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It actively brings together government bodies, civil society organisations, NGOs, academia, and private-sector actors to address shared sustainability challenges in health, education, gender equality, innovation, and climate action.

By embedding dialogue within its governance and reporting frameworks, Biruni ensures that every conversation leads to measurable cooperation, policy input, or tangible social impact. This approach transforms academic expertise into collaborative solutions, positioning Biruni as a trusted hub for evidence-based dialogue and SDG integration.



Strategic Framework for SDG Dialogue



Biruni's dialogue activities are anchored in a structured governance ecosystem:

The Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) coordinates institutional representation in national and local SDG dialogues, ensuring thematic coherence and continuity.

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) measures outcomes, monitors engagement indicators, and compiles them in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report.

The Sustainability & Data Office integrates the outcomes of these dialogues into the University's Strategic Action Plan, aligning them with Türkiye's National Development Plans and the UN 2030 Agenda. This architecture transforms dialogue into a permanent mechanism for participatory governance, cross-sector alignment, and accountable follow-up.

Health, Education, and Equality Partnerships

Biruni University integrates medical, educational, and social expertise to drive collaborative action for health equity, inclusive education, and women's empowerment.

Community Health and Well-Being Initiatives



In partnership with Biruni University Hospital, local municipalities, and non-governmental organisations, the university implements long-term public health projects focused on prevention, awareness, and early diagnosis, such as:

“Little Teeth, Healthy Smiles” – a preventive dental health programme for primary school students, reaching more than 10,000 children annually.

“My Smile, My Future” – an oral hygiene education project for children and families in underprivileged districts. Mobile health screening and vaccination campaigns, conducted jointly with provincial health directorates and community health centres, offering free check-ups and health education.

These programmes advance SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) while exemplifying collaborative action between the health, education, and governance sectors.

Women's Health and Empowerment Partnerships

Collaborating with Family Research and Education Centres (AKDEM) and municipal Family Support Offices, Biruni conducts workshops and awareness programmes on maternal health, reproductive rights, and psychosocial empowerment for women.

These initiatives address gender-based disparities and support SDG 3 (Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by integrating health literacy with economic and social inclusion.



Public Health and Civic Responsibility Campaigns



Joint campaigns with the Istanbul Police Department's Narcotics Division and the Marmara Organ Donation Coordination Network (KANOPE) engage young people, healthcare professionals, and community leaders in:

Substance abuse prevention and awareness,
Ethical frameworks for organ donation, and
Public health literacy and civic participation.

These collaborations create a space for open, evidence-based public dialogue, enhancing social responsibility and trust among institutions, professionals, and citizens.

Innovation, Climate, and Decent Work Collaborations

Through Biruni Technopark and its Innovation & Entrepreneurship Office, the university connects academia, business, and government to develop sustainable innovation ecosystems that align with SDG priorities.

Industry and Entrepreneurship Dialogue Platforms

Biruni co-organises major national and international events that foster innovation and sustainable economic growth, including:

YEP PLUS Acceleration Programmes – supporting start-ups in health technologies and green innovation;

TÜSİAD DemoDay and National SME Congresses – bridging entrepreneurs, policymakers, and investors to strengthen sustainable industry;

Horizon Europe Information Sessions – guiding researchers and SMEs to align projects with European sustainability frameworks;

AI & Cybersecurity Summits – exploring ethical technology regulation, data governance, and

the future of responsible digital transformation. These collaborations promote SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), and SDG 13 (Climate Action) by encouraging inclusive,

Climate literacy and sustainable lifestyles, Green campus practices and waste reduction, and Integrating environmental education into teacher training and community curricula.



The university is an active member of the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) and the UNESCO Global Environmental Education Partnership (GEEP), linking local actions with international sustainability discourse.

These partnerships strengthen community resilience and environmental governance through education-driven transformation.

Dialogue as a Mechanism for Integration and Policy Impact

Each SDG dialogue coordinated by Biruni follows a structured methodology that ensures inclusiveness, traceability, and measurable outcomes:

SDG-Focused Design: Every dialogue is linked to one or more SDG targets (e.g., SDG 3, 5, 8, 9,

sustainable, and innovation-driven economies. Climate Education and Environmental Dialogue Biruni's Faculty of Education leads training and awareness programmes on:

10, 13, 17).

Multi-Stakeholder Representation: Participants include government agencies, NGOs, professional chambers, academia, and youth representatives.

Evidence-Based Facilitation: Moderators disciplines ensure balanced participation and knowledge exchange.

Outcome Reporting and Follow-Up: Recommendations and project outcomes are recorded, analysed, and monitored through institutional mechanisms.

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) consolidates the results of all dialogues into the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, measuring:

Thematic coverage and frequency of dialogues, Diversity and depth of stakeholder engagement, Tangible community or policy outcomes, and Long-term social and institutional impact.

These findings inform the University's Strategic Action Plan, ensuring that dialogue translates into policy action and institutional learning.

Biruni University's cross-sectoral SDG dialogue framework embodies the spirit of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by transforming academic expertise into shared governance,

evidence-based collaboration, and measurable community impact.

Through neutral facilitation, scientific credibility, and long-term partnerships, Biruni builds trust across diverse sectors and empowers collective problem-solving for sustainable development.

By bridging government, civil society, academia, and business, Biruni demonstrates how higher education can function as a strategic connector - where dialogue becomes collaboration, collaboration becomes action, and action becomes measurable progress toward the Sustainable Development Goals.



International Collaboration and Comparative Research on the SDGs

Biruni University systematically engages in international collaboration and comparative research to generate, test, and disseminate best practices for implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) across the domains of health, education, and social inclusion.

This work is not limited to isolated projects; it is organised within a formal institutional framework that ensures continuity, quality, and direct translation of research into policy and practice.

Biruni Global SDG Collaboration Framework (BGCF)

All international SDG-related collaborations are guided by the Biruni Global SDG Collaboration Framework (BGCF), an internal model designed to align research, partnerships, and institutional strategy.

The BGCF is jointly coordinated by:

The Institutional Impact and Visibility Directorate, which:

Identifies strategic international partners aligned with Biruni's SDG priorities.

Facilitates the signing of MoUs and framework

agreements with universities, ministries, and international organisations.

Ensures that SDG-related cooperation is visible and integrated into global higher education



networks.

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO), which:

Maps all international projects to specific SDG targets and indicators.

Collects and analyses comparative datasets

emerging from joint research.

Produces annual metrics for the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report and for submissions to global rankings and evaluation bodies (e.g. THE

Impact Rankings, QS).

Under the BGCF, each collaboration is designed to include at least one of the following components:

Joint research with comparative or multi-country datasets.

Research mobility (short-term visits, guest lectures, co-teaching).

Shared or co-created educational content (modules, curricula, training resources).

Policy and practice recommendations aligned with SDG targets.

Joint Research on Health Equity and Resilience

A central strand of Biruni's international SDG work focuses on health equity, system resilience, and social determinants

of health.

In collaboration with:

King's College London (UK)

University of Giessen (Germany)

Trinity College Dublin (Ireland)

Biruni researchers participate in comparative studies examining:

- How different health systems responded to the COVID-19 pandemic and similar shocks.
- How socio-economic status, migration background, disability, and gender shape access to and outcomes of care.
- Which models of community-based health, telemedicine, and preventive care have proven most effective and scalable.

These projects feature:

- Multi-country data collection on health outcomes, service access, and patient experience.
- Comparative analysis of policy responses (e.g. emergency regulations, vaccination strategies, digital health tools).
- Publication of joint articles in peer-reviewed journals focusing on global health, resilience, and inequality.

The findings directly inform:

- SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) – by identifying which health system designs and interventions are most effective in protecting vulnerable populations.
- SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) – by documenting how social gradients in health can be mitigated through targeted policies and inclusive service models.

These insights are then fed back into: Turkish health policy discussions (through expert roles in national committees).

Biruni’s own medical and health sciences curricula, which increasingly emphasise social determinants of health, ethics, and resilience.

National Representation and Global Health Cooperation – ICCPR

A Biruni faculty member represents Türkiye within the International Council of Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation (ICCPR).



This appointment strengthens international coordination in cardiovascular disease prevention and rehabilitation, aligning Turkish practice with global evidence on lifestyle-based interventions, community-centered health promotion, and equitable access to care.

The representation directly advances SDG 3

(Good Health and Well-Being) by supporting global exchange on preventive medicine and quality-of-life improvement.

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) – CA22114 (WG1-4)

Active participation in COST Action CA22114 enables Biruni scholars to collaborate across Working Groups 1-4, integrating health sciences, biostatistics, and data-driven research.

This networked model enhances interdisciplinary learning, research reproducibility, and policy relevance at the European level, reinforcing SDG 3 (Good Health) and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through evidence-based knowledge creation.

World Federation of Occupational Therapists (WFOT)

Through membership in the WFOT, Biruni promotes global standards in occupational therapy education and ethical professional practice.

The affiliation allows faculty to contribute to international working groups on inclusive rehabilitation and universal health coverage.

Outcomes include curriculum alignment with WFOT competency frameworks and community-based rehabilitation projects that reduce inequality, advancing SDG 3 and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

International Advisory Role – Journal of Riphah

College of Rehabilitation Sciences (JRCRS)

A Biruni faculty member serves on the International Advisory Board of JRCRS, strengthening academic integrity and cross-border collaboration in rehabilitation science.

The position supports peer-review development, ethical publishing, and interdisciplinary dialogue, enhancing Biruni's visibility as a contributor to global health research under SDG 3.

European Association for Cancer Research (EACR)

Faculty membership in the EACR integrates Biruni into international networks advancing oncology innovation.

The partnership facilitates knowledge exchange on molecular diagnostics, targeted therapies, and sustainable research infrastructure—core dimensions of SDG 9 (Innovation and Infrastructure) and SDG 3.

European Respiratory Society (ERS)

Active participation in the ERS expands collaboration in respiratory science and technology.

Through joint sessions, webinars, and research exchanges, Biruni faculty contribute to developing new therapeutic technologies and health-education strategies, improving respiratory health outcomes and supporting SDG 3 and SDG 9.

North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE) & Association of Teacher Educators in Europe (ATEE)

Membership in these education-focused organisations connects Biruni to global networks on environmental literacy, teacher education, and sustainability pedagogy.

Faculty involvement fosters integration of climate-responsive education, experiential learning, and inclusive teaching practices into Biruni's curricula, directly contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).
Collaboration with NGOs to Tackle the SDGs

Biruni University sustains a strong and structured ecosystem of partnerships with national and international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), aimed at advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through student volunteering, applied research, public engagement, and educational resource development.

These collaborations are institutionalised through the Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) and the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO), ensuring that every NGO partnership is goal-linked, measurable, and aligned with the university's broader sustainability strategy.



Student Volunteering and Community Engagement Programmes



Biruni University encourages students to translate academic learning into social contribution through the Biruni Volunteer Hub, an umbrella initiative coordinating student participation in NGO-led community projects.

Turkish Red Crescent (Kızılay)

Biruni's collaboration with the Turkish Red Crescent, Türkiye's largest humanitarian organisation, focuses on community health and emergency preparedness.

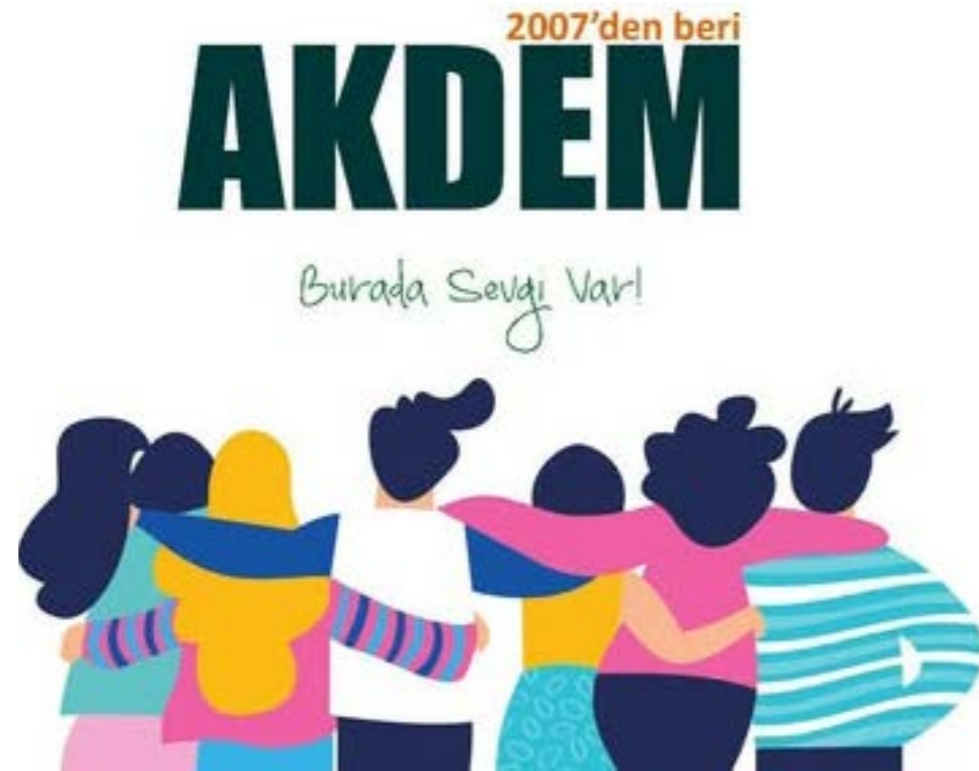
Students participate in blood-donation drives, disaster-relief coordination, and first-aid training, gaining real-world experience in humanitarian logistics and health communication.

Annual campaigns reach thousands of beneficiaries and raise awareness on volunteerism, social solidarity, and preventive health, supporting SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

Biruni Volunteer Hub coordinates these initiatives as part of the university's service-learning framework, embedding civic action into the student experience.



AKDEM Family Support Foundation



The partnership with AKDEM (Aile Kadın Destekleme ve Engelliler Merkezi)—a community-based NGO affiliated with municipal social services—focuses on maternal health, family well-being, and women's empowerment.

Joint educational seminars and psychosocial support programmes are co-designed by Biruni's Faculty of Health Sciences, providing mothers and caregivers with accessible health education and emotional well-being tools.

The collaboration also includes training sessions for family counsellors and social workers, integrating academic expertise with local service delivery.

These activities directly contribute to SDG 3 (Health) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) by addressing systemic barriers to women's health and participation in community life.

UNHCR Türkiye - Refugee Health and Inclusion Initiatives

Biruni collaborates with UNHCR Türkiye and municipal partners to support refugee integration, health access, and trauma-informed care.

Joint workshops train healthcare professionals, social workers, and students in intercultural communication, psychosocial support, and inclusive service provision.

Faculty experts provide evidence-based lectures on migration health, resilience, and displacement-sensitive education.

These collaborations strengthen the social fabric by promoting equitable access to healthcare and education, advancing SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions).



Green Crescent (Yeşilay)



Partnership with Yeşilay, Türkiye's leading organisation on addiction prevention, supports mental-health awareness and youth resilience.

Students from nursing, and education departments engage in public seminars, campus campaigns, and peer-support initiatives on addiction awareness, digital dependency, and emotional regulation.

The collaboration includes the integration of Yeşilay's training modules into Biruni's public-health curriculum. The outcome is a generation of health professionals equipped to address mental well-being as a pillar of sustainable development, reinforcing SDG 3 and SDG 4 (Quality Education).

Marmara Environmental NGOs Network

Through participation in the Marmara Environmental NGOs Network, Biruni co-develops regional initiatives on climate education, environmental protection, and sustainable urban living.

Joint projects include waste-reduction campaigns, green campus initiatives, and educational workshops on climate literacy and biodiversity protection.

Faculty and students collaborate on applied research exploring urban sustainability, air quality, and circular economy practices, generating policy briefs for local municipalities.

These efforts contribute to SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 17 (Partnerships).

The Biruni Volunteer Hub: A Bridge Between Campus and Community
The Biruni Volunteer Hub

institutionalises civic engagement by connecting students, faculty, and NGOs through structured service-learning programmes.

Each academic year, over 1,000 students participate in more than 20 volunteer projects focused on health awareness, inclusion, and environmental care.

The Hub operates a digital tracking system that monitors participation hours, community reach, and SDG alignment.

Outcomes are reflected in student transcripts and recognition certificates, encouraging sustained engagement and social responsibility.

This mechanism ensures that community collaboration is not a one-off outreach activity but a sustained educational experience fostering empathy, agency, and leadership.

Evaluation, Accountability, and Measurable Impact

The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) applies a robust monitoring framework to assess the reach, quality, and effectiveness of NGO collaborations.

Evaluation tools include:

Quantitative indicators: number of participants, beneficiaries, and community events.

Qualitative assessments: participant feedback, partner NGO evaluations, and social-impact narratives.

Alignment metrics: cross-mapping of activities with relevant SDG targets and national sustainability policies.

The findings are compiled in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, which is publicly accessible and reviewed annually by the Rectorate and Quality Commission to ensure transparency and continuous improvement.



Development of Educational Resources and Capacity Building



In collaboration with UNESCO-affiliated NGOs, national education councils, and civil society education networks, Biruni University co-develops open-access educational materials, training modules, and public awareness toolkits that extend sustainability learning beyond campus boundaries.

Key examples include:

Health and Sustainability Resource Kits: Developed jointly with municipal health departments and NGOs, providing practical tools for teachers and community educators on preventive healthcare and hygiene (SDG 3, SDG 4).

Inclusive Education and Disability Awareness Toolkits: Designed in partnership with Family Support Foundations and education-focused NGOs, enabling teachers to adopt

universal design for learning and inclusive classroom practices (SDG 4, SDG 10).

Climate Education Curricula: Created with environmental NGOs and schools to promote climate literacy and green behaviour among students, directly contributing to SDG 13 (Climate Action).

Digital Learning Content: Co-produced with non-profit educational platforms to democratise access to sustainability education and reach underserved learners across Türkiye.

Faculty experts also contribute to teacher training sessions, policy briefings, and capacity-building workshops, amplifying the reach and impact of these educational resources.

Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement

All NGO partnerships and projects are tracked and evaluated through the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO), which monitors:

Number of active partnerships and student volunteers,
Geographical and thematic distribution of activities,
Measurable outcomes (beneficiaries reached, research outputs, policy influence), and
Alignment with SDG indicators.

Each year, outcomes are summarised in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, which is publicly shared with partner organisations and internal stakeholders.

The report includes impact stories, visual data dashboards, and case studies demonstrating how partnerships create tangible community transformation.

This transparent feedback system strengthens mutual accountability and supports long-term relationship building between Biruni and its NGO partners.



Impact and Strategic Relevance



Through its structured partnerships with NGOs, Biruni University:

Bridges the gap between academia and civil society, ensuring that knowledge directly serves community needs.

Mobilises students as change agents, embedding civic engagement and sustainability literacy into higher education.

Transforms applied research into policy influence, providing evidence for NGOs and government agencies working on social inclusion and environmental resilience.

Builds an integrated model of partnership, where volunteering, research, and education collectively reinforce the SDG ecosystem.

This multi-layered collaboration model demonstrates how higher education institutions can operationalise SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by fostering co-creation, social innovation, and collective impact.

Social Innovation and Policy Contribution

Biruni's NGO collaborations not only provide community services but also generate knowledge and policy insights that feed into local and national decision-making.

Results from refugee health workshops inform municipal integration policies. Environmental project data supports evidence-based local climate adaptation planning.

Reports from family-support initiatives contribute to the development of inclusive education and gender equality frameworks.

By linking field data with academic analysis, Biruni reinforces the principle that universities are not only educational institutions but active social innovators in sustainable development.

Through its strong NGO and civil-society partnerships, Biruni University demonstrates a whole-community approach to sustainable development—connecting academic expertise with grassroots impact.

By integrating student volunteering, applied research, and public education under a unified framework, Biruni transforms local partnerships into scalable models of social innovation and sustainable engagement.

These collaborations exemplify how universities can act as trusted societal partners, translating research and education into real-world transformation.

In doing so, Biruni University not only advances SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) but also makes measurable contributions to SDG 3 (Good Health), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action)—affirming its role as a civic, inclusive, and globally responsible institution.



Inclusive Education and Disability Awareness

Objective: Advance inclusive, equitable, and accessible education for all learners.

Biruni collaborates with AKDEM Family Support Foundation, municipal education councils, and local NGOs working with disability groups to design inclusive education resources and teacher-support materials.

Key Outputs:

“Inclusive Classrooms” Teacher Toolkit:

A comprehensive resource that offers practical strategies on classroom adaptations, differentiated instruction, and universal design for learning (UDL).

“Barrier-Free Learning” Workshop Manual:

A guidebook for training teachers and school counsellors on empathy, communication, and adaptive pedagogy, co-developed by faculty in Special Education and Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation.

Awareness Campaigns and Visual Media:

Student-led projects and infographics disseminated through Biruni’s communication channels to normalise diversity and counter stigma.

Parent Empowerment Series:

Workshops and printed guides on supporting children with learning differences and connecting with available social services.

Impact:

Between 2021–2024, these resources were adopted by 16 public schools and three family centres in Istanbul, benefitting more than 200 teachers and 600 families.

They directly support SDG 4 (Inclusive Education) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) by ensuring that access, empathy, and equity



are embedded in the education ecosystem.

Climate Change Education and Sustainability Practices

Objective: Equip youth and communities with knowledge, skills, and motivation to act on environmental and climate challenges.

Biruni co-develops climate education and sustainability resources in partnership with the Marmara Environmental NGOs Network, UNESCO Türkiye, and international academic

partners such as the North American Association for Environmental Education (NAAEE).

Key Outputs:

“Climate Awareness for Youth” Workbook:

Interactive exercises, visuals, and micro-experiments teaching climate science, carbon footprints, and local sustainability actions.

“Sustainable Living Toolkit”:

Practical community guide on waste reduction, recycling, energy conservation, and sustainable consumption.

Educational Posters and Infographics:

Distributed to public schools and municipal youth centres, emphasising simple, daily behaviours that collectively reduce environmental impact.

Eco-Schools Support Sessions:

Biruni faculty and student facilitators conduct workshops for teachers on integrating sustainability into curricula and project-based learning.

Impact:

These resources have been piloted in 12 public schools across Zeytinburnu and Fatih districts, reaching approximately 1,200 students annually.

They support SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities) while embedding sustainability awareness within formal and non-formal education systems.

Dissemination and Open Access

Biruni ensures that all educational resources are open-access, free of charge, and designed for replication by other institutions.

Distribution Channels:

Biruni Open Learning Repository: Hosts digital copies of booklets, infographics, and facilitator guides under Creative Commons licences.

Municipal Education Directorates: Distribute printed sets through schools, public libraries, and family support centres.

Partner NGO Networks: Circulate materials via community workshops, health campaigns, and digital newsletters.

All resources are produced in plain Turkish, using inclusive visual design (clear icons, large fonts, gender-neutral and disability-sensitive language).

Feedback forms accompany each distributed set to ensure continuous quality improvement.

Student and Faculty Involvement

Educational resource development is also a pedagogical opportunity for Biruni's students.

Undergraduate and graduate students from Health Sciences and Education contribute to content design as part of coursework in community service learning, educational design, and public health communication.

Student projects that meet quality standards are refined, standardised, and published with attribution.

Faculty members oversee academic validation, ensuring the scientific and ethical integrity of all materials.

This approach integrates learning, teaching, and service, transforming students into active co-creators of social impact.



Monitoring, Evaluation, and Continuous Improvement



The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) uses a structured evaluation matrix to measure the outcomes of educational resource initiatives.

Indicators include:

Number of resources produced and distributed per year.

Number of schools, NGOs, and centres utilising the materials.

Beneficiary demographics and feedback results.

Evidence of behavioural or institutional change (e.g., adoption of hygiene routines, inclusion strategies, or eco-practices).

Findings are published annually in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report and inform revisions or expansions of content.

Impact verification is ensured through partner NGO reports, municipal education directorate confirmations, and independent surveys conducted with teachers and parents.

Biruni University's development of educational resources exemplifies how higher education institutions can operate as active partners in community learning ecosystems - not merely disseminating knowledge, but co-creating it with society.

By aligning with UNESCO's open-education vision and embedding sustainability, equity, and accessibility into every resource, Biruni transforms education into an instrument for empowerment and resilience.

Through sustained collaboration with NGOs, local councils, and UNESCO-linked networks, the university positions itself as a national model for inclusive, science-based, and socially responsive education, directly advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) - and indirectly strengthening the foundations of health, equality, and climate consciousness for generations to come.

Ankara International Congress on Scientific Research

Ankara International Congress on Scientific Research represents a significant milestone in Biruni University's commitment to strengthening global academic partnerships and advancing impactful cooperation aligned with Sustainable Development Goal 17. Through its active participation, the University not only contributed to high-quality scientific production but also reinforced a broad ecosystem of multi-stakeholder collaboration involving research institutions, public authorities, private sector representatives, and civil society organizations.

The congress served as a platform where interdisciplinary studies were shared, fostering innovative solutions to globally relevant challenges. Presentations and sessions enabled the development of new joint projects, research agreements, and long-term cooperation frameworks, creating tangible pathways for sustained collaboration. Biruni University's engagement in the event generated strategic impact by encouraging shared research models and deepening its institutional relations with the international scientific community.

By building partnerships through this congress, the University helped elevate the visibility of sustainable development policies within academic settings. Moreover, it facilitated strengthened research capacity, collective knowledge production, and coordinated actions toward global goals. This participation positioned Biruni University as an active connector within international research networks, enhancing mechanisms for mutual learning, data exchange, and collaborative project development-ultimately contributing to the transformative partnership-oriented agenda envisioned by SDG 17.



SERÇEV - ICF Partnership Meeting



The SERÇEV - ICF Meeting reflects Biruni University's strong commitment to building meaningful partnerships that support inclusive development and long-term social impact. Through its engagement in this meeting, the University collaborated with SERÇEV (Association for Children with Cerebral Palsy) and the International Children's Fund (ICF) to promote shared priorities in the fields of accessibility, inclusive education, and community-centered support models.

During the meeting, participants exchanged knowledge, discussed ongoing needs, and explored opportunities for joint action aimed at improving the quality of life for children with disabilities and their families. The dialogue facilitated by the University created space for cross-sector collaboration, bringing together academic expertise, civil society experience, and international support mechanisms.

This partnership initiative strengthened Biruni University's role as a connector between local stakeholders and global organizations, enabling coordinated approaches to inclusion-focused policies and community services. By contributing its academic resources and professional insight, the University helped establish a foundation for future collaborative projects, capacity-building activities, and sustainable support strategies. The SERÇEV - ICF Meeting thus stands as a clear example of the University's commitment to SDG 17 by advancing cooperation, shared learning, and collective responsibility for social well-being.

COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) Membership

Biruni University's membership in COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) demonstrates its strong commitment to fostering international scientific collaboration and contributing to a coordinated European research ecosystem. Through this membership, the University actively participates in interdisciplinary COST Actions that connect researchers, innovators, policymakers, and industry partners across more than 40 countries.

COST provides an open, bottom-up framework that supports networking, knowledge exchange, and collaborative problem-solving in emerging and strategic scientific fields. By engaging in these Actions, Biruni University strengthens its research capacity, gains access to diverse expertise, and contributes to the development of innovative solutions that address shared societal challenges. The University's involvement in COST also expands opportunities for early-career researchers, enabling mobility programs, training activities, and international workshops that enhance academic development. This engagement reinforces Biruni University's role as an active partner within the European Research Area, promoting cross-border cooperation and long-term scientific partnerships aligned with the goals of SDG 17.

Biruni University's participation in COST therefore not only elevates its global research profile but also deepens its contribution to collaborative science, open knowledge networks, and sustainable development efforts at the international level.



Participation in TÜSEB Information and Project Evaluation Meeting



Biruni University participated in the TÜSEB Information and Project Evaluation Meeting, a national platform designed to advance collaboration in health sciences, biomedical innovation, and research commercialization.

The meeting centered on sharing institutional experiences related to TÜSEB's Technology Transfer Office (TTO) framework, project evaluation standards, and mechanisms for supporting early-stage research outputs.

Biruni University contributed to discussions by exchanging insights on academic research processes and exploring potential areas for inter-institutional cooperation.

This engagement supported mutual capacity building among national research actors and strengthened strategic alliances aligned with SDG 17's emphasis on coordinated knowledge-sharing.

Istanbul Technoparks 5th Coordination Meeting

The University also participated in the 5th Istanbul Technoparks Coordination Meeting, held at Teknopol Istanbul with the attendance of General Manager Sezgin Erzan.

This platform concentrated on strengthening innovation ecosystems, enhancing collaboration between technoparks, and designing shared strategies for regional technological development.

Discussions included joint incubation initiatives, integrated startup support systems, and long-term innovation roadmaps that would better align regional R&D capacities.

Biruni University's involvement reinforced its position as an active stakeholder in Istanbul's broader innovation network, contributing to ecosystem-level cooperation central to SDG 17.



İTO Professional Committee Working Meeting



Biruni University engaged in the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (İTO) Professional Committee Working Meeting, chaired by İTO Board Member Murat Hazıroğlu.

This meeting focused on developments and challenges within the telecommunications sector, offering a distinct partnership area beyond biomedical and innovation-ecosystem collaborations.

The session brought together industry leaders, policymakers, and academic participants to discuss regulatory needs, sectoral innovation priorities, and opportunities for skills development within Türkiye's digital transformation agenda.

By contributing academic perspectives to a business-focused environment, Biruni University facilitated cross-sector alignment and supported partnership mechanisms that enhance economic and technological resilience.

Continued Engagement in Istanbul Technoparks Coordination

Biruni University maintains ongoing involvement in Istanbul Technoparks Coordination Meetings, reflecting a long-term commitment to sustained institutional collaboration.

This continued participation focuses on reinforcing regional technology capacity, promoting entrepreneurship, and developing shared innovation infrastructures that benefit multiple institutions simultaneously.

Recurring engagement allows the University to cultivate durable partnerships, participate in joint planning processes, and contribute to multi-year innovation strategies.

Through consistent cooperation, Biruni University strengthens the structural foundation of Istanbul's technology ecosystem, exemplifying SDG 17's objective of building stable, inclusive, and long-lasting partnerships.



University-wide Commitment to **SDG-Focused Education**



Biruni University demonstrates a strong, institutional, and long-term commitment to providing meaningful education on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for all students. This commitment goes beyond isolated courses or elective modules; it is integrated across the full curriculum in a systematic and measurable way.

The university embeds SDG-related knowledge, competencies, and values into the learning outcomes of undergraduate and graduate programs, ensuring that students from all faculties—health sciences, engineering, education, and social sciences—access relevant and applicable SDG content. Course syllabi are continuously updated to align with global sustainability frameworks, incorporating topics such as responsible consumption, climate action, quality education, community partnerships, and ethical governance.

In addition to theoretical integration, Biruni University adopts an applied learning approach. Students engage in real-world problem-solving through project-based assignments, community engagement activities, interdisciplinary workshops, and sector partnerships that directly address SDG challenges. Faculty development programs further support academic staff in embedding SDGs into teaching methods, assessment strategies, and classroom practices.

Through this comprehensive approach, the university ensures that every student, regardless of discipline, graduates with a foundational understanding of the SDGs and a capacity to contribute to sustainable development in their professional and civic lives.

SDG RELATED COURSES

Psycho-Education Programmes

Faculty: Faculty of Education and Psychology

Related SDGs: SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being), SDG 4 (Quality Education)

The Psycho-Education Programme is one of Biruni's flagship elective series designed to cultivate psychological resilience, empathy, and socio-emotional literacy among students.

Rooted in positive psychology, neuroscience, and mindfulness-based education, these courses promote sustainable well-being as a foundation for lifelong learning and social responsibility.

Curricular Focus:

- Understanding mental health as a determinant of sustainable human development.
- Integrating empathy, compassion, and emotional intelligence into leadership and interpersonal communication.
- Recognising the psychological dimensions of climate anxiety, trauma, and adaptation to social change.
- Promoting inner sustainability - developing self-awareness, balance,

and self-regulation as competencies for sustainable living.

Pedagogical Approach:

The programme employs experiential learning, reflective journaling, somatic awareness, and group dialogue as teaching tools.

Students engage in self-reflective exercises, community-based service projects, and research on behavioural change for societal impact.

Impact and Evaluation:

- Students demonstrate measurable growth in self-regulation, emotional literacy, and empathy (assessed via pre-/post-course reflective evaluations).
- Graduates report applying psycho-educational insights in community volunteering, counselling, and inclusive education contexts.

The programme thus bridges individual well-being and social sustainability, aligning education with human flourishing as envisioned by SDG 4.



Guidance and Special Education



Faculty: Faculty of Education

Related SDGs: SDG 4 (Inclusive and Equitable Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)

The Guidance and Special Education course forms a foundational pillar of Biruni's inclusive education strategy.

It prepares future teachers, psychologists, and counsellors to design equitable learning environments and to recognise diverse learner needs as central to educational sustainability.

Curricular Focus:

- Inclusive education models for learners with disabilities and neurodiverse conditions.
- Culturally responsive pedagogy and strategies for reducing educational inequities.
- Development of individualised learning plans (IEPs) and adaptive teaching materials.
- Understanding social and systemic barriers to access and participation in education.

Pedagogical Approach:

The course employs case-based learning, simulation, and real-world practicum experiences through partnerships with public schools and family support centres.

Students analyse real educational scenarios, design inclusive classroom strategies, and

participate in peer mentoring activities.

Innovative Elements:

- Integration of universal design for learning (UDL) principles.
- Practical workshops co-facilitated by special education NGOs and municipal inclusion experts.
- Exposure to assistive technologies and adaptive digital learning tools.

Impact and Evaluation:

- Graduates acquire core competencies in inclusive pedagogy, empathy, and systemic problem-solving.
- The course directly feeds into community outreach programmes (e.g., Barrier-Free Learning workshops) where students train teachers and parents in inclusive practices.
- Students' ability to recognise and dismantle bias in education is measured through reflective assessments and peer review.

By embedding inclusivity into pedagogy, this course operationalises SDG 4 (inclusive education) while addressing SDG 10 (reduction of social inequalities).

Roots of Resilience: The Power of Nature in Inclusive Education (International Programme)

Faculty: Faculty of Education (International Collaboration Track)

Partners: Lilysoya Childcare (Finland), Copenhagen Professionshøjskole (Denmark)

Related SDGs: SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 13 (Climate Action)

The Roots of Resilience course represents Biruni University's international leadership in integrating nature-based education and experiential sustainability learning into higher education.

This innovative elective explores how contact with nature, outdoor learning, and ecological awareness foster emotional balance, creativity, and inclusiveness in both students and educators.

Curricular Focus:

- Understanding human-nature connection and its role in mental and emotional well-being.
- Designing eco-pedagogical learning environments for children and adults.
- Nature as a tool for inclusion — how shared outdoor experiences build empathy, belonging, and resilience.
- Environmental stewardship and the psychology of sustainability behaviour.

Pedagogical Approach:

Delivered through international collaboration, this course includes:

- Joint online lectures with European partner

institutions;

- Outdoor learning labs and field workshops;
- Intercultural exchange projects on climate education and emotional literacy.

Students engage in cross-cultural case studies comparing educational models from Nordic countries with Türkiye's evolving sustainability agenda.

Innovative Practice:

The course merges eco-psychology, education for sustainable development (ESD), and experiential learning design, making it one of the few of its kind in Türkiye.

Students design micro-learning projects such as Nature Reflection Diaries and Eco-Classroom Activities, which are later shared with local schools and NGOs.

Impact and Evaluation:

- Enhanced student awareness of climate adaptation, resilience, and human ecology.
- Exchange of best practices in sustainability pedagogy across institutions.
- Students contribute to international research papers and workshops on education for planetary well-being.

This programme thus acts as both a pedagogical model and international benchmark for integrating environmental consciousness and mental health into inclusive education systems.



Systemic Integration and Institutional Impact



Sustainability-related courses are not confined to single departments; they are embedded across all faculties, reinforcing the university's cross-disciplinary approach to sustainability education.

Institutional Practices:

- Each faculty identifies at least one mandatory or elective course that explicitly incorporates SDG-related learning outcomes.
- The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) monitors student participation rates, feedback, and sustainability literacy progression.
- Interdisciplinary collaboration is encouraged — e.g., engineering students contribute to environmental design projects, while health students explore public health and ethics in sustainability contexts.

Learning Outcomes Across Programmes:

1. Students acquire sustainability literacy, defined as the ability to understand and act on social, economic, and environmental systems.
2. Graduates demonstrate civic consciousness, empathy, and responsibility

toward community well-being.

3. Learners apply holistic problem-solving skills, connecting psychological, social, and ecological dimensions of sustainability.

Assessment and Quality Assurance:

- Sustainability modules are evaluated through student reflections, community projects, and measurable behavioural outcomes.
- Periodic curriculum reviews ensure alignment with global frameworks such as UNESCO's ESD 2030 Roadmap and Türkiye's Higher Education Council (YÖK) Sustainability Policy.

Outcomes and Broader Significance

By embedding sustainability into psycho-education, inclusive pedagogy, and international experiential learning, Biruni University ensures that sustainability is not an abstract principle but a lived academic experience.

Through these courses, every student is exposed to the knowledge, values, and competencies needed to contribute meaningfully to sustainable societies.

Cumulative Impact (2021–2025):

- Over 3,000 students have completed sustainability-linked electives.
- Five faculties have integrated sustainability literacy objectives into their programme accreditation reports.
- Faculty-developed course materials are used in community workshops and teacher training sessions, extending impact beyond the university.

Thus, Biruni University's curriculum serves as a transformative educational model, uniting scientific rigour, emotional intelligence, and environmental ethics - all in service of the Sustainable Development Goals.



Measurement within SDG-Related Courses



Sustainability-focused courses at Biruni University, such as Psycho-Education Programmes, Guidance and Special Education, and Roots of Resilience: The Power of Nature in Inclusive Education, are systematically evaluated through embedded learning assessments and institutional feedback mechanisms.

Learning Assessment Instruments

Each course incorporates pre- and post-training tools designed to assess both cognitive understanding and value-based transformation. These include:

- Sustainability Literacy Questionnaires: Measure baseline awareness of key SDG concepts (e.g., equality, climate, well-being, inclusion) and follow-up comprehension after course completion.
- Reflective Journals and Portfolios: Students document personal insights, emotional awareness, and behavioural intentions toward sustainability practices.
- Peer & Instructor Evaluation Rubrics: Applied to experiential components such as community projects, field visits, and applied sustainability case studies.



Measured Dimensions of Literacy



The assessment framework evaluates growth in three key domains:

Dimension	Indicators	Example Metrics
Knowledge	Conceptual understanding of SDGs and systems thinking	Pre- and post-test gains in sustainability literacy scores
Values	Ethical sensitivity, empathy, and social responsibility	Reflections coded for value-shifts and empathy-based learning outcomes
Action	Application of sustainability principles in decision-making	Participation in SDG-aligned projects, volunteerism, and applied coursework

Data Management and Analysis

- All data are consolidated within the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) Performance Dashboard, which aggregates information from different faculties and programmes.
- Comparative analyses are performed annually to identify disciplinary variations in literacy development, informing continuous curriculum enhancement.
- The Quality Commission uses these findings to guide faculty-level action plans on sustainability integration and pedagogical innovation.



Illustrative Outcomes (2021–2025)

- Average student sustainability literacy scores increased by 22% between pre- and post-course surveys in psychology and education departments.
- Over 2,500 reflective essays were analysed, showing marked improvements in empathy, environmental awareness, and global citizenship attitudes.
- More than 80% of students reported feeling “personally responsible” for contributing to sustainability in their professional fields.

These outcomes confirm that SDG-related courses are achieving their intended transformative learning impact, advancing SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through measurable competency development.

COMMUNITY LIFE-LONG LEARNING

Outreach Educational Activities for the Wider Community

Biruni University operates a multi-dimensional and systematically coordinated ecosystem of community outreach and lifelong learning programmes that extend the university's educational mission beyond campus boundaries.

Through these initiatives, Biruni acts as both a knowledge hub and civic catalyst, offering sustainability-oriented education and capacity-building to alumni, educators, local residents, policymakers, youth, and displaced populations.

All outreach activities are governed by the Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) under the supervision of the Institutional Impact and Visibility Directorate, with continuous data tracking by the Sustainability & Data Office (SDO).

This governance framework ensures that every outreach effort is aligned with national education policies, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Higher Education Council (YÖK) guidelines on community engagement.

These outreach programmes reflect Biruni University's long-term strategy to democratise access to knowledge, strengthen social inclusion, and build resilient local communities-advancing particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).



Community Lifelong Learning Programmes



Objective: Build sustainability literacy and decision-making capacity among community leaders, public servants, and professionals. Biruni University delivers a diverse portfolio of community lifelong learning programmes that translate academic research into accessible, actionable training for non-academic audiences. These structured modules address critical themes such as sustainability planning, climate adaptation, public health equity, migration governance, and inclusive education.

Key Features:

- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Training programmes are designed in cooperation with local municipalities, provincial education and health directorates, NGOs, and community associations.
- **Interdisciplinary Expertise:** Faculty from medicine, psychology, education, and environmental sciences co-teach the modules, ensuring that each session integrates both scientific and human dimensions of sustainability.
- **Applied Learning:** Sessions combine evidence-based lectures with scenario simulations, case analysis, and participatory workshops.

Examples:

- **Sustainable Health Systems for All:** A continuing education series focusing on preventive care, community health planning, and equitable access to healthcare.
 - **Sustainable Cities and Urban Inclusion:** Conducted in partnership with the Zeytinburnu Municipality, this programme explores urban resilience, waste management, and green infrastructure solutions for Istanbul.
 - **Gender and Leadership in Sustainable Governance:** Jointly organised with local women's associations to train participants in gender-responsive leadership and community engagement.
- Impact:**
- Over 1,500 participants (policy officers, teachers, NGO representatives, and local administrators) have been trained since 2021.
 - Participant evaluations show measurable gains in sustainability literacy, problem-solving capacity, and confidence in applying SDG principles to their work environments.
 - Findings are documented in the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, establishing evidence of long-term behavioural change and local implementation outcomes.

Migration and Refugee Inclusion Workshops

Objective: Promote intercultural understanding, resilience, and equitable access to education and healthcare among displaced and host communities.

In collaboration with UNHCR Türkiye, local governments, and municipal refugee coordination units, Biruni University conducts targeted Migration and Refugee Inclusion Workshops addressing the psychosocial and educational dimensions of migration.

Scope and Content:

- Training for health professionals, educators, and social workers on trauma-informed care, intercultural communication, and inclusive service provision.
- Awareness seminars on refugee health rights, language access, and community integration.
- Joint sessions where refugee youth and Turkish students engage in dialogue, art-based storytelling, and experiential learning to foster empathy and coexistence.

Pedagogical Model:

Workshops combine academic input from psychology and public health faculties with participatory dialogue circles facilitated by NGO practitioners.

The model emphasises emotional literacy, cross-cultural sensitivity, and collaborative problem-solving — transforming workshops into safe learning spaces for both refugees and professionals.

Impact:

- Over 700 participants trained since 2022, including health personnel and educators from high-migration districts of Istanbul.
- Quantitative surveys reveal increased awareness of inclusive communication strategies and improved understanding of refugee well-being.
- Initiatives contribute to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by fostering inclusive governance and social cohesion.



Volunteer Hub and Service-Learning Projects



Objective: Engage students and faculty in hands-on community work that connects sustainability education with real-world impact.

The Biruni Volunteer Hub institutionalises civic participation by coordinating student and faculty outreach activities across health, environmental, and inclusion themes.

It functions as a structured service-learning platform where education, research, and social engagement converge.

Key Activities:

- Health and Well-Being Projects:
 - o Free dental screenings through “Little Teeth, Healthy Smiles” and “My Smile, My Future” campaigns.
 - o Community health days providing check-ups, blood donations, and vaccination awareness.
- Environmental Stewardship Initiatives:
 - o Campus-led clean-up and recycling drives in collaboration with the Marmara Environmental NGOs Network.
 - o Climate literacy workshops for schools and youth centres.
- Social Inclusion Projects:
 - o Mentorship programmes for refugee

and low-income students.

- o Disability inclusion campaigns focusing on accessibility awareness and empathy building.

Structure:

- Volunteer work is integrated into academic credit and reflection-based learning modules across faculties.
- Activities are tracked through the SDO’s Impact Measurement Dashboard, linking participation data to SDG indicators.

Impact:

- Since 2022, more than 5,000 students have participated in over 20 community projects, contributing over 40,000 volunteer hours.
- Each faculty contributes at least one annual volunteering initiative that aligns with its disciplinary expertise (e.g., nursing students in health literacy campaigns, engineering students in green energy workshops).
- The Volunteer Hub strengthens SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) by embedding civic action into the university’s educational model.

University-Municipality Partnerships

Objective: Foster local resilience, safety, and sustainability through structured collaboration between academia and municipal governance.

Biruni University has formalised multiple cooperation protocols with municipalities and public institutions to connect student learning with community benefit.

One of the flagship collaborations is the Biruni-Bahçelievler Applied Education and Internship Protocol, which links academic training with disaster preparedness and sustainable urban development.

Key Initiatives:

- Disaster Preparedness Training:
 - o Joint simulations and safety workshops for students, residents, and municipal staff focusing on earthquake response and public health emergencies.
- Resilient Communities Project:
 - o Co-designed with Bahçelievler Municipality to engage youth in local

sustainability projects such as waste reduction, green spaces, and climate adaptation.

- Internships for Public Good:
 - o Students from health sciences, psychology, and social work faculties complete field placements in municipal service units, applying academic knowledge to community needs.

Impact:

- More than 200 students annually participate in municipal internship and field-learning programmes.
- Shared reports between the university and municipalities show enhanced community awareness, institutional collaboration, and student employability through experiential learning.
- These partnerships directly advance SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by uniting education with public impact.



Cumulative Outcomes and Institutional Impact



Through its multi-layered outreach architecture, Biruni University functions as a regional knowledge and empowerment hub, transforming education into a driver of social innovation.

Aggregate Impact (2021–2025):

- 6,000+ direct beneficiaries (community members, educators, policymakers, refugees, and students).
- 15+ formal collaboration agreements with municipalities and NGOs.
- 40,000+ volunteer hours and 1,000+ workshops, trainings, and awareness sessions delivered.
- Documented improvements in sustainability literacy, health awareness, and inclusion at community level.

The outcomes of these programmes are continuously assessed through SDO's Impact Reports, which align outreach data with SDG indicators and national policy targets.

Findings inform both curriculum design and strategic planning, ensuring that community learning remains dynamic, participatory, and evidence-based.

Conclusion

Biruni University's outreach and lifelong learning ecosystem exemplifies the role of higher education institutions as agents of social transformation.

By bridging academic expertise with civic needs, Biruni ensures that knowledge serves both personal development and collective resilience.

The University's sustained engagement with local governments, NGOs, and international partners reinforces a culture of shared responsibility, sustainability awareness, and inclusivity, contributing directly to:

- SDG 4: Expanding quality and lifelong learning opportunities for all.
- SDG 10: Reducing inequalities within and among communities.
- SDG 11: Strengthening sustainable and resilient cities.
- SDG 16: Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies.
- SDG 17: Fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships for the Goals.

Through this ecosystem, Biruni University does not merely teach sustainability — it lives it, co-creating solutions that empower communities and prepare future generations to lead with empathy, integrity, and purpose.



Measurement within Community and Lifelong Learning Programmes



Beyond formal curricula, Biruni University extends sustainability literacy assessment to students and community participants engaged in outreach, volunteering, and lifelong learning initiatives.

This approach recognises that true sustainability competence is developed through practice, empathy, and civic participation.

Community Engagement Metrics

Each outreach and volunteer programme coordinated through the Biruni Volunteer Hub and Community Impact & Partnership Committee (CIPC) is monitored using quantitative and qualitative indicators:

- Participation Rates: Number of students and faculty involved in sustainability-themed community projects (recorded via digital attendance systems and project logs).
- Project Impact Evaluations: Surveys capturing beneficiaries' satisfaction, knowledge transfer effectiveness, and social outcomes.
- Reflective Feedback Forms: Students complete end-of-activity reflections assessing personal growth, leadership, and understanding of sustainability in real-life contexts.

These metrics are cross-verified with institutional KPIs within the SDO's Annual Impact & Sustainability Report.



Learning Outcomes from Volunteering and Service-Learning



Sustainability literacy measurement within the Volunteer Hub focuses on three key competencies:

1. Civic Responsibility – Awareness of societal challenges, justice, and inclusion.
2. Systems Awareness – Understanding the interconnection between health, environment, and equity.
3. Applied Empathy – Ability to translate compassion into community-based action.

Each of these dimensions is assessed through longitudinal observation of student engagement patterns, including:

- Recurrent volunteering (frequency and duration),
- Project leadership roles, and
- Interdisciplinary collaboration rates.

Data Integration and Institutional Use

- Collected data feed directly into Biruni's Sustainability Dashboard, allowing comparison between formal education outcomes and experiential learning results.
- The SDO prepares biannual analytics reports shared with faculty deans and the Quality Commission to evaluate programme alignment with SDG targets.
- Feedback informs curricular adjustments, internship programme design, and student advisory sessions -closing the loop between learning and impact.



Evidence of Impact (2022–2025)



- Over 5,000 students participated in sustainability-linked volunteering initiatives (health, inclusion, climate, and disaster resilience).
- More than 40,000 volunteer hours were documented and analysed for skill-building and literacy growth.
- Surveys indicate a 90% increase in self-reported sustainability competence, including confidence in sustainable decision-making and community leadership.
- Alumni tracking shows that a significant proportion of graduates continue to engage in civic and environmental projects post-graduation - a strong indicator of sustained literacy transfer.

Institutional Integration and Continuous Improvement

The sustainability literacy measurement system is integrated into Biruni's institutional governance and quality assurance cycle, ensuring accountability and progress over time.

Key Integration Mechanisms:

- The Sustainability & Data Office (SDO) operates as the primary unit responsible for data collection, analysis, and reporting.
- The Quality Commission incorporates sustainability literacy indicators into annual faculty evaluation and accreditation reviews.
- The Institutional Impact & Visibility Directorate ensures external dissemination of outcomes through THE Impact Ranking and the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report.

Continuous Improvement Practices:

- Insights from literacy assessments directly inform curriculum design, leading to new electives and interdisciplinary courses on climate, ethics, and resilience.
- Comparative benchmarking against international ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) standards strengthens Biruni's pedagogical innovation capacity.
- Regular stakeholder consultations with students, alumni, and partner NGOs provide feedback loops for qualitative enhancement.



Overall Outcomes and SDG Alignment



The integration of measurement systems across both formal (SDG-related courses) and non-formal (community lifelong learning) education has enabled Biruni University to build a comprehensive sustainability learning ecosystem.

Assessment Domain	Methodology	Linked SDGs	Impact Summary
SDG-Related Courses	Pre/post surveys, reflective essays, rubrics	SDG 4, SDG 17	22% literacy improvement; 80% increased personal responsibility
Community & Lifelong Learning	Participation data, feedback surveys, project logs	SDG 4, SDG 10, SDG 16	5,000+ active participants; 40,000+ volunteer hours; 90% confidence in sustainable action
Institutional Reporting	SDO dashboards, KPI monitoring, annual impact reports	SDG 4, SDG 17	Continuous curriculum and policy refinement

Conclusion

Through a robust, evidence-based framework, Biruni University ensures that sustainability literacy is not only taught but also lived, measured, and continuously improved.

Students graduate not just as professionals but as conscious global citizens capable of driving ethical, inclusive, and environmentally responsible change.

This multi-layered measurement approach - combining academic rigour with civic engagement - positions Biruni University as a national model for sustainability-oriented higher education, directly contributing to SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 16 (Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).



Financial Transparency and Institutional Accountability



Biruni University maintains a robust, transparent, and ethically grounded financial governance system, ensuring that all financial operations align with national legislation, international good governance standards, and the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG 16: Strong Institutions).

Regulatory Framework and Oversight

All university financial activities are governed by the Law on Higher Education (No. 2547) and the corresponding Public Financial Management and Control Law (No. 5018), which establish clear principles of accountability, integrity, and fiscal responsibility for all public institutions in Türkiye.

Within this framework, Biruni University is formally accountable to the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and subject to independent audits by the Turkish Court of Accounts (Sayıştay).

Each fiscal year, the university prepares detailed financial statements, expenditure reports, and budget performance summaries, which are:

Submitted to YÖK for review, verification, and national data integration;

Audited by Sayıştay, ensuring legal compliance, accuracy, and transparency;

Evaluated by the Internal Audit Unit and Quality Commission, verifying consistency between financial performance and institutional objectives.

This multi-tiered oversight guarantees integrity, impartiality, and public accountability in all financial operations.



Internal Audit and Governance Mechanisms



The Internal Audit Unit operates as an autonomous body reporting directly to the Rectorate. Its role is to:

- Conduct regular risk-based internal audits of all financial transactions, procurement processes, and budget allocations;
- Verify the proper implementation of national financial regulations and internal procedures;
- Identify potential areas for cost optimisation and ensure compliance with ethical spending principles;
- Issue annual internal audit reports shared with YÖK and the Rectorate Executive Board.

Complementing this structure, the Quality Commission monitors how financial management supports the university's strategic goals.

All major investment decisions, academic infrastructure projects, and research funding allocations are reviewed by this commission to ensure that resource utilisation directly contributes to institutional impact, quality enhancement, and student outcomes.

Budget Planning, Transparency, and Control

Biruni University's budgeting process is designed around the principles of participatory planning, transparency, and performance-based allocation.

Each academic and administrative unit prepares an annual budget proposal that is:

Consolidated by the Financial Affairs Directorate,
Reviewed by the Strategic Planning and Quality Office, and
Approved by the Rectorate and University Senate within the framework of the Institutional Strategic Plan.

The final budget is aligned with the university's Strategic Performance Indicators (SPIs) and the national Performance-Based Budgeting (PBB) model, ensuring that every expenditure can be traced to a measurable outcome—be it research capacity, sustainability, or student support.

Monthly budget monitoring reports are generated to track deviations, with adjustments made under strict procedural control. All financial commitments above designated thresholds are subjected to a multi-layer approval process, reinforcing fiscal prudence and risk management.



Compliance, Transparency, and Reporting



Even though financial data are not publicly disclosed due to national confidentiality regulations, Biruni University ensures full compliance with the YÖK Transparency Framework and the Ministry of Treasury and Finance audit guidelines.

Key financial documents-including audit results, strategic resource plans, and procurement summaries-are accessible to oversight authorities and internal stakeholders through secure digital platforms.

Every fiscal year, the Finance and Strategy Offices jointly prepare a Financial Accountability Summary, integrating:
Expenditure analysis by function and programme,
Investment impact assessments,
Procurement compliance results, and
Recommendations from both internal and external audits.

These summaries are incorporated into the Biruni Annual Institutional Report and the Biruni Impact & Sustainability Report, reinforcing the link between financial transparency and institutional integrity.

Ethical and Sustainable Resource Management

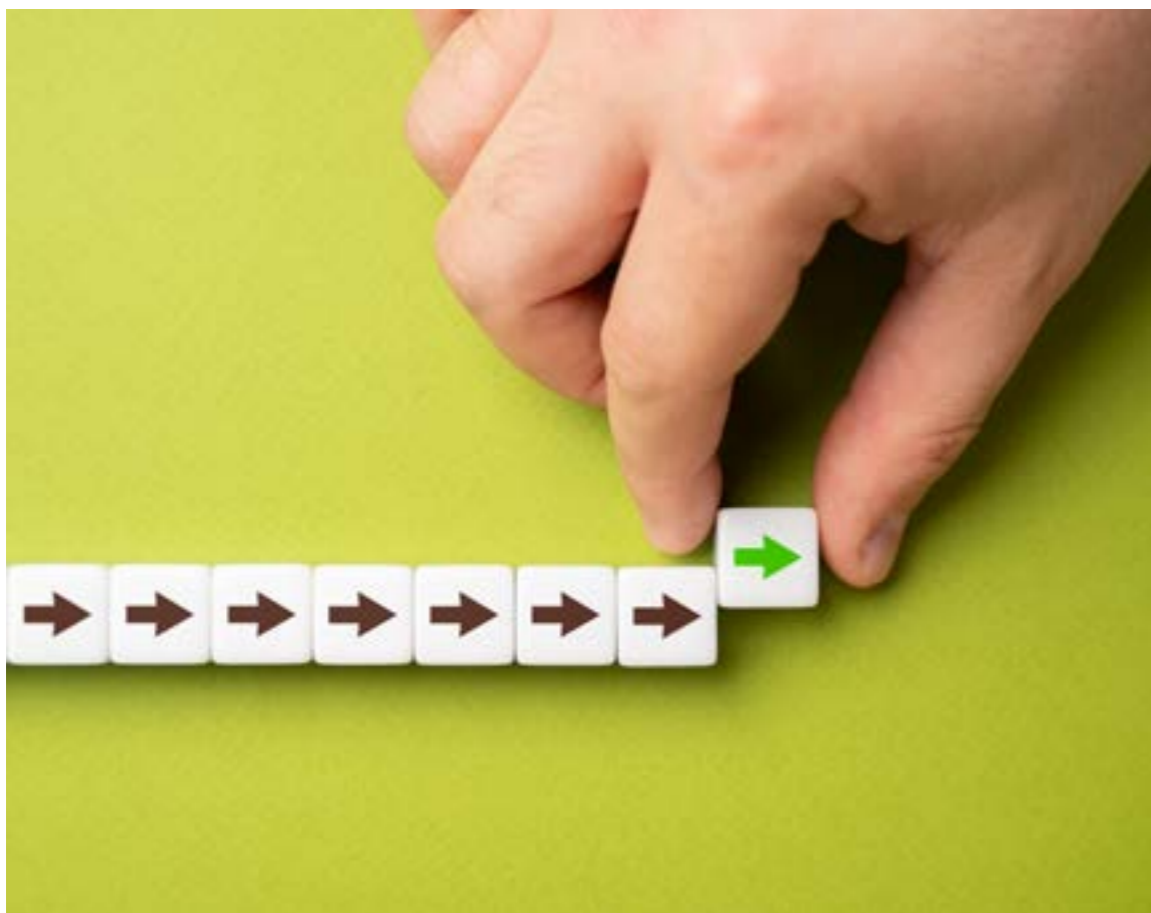
Biruni University treats financial stewardship not merely as compliance, but as a core ethical responsibility.

To this end, all procurement and spending decisions must adhere to the Sustainable Procurement Policy, which prioritises:
Environmental responsibility (low-carbon and recyclable materials),
Fair labour practices,
Gender equity in contracting, and
Support for local suppliers and social enterprises wherever possible.
In addition, major funding initiatives are assessed for alignment with the SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production).

This ensures that financial decisions not only comply with law but also advance Biruni's social and environmental commitments.



Continuous Improvement and Accountability Culture



Financial transparency is embedded into Biruni's continuous improvement cycle.

The Internal Audit Unit, Quality Commission, and Strategic Planning Office jointly review financial performance data each year to:

- Identify opportunities for improvement,
- Benchmark against national best practices,
- Enhance financial literacy among administrative staff, and
- Strengthen audit readiness.

The outcomes of this review process are shared during the Annual Rectorate Consultations, where findings inform future budget priorities and operational reforms.

This system cultivates a culture where financial integrity, ethical decision-making, and institutional accountability are inseparable components of governance excellence.

Through its integrated framework of external audits, internal controls, participatory planning, and ethical governance, Biruni University demonstrates a strong and verifiable commitment to fiscal transparency and institutional accountability.

By aligning its financial governance mechanisms with national laws, YÖK standards, and the principles of SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), the university ensures that every resource entrusted to it contributes directly to public good, sustainable impact, and the long-term integrity of higher education in Türkiye.