

**İSTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY
UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL COMPACT
COMMUNICATION ON ENGAGEMENT
2014-2016**



**Istanbul
Bilgi University**

LAUREATE INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES

From the Rector

BİLGİ, since its establishment, became a university with its own traditions and the notion of absolute academic freedom. Societal issues are handled responsibly on the basis of our institutional culture which leads us to carry out this attitude generating and supporting many formations and activities within this scope.

In the past two years, we continued to expand our area of influence in spreading the principles of the United Nations Global Compact with various activities that are held by our faculties, centers, institutions and other units. During 2014-2016, I am proud to declare that Incubation Center, Work Ethics Center and The Unit for the Prevention of the Sexual Harrassment and Assault became active as a sign of our ongoing commitment to UNGC Principles and support to Sustainable Development Goals.

In addition to the COE document, our progress on relevant programs within the scope of our integration with the Principles for Responsible Management Education is reported on a regular basis.

I am glad to present our third document of Communication on Engagement in which we express our commitment to and support of the principles of the United Nations Global Compact.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Ege Yazgan
Acting Rector

OVERVIEW

Sustainability has become an increasingly crucial topic as the damage to natural environment due to human activities has soared in the recent years. As universities are among the top institutions that guide societies, their decisions and actions on sustainability will be perceived as a role model by the society. Core institutional values of **BiLGi** ensure a good grounding to make progress toward sustainability.

Our values are:

- *Respect for universal rights and freedoms
- *Academic freedom and responsibility
- *The inseparability of research and teaching
- *Independence and autonomy
- *Respect for pluralism and diversity
- *Transparency and accountability
- *Participation
- *Social responsibility
- *Internationalism
- *A belief in life-long learning

In addition to our Centers' and Units' ongoing activities, Incubation Center, Work Ethics Center and Unit for the Prevention of the Sexual Harrassment and Assault established within years 2014-2016. Besides our academic curriculum has enlarged significantly in terms of courses related with UNGC Principles and Sustainability Goals.

CENTERS AND INSTITUTES OF BİLGİ CORRESPONDING WITH UNGC PRINCIPLES

Center for Sociology and Education Studies (SEÇBİR)

Founded in November 2010, SEÇBİR (<http://secbir.org/en/>) aims to increase information and knowledge sharing between primary and secondary school teachers and academia by acting as a bridge between the two fields. SEÇBİR develops materials on how to deal with concepts such as identity, multilingual education, discrimination, democracy, citizenship, poverty, gender, sexual orientation and gender identity in primary and secondary schools, as well as arranges educational seminars and conducts field research in schools. Activities that are held in relation with UNGC Goals:

***Project “Combating Discrimination Based on Disability in Educational Settings”** (August 2014 - June 2015)

Partner: Association for Social Rights and ve Researches (TOHAD)
Target Group: Pupils with and without disabilities; teachers
Aims: Promoting right-based approach toward disability.
Outcome: Book on ‘Disabilities and Discrimination’

***Events:** 9 out of 17 events are related with UNGC Goals during this time period and were reached 270 people.

“How Kurdish Issue Reflect to Schools? The Role of Teachers in Building Social Peace”, 2 April 2014
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wxjAUdr-WEo>

“Role of Course Books in Struggle with Disability Discrimination”,
16 April 2014

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ndH9zexKOrc>

“Obstacles of Accessing to Education for Roman Children”,
25 February 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUwYAW0tcqs>

“History Classes in Minority Schools in the Context of Multiculturalism”,
1 April 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5mKuKyfOm8>

“To Democratic Schools: Participatory Practices Empowering
Schools and Students” Okulları,
15 April 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sQWtdKjCdIM>

“Native Language Based Multilingual Education: Frequently Asked
Questions and Mistakes That are Known as True”,
29 April 2015

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_2nL6lgH49A

“Discrimination in Turkish Education System”,
4 November 2015

“Handling Social Problems in Education Ambient”,
18 November 2015

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ews-KSBw4b8>

“Learning with Facing History and Today”,
16 December 2015

Center for Civil Society Studies (CCSS)

The main purpose of the Center for Civil Society Studies (<http://stcm.bilgi.edu.tr>), established in 2008, is to support the development of a civil society both in Turkey and in the world. The Center aims to contribute to this progress by means of conducting scientific research, application and training programs, publications and documentation on the social, economic, and cultural dimensions of this development. Working in cooperation with official and private institutions, and non-governmental organizations, it strives to contribute to the accumulation of knowledge in related fields. **The center encompasses three separate units - the NGO Training and Research Unit, the Youth Studies Unit, and the Child Studies Unit. It also includes the Bilgi Incubation Center and the Master's Program in Social Projects and NGO Management.** In addition, it offers courses and conducts studies related to civil society in various undergraduate programs. The relatively new BİLGİ Social Incubation Center conducts workshops for civil society initiatives working on rights in the city (e.g., CSOs, initiatives, platforms, informal groups) in order to build their institutional capacities by providing them with various learning opportunities.

CCSS stands out with The Social Incubation Center, located on Istanbul Bilgi University's santralistanbul Campus, established in December 2014. It was designed as a resource center that could be used to meet the changing needs of civil society, particularly in İstanbul. The center is engaged in activities for grassroots organizations that need assistance in developing their organizational capacity in a particular area. It is still the only incubation center in Turkey that supports non-profit organizations. Recently, the Social Incubation Center has begun creating learning platforms where organizations and initiatives from outside of Istanbul and abroad can learn from one another. It currently extends assistance to civil society in three key areas:

*Making available various learning opportunities for organizational development in the areas of resource development, collaborating with volunteers, strategic orientation, project creation/management, network formation and advocacy to CSOs and citizen initiatives by making available office space, consultancy, and participation in mentoring, workshops and training.

*Supporting civil actors through workshops open to civil society and trainings specially designed for organizations in order to help them become more familiar with certain topics, to raise their awareness and to improve their skills.

* Formulating solutions for the need for physical space of CSOs in Istanbul, such as office space, and locations for training and meetings.

The Center published a detailed activity report covering years 2013-2016 (CCSS- Our Experiences 2013-2016). According to this Report between dates January 2014-January 2016:

*32 activities occurred totally.

*7 of them are ongoing.

Center for Migration Research

Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research (<http://goc.bilgi.edu.tr/>), as the first migration research center to carry out large scale, multi-dimensional scientific researches in Turkey, started its studies as a unit of the Social, Economic and Political Research Center at BILGI and was founded in 2005. Historically Turkey has been affected by, and has produced, diverse forms of migratory movements and refugee flows. It is within such a climate that the Center for Migration Research has formulated its mission to strengthen institutional co-ordination among researchers through several networking activities, support new research and joint projects, and produce reliable information based on research findings that can contribute to realistic policy and decision-making processes.

25 out of total 30 activities are related with UNGC Goals.

***Project “Tarlabasi Community Center”** (December 2005-April 2015): With the partnership of Tarlabasi Community Support Association; inhabitants of Tarlabası and general public are targeted in this project. Tarlabası Community Center aims to provide educational, social and consultancy activities in order to enrich the life of the residents of Tarlabası, to strengthen their participation to urban facilities, to develop harmony among different ethnic, religious, social groups. The Community Center also tries to present a model for similar regions to contribute to solution through emphasizing the problems caused by migration, poverty and discrimination.

Outcomes: Various activities have been organized for different participant groups based on their age groups and needs: Art workshops, etude classes in math, language, social sciences, physical sciences, child magazine workshop with children and youngsters; language courses, handcraft workshops with women; and psycho-social support for all participants.

***Workshop “Child Labor in Sesonal Migratory Agriculture”**

(21 February 2014, 27 June 2014, 26 December 2014, 9 February 2015, and 11 December 2015):

Since 2013, workshops have been organized at least twice a year. With the partnership of Support to Life Association, Social Innovation Center, this workshop targeted representatives of public authorities, NGOs, business, trade unions and academia working or interested in the field of child labor in seasonal migratory agriculture. It aimed to share knowledge and experience among all related parties and to contribute to the visibility of the problem.

***Seminar “Caught in the Victim/Criminal Paradigm: Female Migrant Prostitution, Injured Lives and Unrecognazibility”**

(12 March 2014): Partner of the seminar is İstanbul Bilgi University Department of Sociology. University students, academics, civil society, general public are targeted. Aims is to discuss the representation of female migrant sex workers in media. Isabel Crowhurst (Kingston University) as visiting academician in the framework of the Erasmus Academician Exchange Program held the seminar.

***Network on Seasonal Labor Migration** (11 April 2014):

Target groups are academicians, representatives of local, national, international public and civil bodies, and individuals working on seasonal labor migration in Turkey. Aims are to collect related information about seasonal labor migration in Turkey, to promote communication among those working in the field, to support collaborative studies, to develop public awareness about the problems of seasonal workers and their families, to remind all the related parties to realize their responsibilities and to develop solutions, to monitor the current practices, to support activities encouraging the inclusion of seasonal workers into decision making processes. The network members hold meetings twice a year and share the information about their studies and experiences. Analysis about seasonal labor, problems

and recommendations for solution are communicated to decision makers and the public through reports, press releases and press meetings.

***Seminar “The Past and Present of Roma People”** (16 April 2014):
Target groups are students, academics, civil society and general public. Its aim is to discuss the situation of Roma people in Turkey. The musician Ayhan Küçükboyacı held a seminar based on his book “The Past and Present of Roma People”.

***Workshop “Civil Society in the Field of Syrian Refugees”**
(28 May 2014):
Representatives of NGOs working or planning to work on Syrian refugees in Turkey are in the scope. Aims are to share activities of NGOs on Syrian refugees in Turkey and to discuss the problems they experience on the field with suggestions for solution. The workshop was executed with 33 participants from 22 different organizations.

***Movie Screening and Talk “My Child”** (11 June 2014):
With the partnership of Tarlabası Community Support Association; students, academics, civil society, general public are targeted. Presenting the experiences of parents with gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans or intersex children through the movie of “My Child”. After the screening of the documentary a talk was held with the participation of representatives of the LGBTTT Families Istanbul Group.

***Seminar “Strategic Mapping on Violence against Children”**
(17 June 2014):
With the partnership of Tarlabası Community Support Association volunteers and professionals working with/on children are targeted. Sharing the method of “Strategic Mapping on Violence against Children” developed by İstanbul Bilgi University Children Studies Unit and Gündem Çocuk Association. The seminar was held with 10 participants.

***Project “Children of Nilüfer Park”** (June-September 2014):
With the partnership of İstanbul Bilgi University Department of Architecture, Department of Psychology, Child Studies Unit, Syrian refugee children are targeted. Aim is to support Syrian refugee children working on street through a program including educational, social activities and psychological assistance. 30 children attended the program regularly. 2 children were registered to school to start primary school education. Please find detailed information in CCSS Report (CCSS-Our Experiences 2013-2016).

***Research Project “Structure and Functioning of Councils of Metropolitan Municipalities and Local Democracy”** (August 2014-September 2015):

Members of councils of metropolitan municipalities; policy-makers; academicians; civil society To analyze local democracy in Turkey through the structure and composition of councils of metropolitan municipalities.

The book “The Problem of Local Democracy: Structure and Functioning of Councils of Metropolitan Municipalities” was published in October 2015. Meetings for the launch of project findings and the publication were organized in İstanbul, Ankara, and Adana.

***Documentary Screening and Talk “Hatred”** (06 November 2014):
With the partnership of Tarlabası Community Support Association. University students, academics, civil society, general public are targeted. Raising social and political awareness on hate crimes. After the screening, a talk was held with one of the directors of the documentary, Hakan Alp.

***Conference “Migration and Literature: Reflections of ‘Armenian Deportation’ on Literature”** (07 November 2014):

University students, academics, civil society, general public are in the scope. Analyzing how the “Armenian Deportation” is reflected in literature. The conference was held with presentations by Fethiye Çetin, Zülküf Kışanak, Marc Nichanian, Halil İbrahim Özcan and Gülçiçek Günel Tekin.

***Seminar “Refugees on Their Journey into the Unknown: The Right to Access Asylum, Protection and Assistance in Europe and Germany”** (10 November 2014):

Students, academics, civil society and general public are targeted. To discuss asylum and refuge in European law and to evaluate the situation and access to protection and assistance of refugees in Berlin, Germany and the role of civil society and universities in these processes is the main aim. The seminar was held by Silvia Oitner (Alice Salomon University).

***Panel “Gentrification and Tarlabaşı”** (13 November 2014):

Tarlabaşı Community Support Association is the partner. Students, academicians, public authorities, NGOs, media, general public are in scope. Aim is to analyze the legal, architectural and social aspects of urban renewal through the case of Tarlabaşı. The panel was held with the participation of Nuray Çolak, Ahmet Gün, Gülşen İşeri, Özlem Ünsal and Mücella Yapıcı.

***Research Project “Understanding the Process of ‘Othering’ in Encounters: Discussing Empathy and Equality with Youth in Turkey”** (15 November 2014-ongoing):

Target groups are youth aged 20-29 living in Turkey; policy-makers; academicians; civil society.

Aims are to display the process of ‘othering’: how it starts, how it is realized, what the determinants of its growth are and in what forms it constructed is; to explore the mechanism of ‘othering’, the determining commonalities and differences and the main factors that affect the ‘othering’ process through the encounters with the other individuals rather than me/us.

***Seminar “Graphic Violence: Representing Conflict and Migration Through Narrative, Photography and Comics”** (19 November 2014):

Target groups are students, academics, civil society, general public. Aims are to analyze the representation of narratives of

conflict and migration through graphic. Benjamin Dix (University of Sussex, PhD candidate) made a presentation about his works and experiences on graphic representation of narratives of conflict and violence in Asia and Africa.

***Network on Seasonal Labor Migration** (22 November 2014):
Target groups are academicians, representatives of local, national, international public and civil bodies, and individuals working on seasonal labor migration in Turkey.

Aims are to collect related information about seasonal labor migration in Turkey, to promote communication among those working in the field, to support collaborative studies, to develop public awareness about the problems of seasonal workers and their families, to remind all the related parties to realize their responsibilities and to develop solutions, to monitor the current practices, to support activities encouraging the inclusion of seasonal workers into decision making processes.

The network members hold meetings twice a year and share the information about their studies and experiences. Analysis about seasonal labor, problems and recommendations for solution are communicated to decision makers and the public through reports, press releases and press meetings.

***Workshop “City, State, Justice”** (28 November 2014):
With the partnership of TarlaBaşı Community Support Association, university students and NGOs are targeted. It aims to analyze the place of state in urban space and relations and the tie of these relations to justice. The workshop was executed under the moderation of Ayşe Çavdar, academician and journalist, around the themes of “state in city” and “justice in city”.

***Photography Exhibition “Seasonal Agricultural Workers”**
(10 March 2015):
General public is in scope with the partnership of Photographic

Arts Federation of Turkey. Aims to present works of various photographers from around Turkey about seasonal agricultural workers; to increase knowledge and raise awareness about the issue. The exhibition was organized in Ankara. The catalog of the exhibition was also produced and disseminated to related stakeholders.

***Panel “Syrians in Turkey” (16 April 2015):**

University students, academics, civil society, general public are in scope with the partnership of Global Challenges Platform.

The panel aimed to focus on the activities, problems and recommendations of NGOs working with Syrian refugees in the field. The participants were: Şenay Özden with the Hamish Syrian Cultural House, Sema Genel Karaosmanoğlu with the Support to Life Association, and Alp Biricik with the Human Resource Development Foundation. The event was held with around 70 participants.

***Network on Seasonal Labor Migration (09 May 2015):**

Academicians, representatives of local, national, international public and civil bodies, and individuals working on seasonal labor migration in Turkey are in scope.

Aims are to collect related information about seasonal labor migration in Turkey, to promote communication among those working in the field, to support collaborative studies, to develop public awareness about the problems of seasonal workers and their families, to remind all the related parties to realize their responsibilities and to develop solutions, to monitor the current practices, to support activities encouraging the inclusion of seasonal workers into decision making processes.

The network members hold meetings twice a year and share the information about their studies and experiences. Analysis about seasonal labor, problems and recommendations for solution are communicated to decision makers and the public through reports, press releases and press meetings.

Research Centre for the Environment, Energy and Sustainability

The centre (<https://ces.bilgi.edu.tr/index-en.html>), established in Fall 2010, aims to contribute to studies carried out in the field of the environment, taking into account all aspects of environmental problems, including energy and sustainability. The center also targets to construct a bridge between all stakeholders (universities, NGOs, public institutions, private sector etc).

***Project “Exploring Public Preferences for Congestion Charge Attributes: A Choice Experiment in Istanbul”** (April 2015- Ongoing): Residents of Istanbul are in scope. Aims of this project are exploring public preferences for the attributes of congestion charge scheme, which can be adopted to address the severe congestion by policy makers; providing useful insights for policy makers in designing more effective and publicly acceptable congestion charge scheme.

The survey was conducted with 852 individuals who were randomly sampled from the residents of Istanbul. The respondents prefer the congestion charge scheme whose revenues are earmarked either for public transport improvement or for road investment to one whose revenues are allocated to general municipality budget. They also prefer the scheme to be designed as a time based variable charge and implemented only at peak hours.

Human Rights Law Research Center

The Center (<http://insanhaklarimerkezi.bilgi.edu.tr/en/>) at BİLGİ was established in late 2000 with considerable support from BİLGİ Law Faculty. The Center’s sphere of activity covers all fields of human rights law. Since its inception the Center, either alone or in cooperation with national or international partners have carried out research projects as well as trainings for various target groups, including judges and prosecutors, civil society organizations, local and central public authorities etc. The Center’s research and training activities mainly focus on women’s human rights, domestic and

international human rights monitoring mechanisms, anti-discrimination, minority rights, refugee rights, rights of persons with disabilities, freedom of expression and internet freedoms, access to justice and judiciary, human rights education and human rights activism. The Center also supports the work of other research and training units and programs at BİLGİ.

Projects run by the Center:

***Promoting Access to the Individual Constitutional Complaint in Turkey** (December 2013-November 2014): With the partnership of Civil Society Development Center (STGM), general public is targeted. Within the context of the project, in order to inform the general public on individual constitutional complaint procedure, Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center has published a manual in Turkish and disseminated it to the relevant NGOs, academics and lawyers.

***Women's Collaboration for Gender Justice** (2012-2014): This project is held with the partnership of Purple Roof Women's Shelter Foundation, Van Women Association and Antalya Women's Solidarity Center. Legal practitioners such as lawyers and judges, members of the Court of Cassation, social service specialists and through them final target group is women subjected to male violence. The overall objective of the project is to make problems faced by women who are subject to male violence in applying legal mechanisms and using their rights more visible; raise awareness of target groups to such issues; draw attention to the bond between legal arrangements and law enforcement; and raise functionality of existing mechanisms in a way to enhance gender justice and gender equality. In the realm of the project, four workshops were organized for the lawyers and judges in İstanbul, Antalya, Trabzon and Gaziantep, and one seminar for the members of the Court of Cassation in Ankara. There are three books published under the framework of the project: "Adaletin Cinsiyeti: Erkek Şiddeti ile Mücadelede Hukuki Deneyimler", "Erkek Şiddetinin

"Bilgisine Ulaşmak Neden Güçtür?" and "Erkek Şiddeti ile Başa Çıkmak: Sosyal Çalışmacı ve Gönüllü El Kitabı". All three books are in Turkish and accessible on the internet. The project is funded by the European Union European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Programme (EIDHR).



***Developing Judicial Training for Restorative Justice: Towards a European Approach** (January 2013-December 2014):

İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center was one of the seven partners in this project, led by the European Forum for the Restorative Justice. The project is funded by the European Commission. Target groups of the project are members of the judiciary and justice policy makers. In the context of this project, restorative justice trainings of the members of the judiciary in the project partner countries were researched, expert meetings were held, and trainings for the members of the judiciary were organized. A report regarding the availability of the restorative justice trainings to the members of the judiciary in Turkey was prepared by the Center.

[More information about the project.](#)

***Technical Assistance for Prevention of Domestic Violence Against Women** (July 2013-July 2015):

The project is implemented by the consortium led by Ecorys Research and Consulting (TR) and composed of İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, Ecorys Research and Consulting (UK) and BOLT International Consulting (Greece). The main target group of the project is General Command of Gendarmerie and the staff of Gendarmerie. The project is a EU Technical Assistance Project that aims at strengthening the capacity of the General Command of Gendarmerie for the prevention of domestic violence against women in Turkey. The overall objective of the project is ensuring the respect of human rights among citizens based on gender equality and minimizing domestic violence incidents particularly against women. The purpose of the project is strengthening the capacity of the Gendarmerie in protection of human rights based on gender equality, particularly in the prevention of violence against women, and promoting reciprocal collaboration between the Gendarmerie and other national institutions for effective implementation of the law on violence against women. The Center took part in activities in all the components but focused mainly in the training and coordination/awareness raising components. Experts from the Center were involved in the following activities:

- Production of a report based on reported domestic violence incidents,
- Design and delivery of the modul on the national and international legislation on violence against women for the trainings of trainers,
- Research on local coordination mechanisms of handling violence against women cases in two selected cities (Adana and Zonguldak) and sharing of results at the quarterly coordination meeting in Ankara.

The geographical area covered by the project is Turkey. However, the majority of activities were carried out in Ankara and 30 selected pilot cities.

[Project website \(in Turkish\).](#)

[Training material of the project \(in Turkish\).](#)

[Photo & video gallery of the project.](#)

***Toolkit and Training about Artistic Freedom of Expression**

(September-November 2015):

This project, implemented by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center with Siyah Bant Initiative and supported by the Consulate General of Sweden in İstanbul. Target groups are artists and art institutions. The project aims to support the protection and improvement of freedom of artistic expression of artists and art institutions in Turkey. Within the scope of the project, "Guidebook on the Artistic Freedom of Expression" (in Turkish) was published providing recommendations to artists and art institutions on legal remedies in cases of violation of artistic freedom of expression. The guidebook which was prepared with the support of the Consulate General of Sweden and the Sivil Düşün Programme by the Delegation of the EU to Turkey. The guidebook written by Asst. Prof. Dr. Ulaş Karan from İstanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law and Pelin Başaran from Siyah Bant Initiative consists of two parts: The first part, "Legal Background" explains the definition and scope of the artistic freedom of expression and gives an outline of relevant national and international legal instruments. The second part of the guidebook, "Practical Information and Recommendations" summarizes real life cases of censorship and ways to follow when such cases occur. As a part of the project training seminars were held under the title "Artistic Freedom of Expression" conducted by Asst. Prof. Dr. Ulaş Karan from İstanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law and Pelin Başaran from Siyah Bant Initiative. The training seminars were attended by undergraduate students from various art and law faculties, artists and art venue directors.

***DECODEUR Project: Developing a Methodology to Collect Data on Community Sanctions and Measures and Attritions Rates in Europe** (2011-2014):

Partners of the project are European Institute for Crime Prevention (HEUNI); WODC Netherlands, Home Office UK; Institute of Justice PL; University of Göttingen; CESDIP-CNRS; Autonomous University

of Barcelona; CEP; Transcrime; Metropolitan Police Iceland; University of Tirana. The target groups of the project are criminal justice administrations, researchers, policy makers, criminal justice practitioners. The purpose of the project is to use the expertise available within the European Sourcebook Group and the Conférence permanente Européenne de la Probation (CEP) to improve and complement the standards developed so far for the definition and categorization of community sanctions and measures. The aim of the project is to identify how sanctions and measures are imposed and measured initially by different European countries. Second, the attrition rate is analyzed. Flow statistics can be used in order to follow the progress of a criminal case through the whole criminal justice system until a final decision is made. As many countries so far cannot provide such statistics, the project also seeks ways to interlink the different statistical databases. This information leads to the development of a new data collection instrument (questionnaire) to include both definitions and a methodology to provide specific indicators. This project had two main outcomes: Its main report "Recording Community SaRecording Community Sanctions and Measures and Assessing Attrition" and "European Sourcebook of Crime and Criminal Justice Statistics, 5th edition. Asst. Prof. Galma Akdeniz (member of the Human Rights Law Research Center) collected crime and justice data for Turkey and thus contributed to the publication, and participated in the management of the project. More information about this project, databases that were formed as a part of the project, and all related publications can be found on the European Sourcebook Website.

Projects run by NGOs that the Center has contributed to

***My Vocational High School is Youth Friendly**

(September 2013-July 2014):

The project is launched by Celikel Education Foundation with the support of Istanbul Provincial Directorate of National Education and financial assistance by Matra Fund of the Consulate General of

the Netherlands. In this project, İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center cooperated with Çelikel Education Foundation. Target groups are vocational high school teachers, students and administration. The project aims to help young people get the most out of their right to education and opportunities for their future life, to raise their awareness on rights and responsibilities and gender equality by taking into consideration the conditions peculiar to vocational high schools. Members of the Center Gökçeçiçek Ayata and Burcu Yeşiladalı developed a human rights training program targeting vocational high school teachers and provided a two-day teacher training held in December 2013. Subsequently, experience-sharing meetings were held with teachers upon their implementation of human rights training in two vocational schools in Ümraniye and Kadıköy.

***Legal Advocacy and Litigation Project (2014-2015):**

This project is implemented by the Women's Labor and Employment Initiative Platform (KEIG) and funded by the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA). Target group of the project are lawyers. The objective of the project is to increase awareness on gender discrimination in employment and make the discrimination against women in employment visible. Within the framework of the project training seminars are provided to lawyers in cooperation with Bar associations. The program of the training seminars are developed and implemented by the experts of İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center. Within the framework of this project four training seminars were organized in collaboration with the Bar Associations for lawyers. Training seminars took place in Antalya, Batman, Şanlıurfa and Bursa.

***Diversity and Strategic Litigation Platform Project**

(April 2014-March 2016):

The project is implemented by Kaos Gay and Lesbian Cultural Researches and Solidarity Association (Kaos GL) and Foundation for Society and Legal Studies (TOHAV). İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center joined the project as a member

of the Steering Committee of Diversity and Strategic Litigation Platform. The project is funded by the Sivil Düşün Programme by the Delegation of the EU to Turkey. The target group of the project are people who are highly marginalized and whose problems are not adequately taken into the realm of conventional human rights agenda are in scope. The project aims at making cases of multiple-discrimination visible encountered by people who are highly marginalised, resorting or directing these cases to jurisdiction and other types of advocacy mechanisms. Within the scope of the project, the Diversity and Strategic Litigation Platform is founded comprising civil society organisations and academic institutions.

Events organised by the Center

Within the period of January 2014-January 2016 following events were held by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center. Some of the events were hosted by the Center in partnership of national and international human rights organizations:

***9th Gathering in İstanbul for Freedom of Expression,**

24-25 May 2014:

The event is organized by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center and Initiative for Freedom of Expression in 24-25 May 2014 at santralistanbul Campus.

***Conference: "Legal Personality of Belief Communities in Turkey: Seeking a Path",** 30 May 2014:

The conference is held in cooperation with Norwegian Helsinki Committee: Freedom of Belief Initiative.

***International Conference: "Citizenship and Human Security",**

24-25 January 2015:

The regional/international conference on "Citizenship and Human Security" is co-organized by the Helsinki Citizens' Assembly, European Institute and İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Meeting: "A New Era in the Combat of Violence Against Women: İstanbul Convention", 21 March 2015:**

This meeting is held by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center in partnership with İstanbul Convention Monitoring Platform.

***Training for Lawyers: "Right to Education and Roma: International Law and Constitutional Perspectives", 18-19 April 2015:**

The training is organized by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center and European Roma Rights Center (ERRC).

***Meeting: "Violence Against Women Without Borders", 16 May 2015:**

This event is organized and hosted by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Conference: "Disabled, LGBTI and Foreign Prisoners",**

21-22 May 2015:

The conference is held at İstanbul Bilgi University Dolapdere Campus by Civil Society in the Penal System (CISST) in cooperation with Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung and hosted by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Panel: "Legal Mobilization and Judicial Activism in Turkey: Transition of the Relations between Government and the Judiciary",**

23 June 2015:

This panel is organized by İstanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law and Human Rights Law Research Center.

***First Human Rights Law Summer School at BİLGİ,**

7-11 September 2015:

İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center organized the first "Human Rights Law Summer School" between 7-11 September 2015. The Summer School is held in commemoration of Prof. Bülent Tanör.

***Lecture by Dr. Rıza Türmen: “Human Rights and Democracy in Turkey”**, 11 September 2015:

Closing lecture of the first Human Rights Law Summer School at BİLGİ by the Former European Court of Human Rights judge Dr. Rıza Türmen.

***Forum: “Day to End Impunity”**, 9 November 2015:

The Forum is hosted by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center and organized by Free Freedom of Expression with the collaboration of Hafıza Merkezi, Bianet and Transparency International.

***Panel: “Combating Discriminatory Discourse: Theoretical Discussions & European Experience regarding Hate Speech Laws”**, 10 November 2015:

The panel is organized by Hrant Dink Foundation, with the support of Friedrich Naumann Foundation at İstanbul Bilgi University **santral**istanbul campus in collaboration with İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Conference: “Between Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech: Minorities and Social Media”**, 13 November 2015:

The conference is held as a part of the project implemented by Yeniköy Virgin Mary Greek Orthodox Church and School in partnership with İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center and Hellenic Foundation For European And Foreign Policy (ELIAMEP).

***Launch Event: “The OSCE/ ODIHR- Venice Commission Guidelines on the Legal Personality of Religious or Belief Communities in Turkish language”**, 19 November 2015:

The launch event is organized by the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (OSCE/ODIHR); the Norwegian Helsinki Committee, Freedom of Belief Initiative in Turkey (NHC); and İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Panel on Law, Human and Society on the 60th Anniversary of "6-7 September 1955 Events", 28 November 2015:**

This panel is held in cooperation between İstanbul Bilgi University Law Faculty, İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center and İstanbul Rums Universal Federation.

***Symposium: "CRPD and Turkish Disability Law: Rights of the Persons with Intellectual Disabilities", 10-11 December 2015:**

The symposium is co-organized with Harvard University Law School and Tomurcuk Education, Culture and Solidarity Foundation and hosted by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center.

***Training Seminars on Artistic Freedom of Expression,**

December 2015:

Training seminars are held as a part of the project implemented by İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center with Siyah Bant Initiative and supported by the Consulate General of Sweden in İstanbul.

More information about the events can be found on the following links:

- [Events in 2014](#)
- [Events in 2015](#)
- [Events in 2016](#)

Books published by the Center

***Manual on Individual Application to the Constitutional Court** (in Turkish), Author: Ulaş Karan, Edited by: Cem Tüzün, İstanbul Bilgi University Press 516, Human Rights Law Studies 20, ISBN: 978-605-399-401-5, İstanbul, July 2015.

* [All books published by the Center](#)

Reports published by the Center

***Assessment Report on the Draft Law on Amendment to Various Laws in Order to Enhance Fundamental Rights and Liberties** (in Turkish), İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, İstanbul, February 2014

***Report Submitted to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Responsibilities of Subnational Governments with Respect to the Right to Adequate Housing** (in English), İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, October 2014

***Report Submitted to the United Nations Human Rights Council Advisory Committee on the Role of Local Government in the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights** (in English), İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, April 2014

* All reports published by the Center

THE CENTER FOR WORK ETHICS

The Center for Work Ethics (<https://isetigi.bilgi.edu.tr/>) aims to carry out scientific researches, analysis, practices, education and documentation activities in universal business ethics field; to cooperate with related public and private sector institutions; to guide scientific researches and analysis in accordance with the needs of practice; and to ensure scientific findings are adopted in practice. Activities between dates January 2014-January 2016:

***Summit: "Ethics Summit"**, 12 June 2014:

BİLGİ hosted 4th and 5th International Ethics Summit in **santral** Istanbul Campus with initiation of the Center.

***Symposium: "Ethics in Academy"**, 3 December 2015:

The symposium aims to create awareness among young scholars and graduate students about academic career and various steps of academic production by analyzing issues and difficulties.

EUROPEAN INSTITUTE

The "European vocation" of Bilgi has in fact led to the launch of the Centre for European Studies which, later in 2007, became the "European Institute". The European Institute (<http://eu.bilgi.edu.tr/en/>) undertakes in depth research on EU politics and policies with a specific emphasis on diversity and pluralism. Building on EU expertise acquired within BİLGİ, the European Institute is now the primary focus for the inter-disciplinary study of processes of integration in the politics, legal systems, society and economies of Europe. To this end, the European Institute supports interdisciplinary academic programs on EU studies and

undertakes interdisciplinary research with primary focus on themes such as processes of integration, europeanization, multiculturalism, diversity, and construction of european identities. Besides many other EU funded (numerous FP7 projects) and international projects, the Institute has been awarded a Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence Award (2013), two Jean Monnet Chairs, and several other Jean Monnet modules and Learning EU at School Projects.

***Seminar “Jean Monnet “European Values at School Project” (EU Boat Seminars) (September 2013-Ongoing - every week-):** Target group is High School Students. In the framework of the European Values at School Project, the High School students met an Academician and had a talk about European Union, Human Rights, Refugees, Equality of Women and Men, European Union Education Programs, Environment.

High School Students have the opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas about European Union, Human Rights, Refugees, Equality of Women and Men, European Union Education Programs, Environment.

***Conference “Citizenship & Human Security” (23-24-25 January 2015):** The conference is held with partnership of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly and the Human Rights Law Research Centre of the İstanbul Bilgi University. Target groups are academia, NGO's and Journalists.

The conference was a centrepiece event of a collaborative working process to build a “Citizens' Network for Peace, Reconciliation and Human Security” from below, beyond borders. Our aim was to advocate and mobilize civic action and political change towards “humanizing” security, across practices & interactions of daily life. In that vein, we seek to link “human security” -- i.e., safe and dignified individual/collective livelihoods in integrity-- with rights/freedoms and democratization vis a vis pressures of vicious, unharnessed 'development' & state security.

The conference presented and opened discussion what have been learned and done so far in the past two years on various dimensions of human security, in particular on “youth & violence”, “violence in the workplace”, and, “displacement as violence”. The program also included sessions on various cycles & axes of violence/insecurity: “globalization, state sovereignty, citizenship”; “grounds of human (in)security”, “discourses/policies of “public order & security”; “corrosion of social policies & (dis)trust in the public system”; “the dimension of ethnicity in tensions/conflicts between refugees/migrants & local communities”, and, “new definitions/practices of citizenship, as a lateral safety net”. The event brought together people from different walks of life, across civil society, academia and associated stakeholder groups.

***Panel “Turkey-EU Cooperation Regarding the Refugee Crisis: Opportunities and Challenges” (2 June 2016):**

The panel is held with the partnership of İKV (Economic Development Foundation). Academia, NGO’s and Journalists are the target groups. The aim of the Panel was to discuss the different dimensions of the refugee crisis and Turkey-EU relations, to extend the dialogue and cooperation with Turkey-EU relations.

***Discussion/Evaluation of Migrant Integration Policy Index 2015 “Integration policies: Who benefits? The development and use of indicators in integration debates” (23 June 2015):**

MIPEX is the partner of this activity. Academia, NGO’s, Journalists, Migrants are target groups. The evaluation of the Migrant Integration Policy Index 2015 for Turkey by holding an open discussion where all participants had the possibility to contribute to the debate.

OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATED with UNGC PRINCIPLES

Istanbul Bilgi University Pro Bono Network/Clearinghouse (Faculty of Law)

Istanbul Bilgi University Pro Bono Network/Clearinghouse (probono.bilgi.edu.tr) is an “access to justice” project.

The network brings together lawyers who provide legal service on a voluntary basis to non-governmental organizations (NGOs). This is of importance for NGOs because their scarce financial resources can be then devoted to their cause rather than legal fees.

Objectives of this project are:

- * Legal empowerment of NGOs.
- * Developing awareness on professional and social responsibility.
- * Increasing NGO awareness on preventive legal services.
- * Building a pro bono culture among law firms in İstanbul.

Since the beginning of the project, thousands of individuals and more than sixty NGO/civil society movements have been partnered with lawyers. The network grew since its inception. Today, law firms contact the Center to participate rather than the center reaching out to them.

The network developed contact with the local bar in İstanbul and plans a national and international pro bono conference. It participates in PILnet’s Annual Global Forum. It also developed a “Legal Health Check” document for the sole benefit of NGOs.

Legal Clinics (Faculty of Law)

The clinical education program of İstanbul Bilgi University Faculty of Law commenced in 2003. The method is based on “learning by doing” instead of experiencing theory in a protective and artificial environment such as the classroom.

Objectives are:

- * Legal empowerment for the target groups (every clinic has a different target group)
- * Skill building for the students (legal writing; public speaking; research)

Common learning aims for students:

- * Use law as a tool to empower people
- * Discuss law in a critical fashion
- * Identify the law applicable to the matter at hand including ethical rules in the profession
- * Use communication skills

There are two types of legal clinics:

One is a public legal education program (street law clinic) that have been running since 2004. In this program, law students teach fundamental legal notions and provide basic legal knowledge to citizens according to the principles of adult/interactive learning. The course, remains a rare example of a course being taught in a prison setting anywhere in the world. Has been operating in five prisons in three different districts of Istanbul. Over 900 inmates attended the courses given by clinical students in last 10 years.

The other one is the client counselling program which has two subject matters (general applied law clinic and cyber law clinic). The counselling program students have client interviews to determine the legal problems; do research and write legal documents based on the problems; lastly, they give presentations and provide advice.

The newest program (2014-ongoing) is an 'Applied Law Clinic on Cyber Rights'. In this program, students undertake human rights violation cases of freedom of speech, expression and information.

Unit for the Prevention of the Sexual Harrassment and Assault

Unit for the Prevention of the Sexual Harrassment and Assault (<https://ctsob.bilgi.edu.tr/>), established in April 2015, aims to contribute to create a free academic research, education and working environment based on mutual respect without sexual harassment and assault. The Unit primarily focuses on establishing an effective appeal mechanism for sexual harassment or assault complaints in terms of supporting and empowering the applicant. The Unit is actively functioning and demonstrating BİLGİ's commitment to ethical codes in work place.

BİLGİ Young Social Entrepreneur Awards

The BİLGİ Young Social Entrepreneur Awards (www.bilgiggo.org), initiated by the leadership of İstanbul Bilgi University, is a national affiliate of the International Youth Foundation's (IYF) YouthActionNet® program. The project is supported by the Laureate International Universities network, of which İstanbul Bilgi University is a member. The Awards seek to identify and support young social entrepreneurs who have succeeded in making positive contributions to their communities. Awards program occurs every year since 2010.

İstanbul Bilgi University Publishing

İstanbul Bilgi University Publishing has completed its fourteenth year of activity, and has made a significant contribution to the world of academic publishing, critical thinking, and freedom of thought in Turkey. Publications can be found related with UNGC principles by following the link (<http://www.bilgi.edu.tr/en/university/bilgi-publishing/>).

BİLGİ Career Center

The BİLGİ Career Center (<http://www.bilgikariyer.com/>) mainly targets to provide our students and graduates with the services that will support their career developments and ensure that they acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities that will facilitate their adaptation to the professional life during their undergraduate years. For this purpose, the Center encourages BİLGİ students for internships and the university covers insurance expenses of both compulsory and voluntary internships; shares job postings; organizes career related programs and trainings with professionals for the students to support their development; brings together BİLGİ students with employers through the field specific and comprehensive Career Fairs. Within this scope, activities of the Center supports enrichment and awareness of labour force. Seminars related with UNGC Goals in terms of maximizing individual awareness in workplace:

“Know Yourself, Gain Awareness”, 20 November 2014

“Persuasion and Self-Reliance”, 27 November 2014

“The Role of Intuition in Career Selection”, 25 December 2014

“Career Planning Seminar for Affective Job Application”,
17 February 2015

“Enlarging Personal Target”, 13 April 2015

COURSES RELATED with UNGC PRINCIPLES

BİLGİ has a very wide range of courses related with UNGC Principles and Sustainability Goals. 76 courses can be addressed considering course descriptions within 2013-2014 Academic Year Spring Semester, 2014-2015 Academic Year and 2015-2016 Academic Year Fall Semester. Number of courses significantly increased since our previous document announcement (From 32 to 76).

BACHELOR

- BUS 271 One World Youth Project I
- BUS 434 Corporate Governance
- BUS 481 Business Ethics
- BUS 495 Projects in Social Entrepreneurship
- CLD 108 Child and Environment
- CLD 211 Child Rights and Child Law
- EC 179 Social Issues and Critical Thinking
- ENGR 400 Ethics in Engineering and Science
- ERP 115 Case Study in Ergotherapy and Professional Ethics I
- ESEN 321 Wind Energy and Conversion Technology
- ESEN 408 Energy Environment and Law
- ESEN 421 Sustainable Engineering
- ESEN 422 Advanced Wind Energy
- GE 101 Introduction to Practical Ethics
- GE 103 Global Civil Society
- GE 104 Contemporary Issues in Environment and Ecology
- GE 105 Gender in Everyday Life
- GE 107 Ecological Literacy and Sustainability
- GE 200 Social Responsibility, Civil Society and Istanbul
- GE 201 Social Responsibility Project I
- GE 202 Social Responsibility Project II
- GE 205 Introduction to Child Policies
- GE 208 Special Topics on Global Civics
- GE 210 Child, Participation and Media
- GE 212 Social Entrepreneurship in Turkey
- GE 215 Introduction to Youth Policy
- GE 219 Prejudices, Stereotypes and Disability
- GE 317 Introduction to Concepts of Civil Society
- GE 401 Ethics and Life Course
- IND 311 Environment Conscious Building Design
- IND 317 Human and the Built Environment
- IR 372 Theories of Democracy and Human Rights
- LAW 405 Street Law Clinic I
- LAW 406 Street Law Clinic II
- LAW 425 Applied Law Clinic I
- LAW 461 Human Rights Law
- LAW-EP 102 Introduction to International Human Rights Law with Special Emphasis on Turkey
- LENGR 400 Ethics in Engineering and Science
- LMED 378 Media and Human Rights
- MED 101 Introduction to Media Literacy
- MED 120 Politics, Media and Democracy
- MED 178 Media and Human Rights
- MED 218 Women and Media
- MED 311 Communication for Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution
- NUT 408 Medical and Professional Ethics
- PTR 133 Case Study in Physiotherapy and Ethics
- PUB 303 Social Responsibility and Sustainability
- PUB 311 Corporate Social Responsibility Practicum
- PUB 313 Corporate Responsibility
- PUB 422 Ethical Issues and Dilemmas in Public Relations
- SOC 332 Social Inequality

MASTER

- BUS 514 Business Ethics
- ESEN 522 Advanced Wind Energy
- ESEN 531 Sustainable Engineering
- HRM 514 Corporate Social Responsibility and Business Ethics
- LAW 501 The Theory of Rights
- LAW 517 Human Rights Activism I
- LAW 518 Human Rights of Women
- LAW 542 International Human Rights Law: Monitoring Mechanisms
- LAW 585 Human Rights Activism II
- LAW 616 International Environmental Law
- LAW 626 Anti-Discrimination Law
- LAW 638 Business and Human Rights
- LAW 639 International Humanitarian Law
- LAW 643 Right to Life, Prohibition of Torture and Right to Liberty under the ECHR
- LAW 652 Restriction and Guaranty System of the Rights and Freedoms in the ECHR
- LAW 682 Introduction to International Climate Change Law
- MED 522 Ethics in the World of Media
- NGO 501 Civil Society Theory I
- NGO 502 Civil Society Theory II
- NGO 513 Innovative Practices in Civil Society I
- PHIL 506 Ethis, Power, Freedom
- PUB 513 Social Responsibility and Sustainability
- PSY 503 Professional Ethics

DOCTORATE

- LAW 818 Business and Human Rights

AFTERWORD...

As an academic institution we undertake our responsibility on this matter and work a lot to make progress with all our related units, centers and all related academic activities.

In accordance with our commitment to and support for UN Global Compact principles, we believe that every moral institutional action has to be supported on a vigorous basis. This basis has to be solid and defined very clearly. We intend to take action on allied subjects, which correspond to BİLGİ's identity in the time ahead.

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