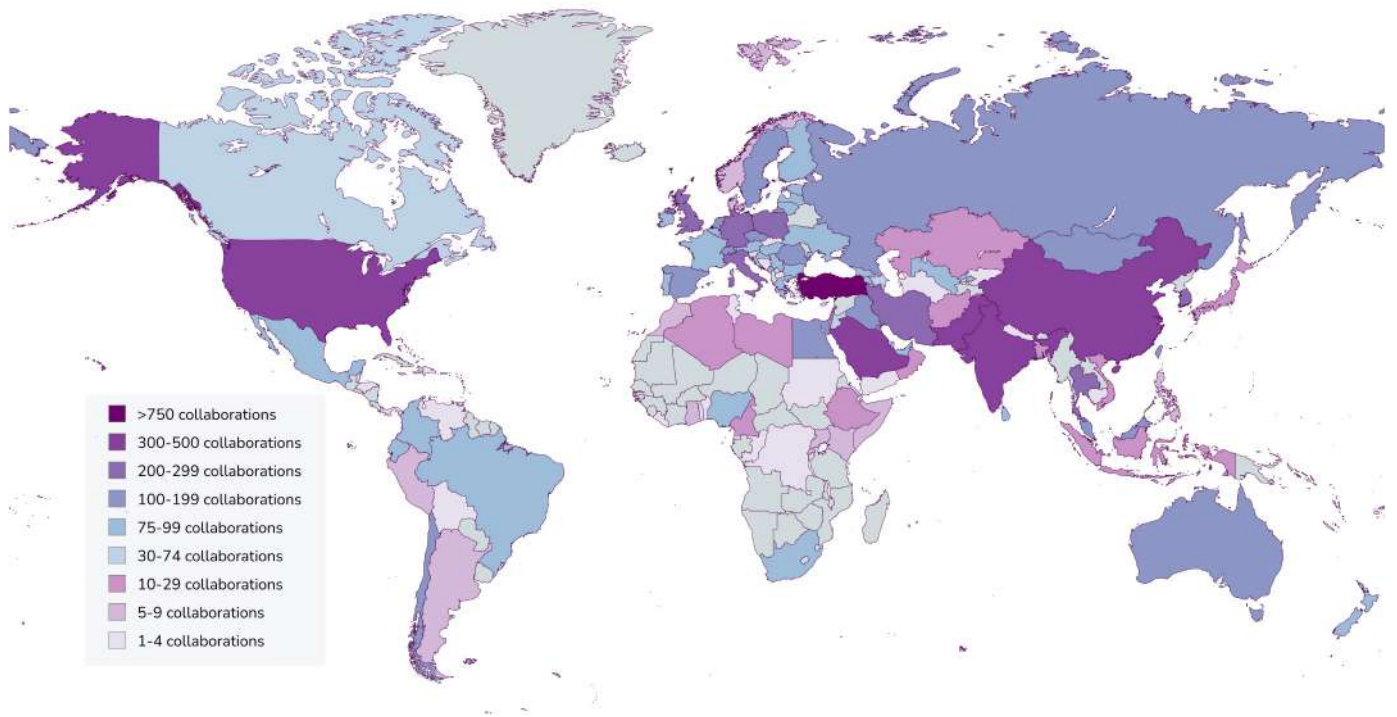




SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2024



Global Research Collaborations



“

In 2024, Near East University (NEU) collaborated with researchers from 129 countries, reflecting the university's broad and active participation in the global research community.

These collaborations demonstrate NEU's focus on scientific exchange, innovation, and interdisciplinary work, creating shared opportunities for new discoveries and academic growth. Through joint studies and co-authored publications, NEU contributes to the international flow of knowledge and strengthens research connections across regions.

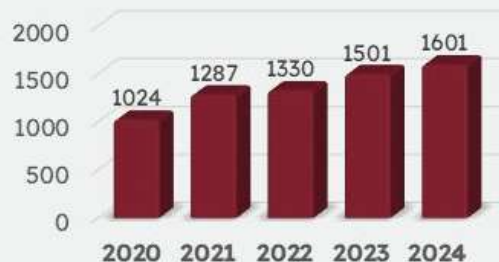
The map illustrates the scope and diversity of NEU's partnerships worldwide, showing how collaborative research continues to advance progress in education, health sciences, technology, and sustainability. NEU's expanding global network highlights its role as a research-oriented university with a strong international presence.

”



Scholarly Output

6743



Field Weighted
Citation Impact

1.86



Citation Count

124.368



International
Collaboration

71.9%



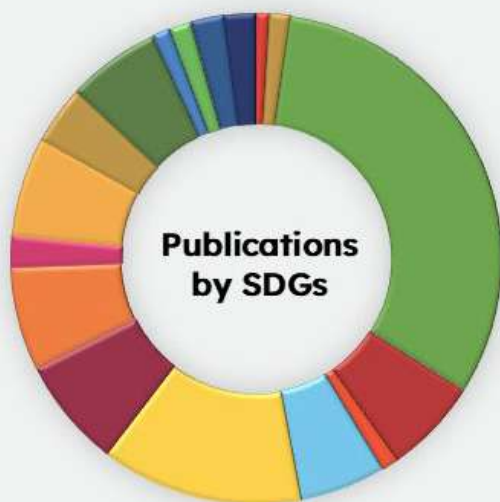
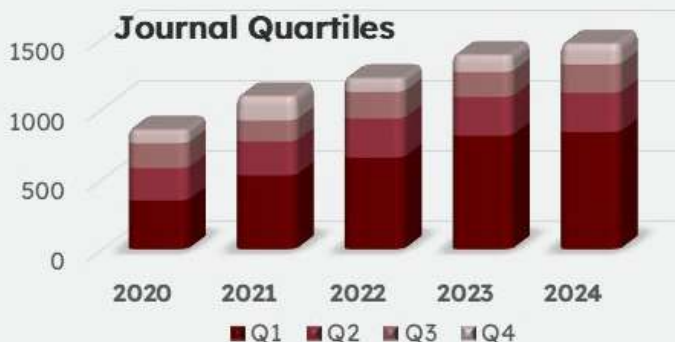
Views Count

209.082



Publications in Top
Journal Percentiles

28.4%



- SDG1
- SDG2
- SDG3
- SDG4
- SDG5
- SDG6
- SDG7
- SDG8
- SDG9
- SDG10
- SDG11
- SDG12
- SDG13
- SDG14
- SDG15
- SDG16
- SDG17

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Prof. Dr. İrfan Suat Günsel

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

We see sustainability not as a temporary goal or project but as an ethical commitment to the future. Therefore, we internalize sustainability across all areas, from our institutional policies and educational processes to our research strategies and forms of social engagement and make it a fundamental reference point for our behaviors and organizational culture.

We believe that a sustainable world is possible not only through environmental awareness but also through knowledge, production, and justice. In line with this belief and following the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we are embedding into our institutional culture a development approach that supports quality education, promotes gender equality, prioritizes equal opportunities in health, and aligns with environmental sustainability.

Near East University aims to set an exemplary model through academic knowledge, research, and project development, along with environmentally conscious infrastructure investments, energy efficiency practices, waste management policies, and a sustainable campus vision.

The scientific projects conducted through our 21 faculties and research centers, along with Near East University Hospital's human-centered healthcare services, the Cyprus Modern Art Museum's contribution to cultural sustainability, and the increasing focus on green transformation themes in our graduate programs are all indicators of this commitment.

This report demonstrates that Near East University assumes responsibility not only for today but also for the right to life of future generations. I thank all our academics, administrative staff, students, and stakeholders who contributed to shaping this understanding; and emphasize our commitment to continue working towards a sustainable future illuminated by science, art, and humanity.

Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ

Rector



Sustainability is the greatest collective challenge of our time. The role that everyone, from scientists to institutions, from individuals to communities, plays in this challenge will determine how the future is shaped.

As Near East University, we act with awareness of this responsibility; we see sustainability not only as an environmental goal but also as a principle that guides science, education, and social development.

This report aims to make our university's sustainability vision tangible through concrete data and actions. Equal opportunities in education, ethics and social benefits in scientific research, eco-friendly practices in campus life, and continuity in cultural production are the fundamental components of this approach.

The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) provide a universal roadmap to make the world a more livable place. Near East University aims to create both local and global impact by integrating these goals into every aspect of its academic ecosystem.

From interdisciplinary projects on our campus to innovative eco-friendly initiatives, from our academic policies that prioritize gender equality to our museums that preserve cultural heritage, this holistic effort demonstrates that sustainability is not just a goal, but a value embedded in the identity of our university.

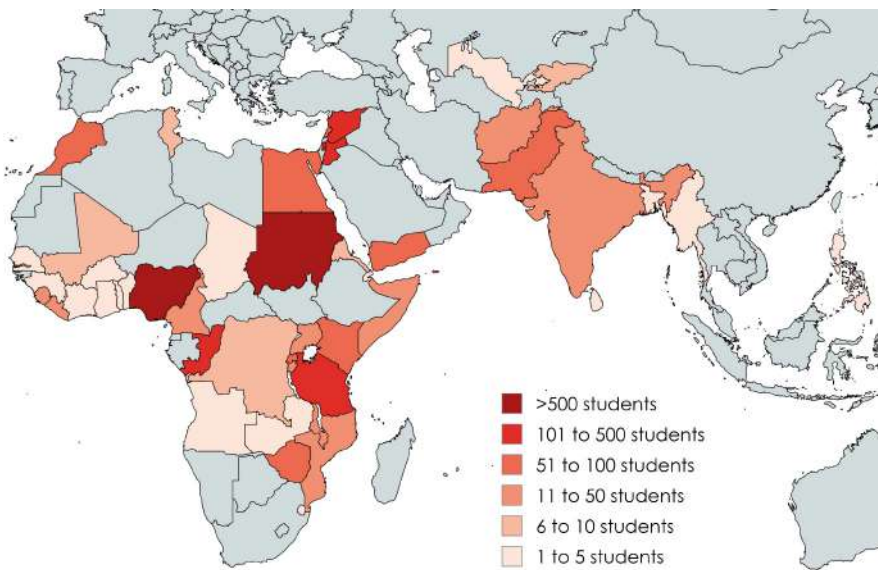
By bringing together our scientific productivity, technological innovation capacity, and social awareness, we continue to develop solutions that address not only today's challenges but also the needs of the future.

We thank all our academics, students, and administrative staff who have contributed to this process. Once again, I reaffirm Near East University's commitment to building a sustainable, just, and conscious future.

1 NO POVERTY



GLOBAL INCLUSIVITY



Students from Low and Lower-Middle Income Countries

This map highlights Near East University's (NEU) global inclusivity, showing the presence of students from low- and lower-middle-income countries. In 2024, students from over forty nations - most prominently Sudan, Nigeria, and India - pursued higher education at NEU, reflecting the university's commitment to accessible and equitable learning opportunities. Through a wide range of scholarship opportunities, student support programs, and international partnerships, NEU opens pathways for individuals from economically disadvantaged regions

SCHOLARSHIP

Internship and Education Opportunities at GÜNSEL within the FIRST Program

Near East University offers full (100%) scholarships to three graduates of the **FIRST** Robotics Program (FIRST) within its Faculty of Engineering. In addition to financial support, the program provides recipients with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience by working at GÜNSEL Electric Vehicles and the Near East University Robotics Unit.

Through this initiative, Near East University extends its commitment to fostering STEM education and sustainable innovation by supporting FIRST students and alumni who choose to study in one of the following fields: Automotive, Mechanical, Mechatronics, Electrical and Electronic, Biomedical, Bioengineering, Food, Computer, or Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering. Applicants for the Near East University FIRST Scholarship must either be senior high school students (12th grade) or FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) alumni who are reapplying to university.



EVENT

Strengthening Social Awareness

Near East University's Faculty of Communication, the Grand Library, and Near East College jointly organized a "**Cinema Day**" event that brought together junior high school students for a meaningful and enjoyable experience. The activity was designed not only to create a fun social environment but also to cultivate a sense of responsibility toward the community.

Students participated with a symbolic contribution that included their film screening and refreshments. The revenue generated from the event was donated to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security's Social Services Department to support children living under protection at the Çağlayan Children's Shelter. Through this gesture, students had the opportunity to understand how even small acts can make a positive difference in the lives of others.

COURSE

Economic Development

The Economic Development **course** offers a comprehensive understanding of the processes that influence the progress of national and global economies. The course explores key concepts such as comparative economic development, sustainable development practices, and major development theories that shape policy-making. Students examine poverty, inequality, population growth, and the socioeconomic challenges faced by both developing and advanced economies. The relationship between human capital, including education and health, and long-term growth is emphasized. The course also highlights the role of entrepreneurship, agriculture, and industrial transformation in achieving inclusive development.



31

Publications



266

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

12



0.99

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



1.073

Views Count

RESEARCH

Water Access as a Pathway to Poverty Reduction

A collaborative **study** by Sidra Khalid and Mohsin Hafeez from the International Water Management Institute, together with Sohaib Aqib from Near East University's Department of Economics, examines gendered dimensions of water security in urban Pakistan. Survey results from Islamabad and Rawalpindi show that women experience greater water insecurity due to limited access to improved sources and socioeconomic inequalities. Education, employment, and satisfaction with drinking water were key factors influencing water security. The study stresses the need for policy approaches that integrate social dynamics, infrastructure, and governance, and recommends wider use of the Individual Water Insecurity Experiences (IWISE) Scale for more inclusive water management.

Economic Vulnerabilities During the Covid-19 Pandemic

Researchers from Near East University, including Mehmet Altınay, Fahriye Altınay, Gökmen Dağlı, and Zehra Altınay, investigated the **microeconomic effects** of the Covid-19 pandemic across several African countries. Based on interviews with University of Kyrenia students who had taken microeconomics courses, the study revealed increased poverty, unemployment, and financial difficulties for individuals, households, and businesses. Disrupted supply chains and reduced consumer and investor confidence further deepened economic instability. The results underscore the need for stronger economic resilience, targeted support for vulnerable groups, and adaptive policies to protect livelihoods during global crises.

21.7% of all students
receive full scholarships

21% of students come from
low- and lower-middle-income
countries

62.8% of students from low- and
lower-middle-income countries
receive scholarships



2 ZERO HUNGER



WORKSHOPS

Meat and Milk Cost Calculation

Near East University Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Animal Science organized a workshop on **“Meat and Milk Cost Calculation”** with the participation of public officials, industry representatives, professional groups, and academics. Hosted at the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, the event focused on accurate cost analysis in livestock production. Notable speakers, including Prof. Dr. Dilek Arsoy, Chair of the Department of Animal Science and Prof. Dr. Duygu Aktürk, Chair of the Department of Agricultural Business Management at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University, Türkiye, shared insights on improving production strategies, efficiency, and profitability to strengthen the meat and milk sector.



Olive Oil Sensory Analysis

Near East University's Food Engineering Department organized an **“Olive Oil Sensory Analysis Workshop”** on World Olive Day, November 26, to promote awareness of olive oil quality and production. Held at the Herbarium and Natural History Museum, the event gathered public representatives, producers, academics, and students to examine sensory properties and cultural value. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, with notable speakers including Assist. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güler and Dr. Mehmet Güler, President of Adana Olive Production and Marketing Cooperative (ZEYKÖOP), the workshop included tastings and highlighted the need for quality evaluation, international standards, and collaboration to strengthen the sector.

From Farm to Table

Near East University Experimental Health Sciences Research Center (DESAM) hosted the **“Milk Workshop from Farm to Table”** at İrfan Günsel Congress Center to improve milk quality, hygiene, and safety throughout the production chain. The all-day workshop brought together numerous milk producers, food safety experts, and academics. Officials from the Veterinary Department, Turkish Cypriot Dairy Industry Association, Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Industry, and KOOP Dairy attended, along with many employees from Kyrenia Municipality, Gönyeli-Alayköy Municipality, and Değirmenlik Municipality. Speakers addressed production capacity, farmer responsibilities, veterinary supervision, and market standards.



CAMPUS-LIFE

Comprehensive Food Service

Near East University is committed to providing safe, nutritious, and affordable food for its entire campus community. With 22 cafeterias, cafés, and restaurants capable of serving about 4,500 people at once, the university meets the needs of students, staff, hospital employees, and visitors. Menus are planned monthly by a dietitian to ensure nutritional balance, affordability, and seasonal variety. Vegetarian and vegan options are available on campus to support diverse dietary preferences and encourage healthier, more sustainable eating.



The remaining food from campus cafeterias and restaurants is collected on a daily basis and given to the Near East University Animal Farm and the street animals living on campus.



46

Publications



7.784

Citation Count



International Collaboration

32



7.87

Field Weighted Citation Impact



4.769

Views Count

RESEARCH

Antioxidant Olive Fermentation

Near East University Faculty of Agriculture academic Assist. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güler presented her **study** titled “Phenolic Profile and Antioxidant Properties of Yellow Olive Fermented with Red Beetroot” at the 1st International Biotechnology Congress on October 19, 2024. Her research showed that fermenting Sarıulak olives with red beetroot increased total antioxidant activity by 32.43 percent and preserved phenolic compounds more effectively. The method also accelerated the hydrolysis of oleuropein, raising hydroxytyrosol levels.



COURSE

Water and Food Resources in the World

Water and Food Resources in the World is offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences to explore global challenges in water and food sustainability. The course focuses on resource distribution, food security, and the environmental, social, and economic factors shaping access to essential resources. It highlights sustainable development, responsible consumption, and sustainable dietary models. Through discussions and case studies, students build critical thinking skills and learn the connection between human well-being, resource efficiency, and environmental stewardship, preparing them to support healthier, sustainable food and water systems.





NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

Third Generation DNA Sequence Analysis for Advanced Genetic Testing

Near East University Hospital's Medical Genetic Diagnostic Laboratory has introduced Third Generation **DNA** Sequence Analysis in Northern Cyprus, enabling rapid, affordable, and highly accurate genetic testing without sending samples abroad. This innovation shortens waiting times and lowers costs, making early diagnosis and personalized treatment more accessible. Using advanced systems from 4Bases CE-IVD and Oxford Nanopore Technologies, the hospital sets a new standard for molecular diagnostics in the region. An information session was held for healthcare professionals, emphasizing the hospital's commitment to innovative and accessible healthcare.

Life-Saving Initiative

The "**Blood Donation Campaign**" organized by the Turkish Red Crescent of Northern Cyprus on the Near East University campus received strong participation and community support. Held over three days across multiple donation points, the campaign engaged students, academics, and various university clubs. The final day concluded with a collective event outside the Grand Library, highlighting solidarity across campus. The campaign was actively supported by the Psychology Club, International Veterinary Medicine Students' Association (IVSA), ultrAslan Fan Association, Preschool Teaching Club, Nursing Club, Near East University Medical Students' Association (NEUMSA), and the Natural Disaster Search and Rescue Association (DAAK).

BLOOD DONATION CAMPAIGN



COMMUNITY SERVICE



Planting Seeds of Friendship

Near East University **Special Education Teaching Department** students, coordinated by Prof. Dr. Mukaddes Sakallı Demirok and Lecturer Nurcan Kaya, carried out a community engagement activity at the Demirhan Barrier-Free Living House and Rehabilitation Center. As part of the Community Service Practices course, teacher candidates came together with individuals with special educational needs to plant flowers and trees in the center's garden. The activity promoted social interaction, inclusion, and a shared sense of responsibility, while also supporting emotional development and emphasizing the power of working together toward a more accessible and nurturing environment.

BREAST CANCER AWARENESS

Trainings in Secondary Schools

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Filiz Yarıcı, Head of the Midwifery Department at Near East University's Faculty of Health Sciences, organized **"Breast Cancer Awareness Trainings"** in collaboration with the Cancer Patients Aid Association. Throughout the month, she delivered sessions at Doğa College, Atatürk Vocational High School, Değirmenlik High School, and Metgin Ltd., highlighting the importance of early detection and demonstrating breast self-examination techniques to support regular, life-saving checks.

Seminar on Nutrition and Cancer Prevention

As part of the **cancer awareness campaign**, a seminar was conducted on October 16, 2024, at Esentepe Secondary School in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Taygun Dayı shared valuable insights into how dietary choices influence cancer risk and emphasized adopting healthy eating habits. At the conclusion of the seminar, Dr. Dayı was presented with a plaque and flowers in recognition of his contribution to enhancing awareness about cancer prevention.

RESEARCH

Alzheimer's Research

Assoc. Prof. Dr. İlker Özşahin, a faculty member of NEU Biomedical Engineering and Board Member of the Health Operations Center, contributed to **Alzheimer's research** at Cornell University's Brain Health Imaging Institute. Supported by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), his work focuses on Alzheimer's, vascular disorders, pediatric epilepsy, and brain injury. His research, includes biomarker development, imaging methods, and treatment strategies for dementia.



1.109

Publications



41.197

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

736



3.79

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



58.436

Views Count

PUBLIC CAMPAIGN

World Hearing Day with Awareness Walk

World Hearing Day, observed globally on March 3, aims to raise awareness about hearing health. Near East University's Audiology Department students and faculty organized a public awareness campaign to highlight the importance of hearing devices. Wearing colorful demo hearing aids, participants walked through Dereboyu and Surları in Nicosia, engaging with the public and sharing information on hearing protection and assistive technologies. The event helped reduce stigma around hearing aids and encouraged regular hearing check-ups and early intervention, supporting the goals of World Hearing Day.



HEALTH SEMINARS



Seminars in Cooperation with Dikmen Municipality

Near East University, in collaboration with Dikmen Municipality, organized several community seminars. The first event, titled **"Be Kind to Yourself,"** brought together students, academics, and local residents for practical guidance on balanced diets, oral hygiene, physical activity, healthy aging, and emotional well-being. The second seminar, **"Take Care of Yourself,"** reinforced the same messages with participation from Dikmen Mayor Yüksel Çelebi and local stakeholders, supporting preventive health awareness within the community. The third seminar on **"Conscious Steps in Coping with Cancer"** focused on prevention, early detection, and healthy lifestyle habits, with expert contributions on oral and breast cancer self-exams and nutrition. The fourth seminar at Dikmen Youth Center addressed the correct use of antibiotics and painkillers to prevent resistance. Faculty experts provided practical guidance on following medical prescriptions to protect long-term public health.



PUBLIC TRAININGS

Improving Disaster Response Competencies

Near East University **Lifelong Education Center** (YABEM) delivered “Crisis Management” and “Emotional Balance and Coping with Stress” trainings for the Civilian Disaster Team Association (SAT-DER), Civil Defense Department, Nicosia Turkish Municipality, Forestry Department, and the Association of Keeping Champion Angels Alive. As part of YABEM’s social responsibility work, the sessions aimed to strengthen cooperation between institutions and improve disaster response competencies. Prof. Dr. Behçet Öznacar and Assist. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek provided guidance on crisis planning, effective communication, emotional intelligence, and stress management through practical examples relevant to professional and daily life.



Communication Training for Police Officers

Near East University Lifelong Education Center (YABEM) provided free “**Public Relations and Communication**” training at the Police School, focusing on strengthening healthy communication between police officers and the public. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek emphasized trust-based interaction, noting that effective communication helps police better understand community needs and enhance public confidence. The training plays an important role in improving cooperation between law enforcement and society.

PSYCHOSOCIAL SUPPORT MODULE

Education for Children at Risk

Near East University, in collaboration with the Social Research and Development Center and the Faculty of Atatürk Education, partnered with the Ministry of Labour and Social Security, Department of Social Services, and Nicosia Children’s Shelter in Northern Cyprus. Under the coordination of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güldal Kan, the first **psychosocial support** module was conducted with the participation of 5 volunteer students studying preschool education. The aim of this module, titled “Education for Children at Risk” was to facilitate effective communication with children through various activities. During the psychosocial education process, the participants engaged in introductory activities and the “Magic Wand” game to spend enjoyable time with the children, aiming to establish effective communication.

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Station Technique and Exhibition in Early Childhood

Near East University Faculty of Education, in cooperation with the Center for Social Research and Development and the Dr. Suat Günsel Kyrenia Preschool Education Center, organized an event titled “**Station Technique and Exhibition in Early Childhood**” on 16 December 2024. Second-year Preschool Teaching students engaged children in hands-on activities designed to support multiple areas of development. Assist. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güldal Kan highlighted how the station technique encourages experiential and interactive learning.

Strengthening Children’s Emotional Intelligence

Near East University Atatürk Faculty of Education’s Guidance and Psychological Counseling Department, in cooperation with the Guidance and Psychological Counseling Service of Near East Primary School, organized a “**Toleration**” **Station Activity** for 5th-grade students. Third- and fourth-year counselor candidates facilitated five interactive stations supporting empathy, emotional regulation, communication, teamwork, and positive expression of emotions. The activity aimed to strengthen children’s emotional intelligence and social skills.

Early Childhood Workshops

NEU Pre-School Teaching Club and the Social Research and Development Center, in cooperation with Dikmen Municipality, carried out community-focused **early childhood workshops**. Held at Pınarbaşı Kindergarten, Yetenekli Eller and Elele Pre-School Education Centers, the activities were led by Assist. Prof. Dr. Dervişe Amca Toklu and Specialist Hulin Siddik, supporting children’s skill development through hands-on learning. Third-year Education students prepared an awareness display for Children’s Rights Day, strengthening their professional competencies while promoting the importance of children’s rights.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Music for Young Minds

Students from the Music Education Department at Near East University carried out **community engagement activities** as part of their Community Service Applications course under the guidance of Dr. Neriman Soykunt. At Zümrütköy and Alayköy Elementary Schools, they introduced primary school students to various musical instruments through hands-on demonstrations and interactive sessions. The activities sparked children’s curiosity for music while offering Music Education students valuable teaching experience. The project strengthened communication, empathy, and leadership skills, highlighting the educational and social value of music.

BOOK DONATION

Promoting Educational Equity

Near East University’s Primary Education Department, under the leadership of Prof. Dr. Aşkın Kiraz, took an important step towards ensuring equality in education in rural areas by **donating books** to Şehit Zeka Çorba Secondary School in December 2024. This school, which serves a migrant group and disadvantaged students, faces challenges due to limited educational resources in its region. The donation aims to improve educational opportunities for these students, ensuring they have access to essential learning materials. The book donation provides the students of Şehit Zeka Çorba Middle School with the resources they need to enhance their literacy and academic skills.



217

Publications



2.473

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

85



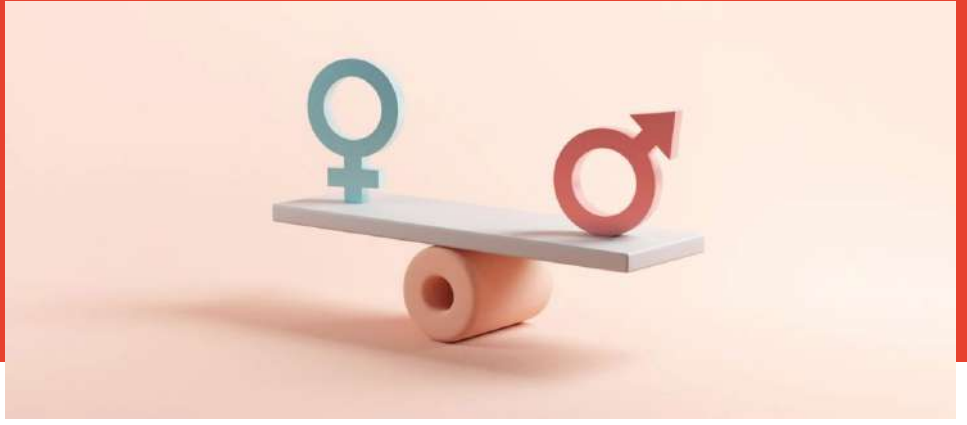
1.18

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



10.897

Views Count



CENTER OF GENDER STUDIES

Celebrating Women's Achievements and Addressing Challenges

On March 8, International Women's Day, Near East University commemorated the day with a full-day symposium titled **"Women's Studies and Multidisciplinary Approaches,"** organized by the Center of Gender Studies (TOCAM). Under the theme "Pushing Boundaries, Breaking Barriers," the event brought together women from various professional backgrounds—including politics, judiciary, health, arts, and media—to discuss topics such as women's roles in health, law, arts, and daily life. The symposium aimed to spotlight women's contributions and explore ways to further empower them in society.

In addition, TOCAM hosted a significant **panel** on November 25, marking the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Moderated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. İzlem Kanlı and opened by Rector Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ, the panel featured sessions on

legal frameworks, psychological support, social perceptions, and economic factors related to violence against women. The panel featured five key sessions: "Antidote to Violence: The Struggle for Gender Equality and Legal Instruments," "Protection and Support Services in the Combat of Violence Against Women," "Psychological Dimension of Violence Against Women," "Legal Approaches and Social Transformation in Breaking Out of the Spiral of Violence," and "Looking at Violence Against Women from a Poverty Perspective." Expert speakers included Lawyer Aslı Murat, Dr. Ömür Yılmaz, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Meryem Karaaziz, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayten Erçoban Evren, and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek, who discussed the roles of legal reforms, psychological support, and the connection between economic hardship and violence.

GENDER EQUALITY

Women Leading the Way at Near East University

Women play a leading role across Near East University's academic and administrative structure. Today, women hold 10 of 20 dean positions, represent 50% of 893 faculty members, and make up 67% of administrative staff and 53% of enrolled students. With an overall female representation of 62%, women also serve as vice-rectors and directors of key research centers, contributing significantly to scientific and institutional progress. Near East University continues to promote gender equality and celebrate women's achievements throughout the year. Established 36 years ago, Near East University has now become one of the largest institutions in Northern Cyprus and Türkiye, proudly showcasing significant female representation across all sectors.



COMMUNAL SOLIDARITY

Empowering Women through Art Therapy

A collaborative art therapy **workshop** titled “Kendi Renklerle Yeniden” (Reborn with My Own Colors) was held by the Atatürk Faculty of Education’s Art Education Department in partnership with the Nicosia Turkish Municipality Women’s Shelter. Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Miralay, the workshop brought together five women participants at the Women’s Shelter. The artistic sessions included Mandala and Zentangle, two techniques designed to promote inner peace, concentration, and creative expression. Mandala art provided participants with a tool to find balance and tranquility, while Zentangle encouraged them to explore creativity through simple lines, helping improve focus and attention.



WORKSHOP



Inspiring Future Female Leaders in Science and Sustainability

Aiming to inspire future female leaders in science and sustainability, two workshops were delivered for young students. The **first session** at Bayraktar Secondary School was led by Prof. Dr. Aşkın Kiraz and Prof. Dr. Engin Baysen, who guided participants through hands-on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) activities that encouraged creativity, innovation, and environmentally responsible solutions. The training emphasized key SDG targets such as gender equality and quality education. During the sessions, the professors explained the role of STEM in innovation and problem-solving, while engaging students in interactive activities that turned theory into practice. The students explored global issues such as recycling, renewable energy, and climate change, developing creative solutions. Near East University faculty members Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Arıkan Sarioğlu, lecturer Aslı Akyol İnada, and Dr. Nezihah Gökbülüt shared insights on how STEM supports scientific thinking, enhances problem-solving skills, and promotes interdisciplinary collaboration. A **second session** at 20 Temmuz Science High School combined the basics of STEM learning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, focusing on gender equality, climate action, and recycling. Interactive tasks highlighted the importance of interdisciplinary problem-solving for a more sustainable world.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

Women's Day Panel

Women-focused awareness efforts continued with a “**Women’s Day Panel**” organized in collaboration with the Faculties of Dentistry and Health Sciences at Gönyeli-Alayköy Municipality. The session provided a holistic view of women’s physical, mental, emotional, and social well-being, emphasizing the importance of access to healthcare and increased health literacy. Experts also discussed policy needs for addressing women’s health issues more effectively. Moderated by Assist. Prof. Dr. Dilan Kırmızı, the event concluded with an interactive question-and-answer segment that encouraged community engagement.



39

Publications



2.683

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

27



27.17

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



3.035

Views Count

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



CAMPUS

Wastewater Management

Near East University operates an integrated wastewater management system designed to reduce freshwater consumption and support ecological sustainability on campus. Wastewater generated from university buildings is treated at two facilities: the main treatment plant located near the campus and the hospital-based treatment unit situated on the lower level of the hospital complex.

The treated effluent is discharged into the campus pond, where it maintains water levels and supports the aquatic ecosystem. The pond functions as a living habitat for various species, demonstrating the positive environmental contribution of the reuse system. In addition to replenishing the pond, treated wastewater is utilized for irrigation across the university's landscaped green areas.

This circular practice minimizes reliance on potable water and enhances resource efficiency. Through this system, the university effectively transforms its hospital and campus wastewater into a valuable resource, reflecting strong environmental stewardship in wastewater management.



CONFERENCE

Natural Resources and Sustainable Environmental Management

The 7th International **Conference** on Natural Resources and Sustainable Environmental Management (NRSEM-2024) was held from 12 to 14 December 2024 at Near East University, bringing together researchers, academics, practitioners, and policy makers from around the world. Over three days, participants presented new scientific findings and best practices focused on biodiversity protection, climate resilience, and responsible resource management. Emphasizing interdisciplinary collaboration, the conference promoted environmentally responsible policies and contributed to advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals at local, national, and international levels.



MXenes for Sustainable Water Treatment Solutions

This **review**, conducted by Aydin Hassani and his colleagues, examines the potential of MXenes, a two-dimensional class of transition-metal carbides and nitrides, for advanced wastewater treatment. Owing to their hydrophilicity, large surface area and tunable structure, MXenes are evaluated for photocatalysis and persulfate-based advanced oxidation processes to remove persistent organic pollutants. The study discusses synthesis methods, catalytic mechanisms and performance-enhancing strategies such as heterojunction engineering and doping. Stability, toxicity and real-wastewater applications are also considered, offering guidance for developing efficient and sustainable MXene-based water treatment technologies.



Advancing Sustainable Agriculture through Water Management

A joint initiative by the Near East University Faculty of Agriculture, Selçuk University, and the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Presidency and Ministry of Agriculture resulted in the “**Workshop** on the Effective Use of Water in Agricultural Production of the TRNC.” Held at the İrfan Günsel Congress Center in Near East University, the event gathered public institutions, farmers, producer representatives, and academics to discuss sustainable water and soil use, irrigation efficiency, salinity, wastewater reuse, and AI applications in agriculture. The workshop outcomes will be compiled into a report to guide future water management and agricultural sustainability in Northern Cyprus.

Groundwater Vulnerability Analysis in Arid Regions

This **study**, led by Vahid Nourani and a team of international researchers, evaluates groundwater vulnerability to seawater intrusion in the Urmia Lake basin. Recognizing the limitations of the widely used GALDIT method, the researchers applied Z-number Based Modeling (ZBM), a fuzzy logic approach that accounts for data uncertainty and reliability. Using GALDIT parameters and electrical conductivity data, ZBM improved prediction performance by 85 percent in Heidke Skill Score and 35 percent in Total Accuracy. The findings highlight the value of advanced uncertainty-based methods for protecting groundwater resources.



200

Publications



12.182

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

154



3.54

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



11.119

Views Count



WEBINAR

Green Finance and Sustainable Investment

The Faculty of Economics & Administrative Sciences at Near East University recently hosted an engaging **webinar** titled Green Finance and Sustainable Investment, organized by the Departments of Economics and Banking and Finance. The session featured expert speakers Mehdi Seraj and Mumtaz Ali, who explored the critical role of green finance in promoting sustainability and addressing pressing environmental challenges.

The webinar focused on the alignment of green finance with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly goals related to clean energy, sustainable industry, and climate action. Seraj and Ali explained how green finance enables investments in renewable energy projects, such as solar, wind, and hydropower, which are essential for reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.

Furthermore, the speakers highlighted the importance of financing sustainable industries and infrastructure, including smart cities and energy-efficient transportation systems, which play a key role in reducing urban carbon footprints. They also discussed how green finance supports initiatives like carbon capture, reforestation, and climate resilience projects, which are vital for combating climate change and enhancing environmental resilience.



RESEARCH

Feasibility of Floating Photovoltaic Systems

This **study**, carried out by Youssef Kassem, Hüseyin Gökçekuş and Rifat Gökçekuş from Near East University, investigates the solar energy potential and techno-economic feasibility of floating photovoltaic systems (FPVSs) across 15 water reservoirs in Northern Cyprus. FPVSs offer land-saving advantages and can reduce evaporation while increasing renewable power generation. To accurately characterize solar radiation variability, four new distribution functions (Johnson SB, Pert, Phased Bi-Weibull and Kumaraswamy) were applied and compared with commonly used methods based on

global horizontal irradiation (GHI). The results showed that all proposed functions, except Phased Bi-Weibull, provided better fitting performance for GHI. The study also assessed evaporation reduction under different FPVS coverage scenarios, indicating that full surface coverage could prevent up to 6.21×10^5 m³ of annual water loss. Finally, technical and economic evaluations identified the most effective configuration as a north-oriented floating structure with 6° tilt and bifacial PV panels. These findings demonstrate the potential of FPVSs for improving clean energy generation while reducing water loss.

Environmental Control Systems

The "Environmental Control Systems" course, offered by the Faculty of Architecture, introduces students to the essential principles of sustainability and environmental performance in architectural design.

The **course** examines how buildings interact with environmental and energy resources and emphasizes strategies that support energy efficiency, thermal comfort, indoor air quality and overall environmental well-being. Students explore real-world applications of environmental control technologies, gaining the ability to evaluate system performance and its impact on the built environment.

Through studio-based learning, group projects and technical presentations, participants develop the competence to integrate environmental strategies into design solutions creatively and responsibly. The course also encourages critical reflection and peer evaluation, enabling students to continuously improve their design approach. By the end of the course, students are equipped with the knowledge and analytical skills necessary to design buildings that reduce resource consumption and contribute to healthier, more sustainable living environments.



Rooftop Solar System Performance in Kirkuk

This **study**, authored by Hüseyin Gökçekuş, Youssef Kassem and Alan M. Mohammed Taher from Near East University, evaluates the performance of a 5 kW grid-connected rooftop photovoltaic system in Kirkuk, Iraq. Rooftop solar systems are increasingly adopted as a solution to energy shortages, especially in densely populated urban regions. The research investigates multiple photovoltaic technologies and sun-tracking configurations using the PVGIS simulation tool. Key performance indicators such as performance ratio, yield factor and capacity utilization factor were analyzed to determine system efficiency. The findings reveal that CdTe technology offers the highest performance among the evaluated PV types. The results also indicate that the installation of small-scale rooftop solar systems can effectively meet local electricity demand while reducing dependence on conventional energy sources. The study highlights the potential of rooftop PV systems as a practical approach to expanding clean energy generation and supporting future implementation strategies in regions facing energy supply challenges.

This study by Hüseyin Gökçekuş, Youssef Kassem and Alan M. Mohammed Taher evaluates the performance of a 5 kW grid-connected rooftop photovoltaic system in Kirkuk, Iraq, where rooftop solar is a promising response to urban energy shortages. Using PVGIS simulations, the researchers compared different PV technologies and sun-tracking options through indicators such as performance ratio and capacity utilization. Results show CdTe technology performing best among the tested systems. The study concludes that small-scale rooftop PV can effectively support local electricity needs and reduce reliance on conventional energy sources, offering a practical path for clean energy expansion.



465

Publications



12.004

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

311



2.14

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



14.905

Views Count



HEALTH INSURANCE

Enhanced Employee Health Insurance for 2024

In a move to prioritize the health and well-being of its employees, Near East University has announced significant updates to its **health insurance** coverage starting in 2024. Collaborating with Near East Hayat, the company has introduced several key enhancements aimed at providing comprehensive protection for employees and their families.

One of the most notable updates is the introduction of unlimited coverage for inpatient treatments, ensuring that employees have access to necessary medical care without worrying about coverage limits. Moreover, outpatient treatment coverage has also been expanded, encompassing a wide range of services including doctor consultations, medications, diagnostic procedures, and more. Near East Hayat will cover 80% of outpatient treatment expenses, making healthcare more accessible and affordable for employees.

Additionally, dental examination and cleaning benefits are now included in the coverage, addressing not only medical but also dental health needs. Furthermore, the introduction of psychological counseling services,

delivered through various methods such as voice, video, or messaging, emphasizes the company's commitment to holistic employee well-being.

The updated coverage also includes preventive measures such as annual mammography for women over 40 and PSA screening for men over 40, promoting early detection and intervention for potential health issues.

Updates to employee health insurance for 2024 emphasize comprehensive protection and well-being. Through its collaboration with Near East Hayat, the university introduced unlimited inpatient treatment coverage and expanded outpatient benefits, with 80 percent of costs covered for doctor visits, diagnostics, medications, and related services. Dental checkups and cleaning are now included, along with psychological counseling through multiple communication options. Preventive screenings such as annual mammography and PSA tests for individuals over 40 further support early diagnosis and holistic employee health.

STAFF LUNCH PROGRAM

Free Meal for All Administrative Staff

Near East University provides free daily lunch to administrative staff members. Daily menus are developed on a monthly basis by a certified dietitian, ensuring nutritional balance and diversity. Staff members are provided with the option to select the main daily menu or lighter choices such as salads and sandwiches, allowing flexibility and personal dietary preference within the program.





Industrial Policy and Technology

The Smart Economic Planning and Industrial Policy (SEPIP) **Conference**, organized by OSTİM Technical University, was hosted by Near East University on 15–16 October 2024. With five panels and 33 paper presentations, the event brought together international experts to discuss industrial policy in the context of digital transformation and the green economy. Keynotes by the rectors of both universities addressed export potential, industrial strategies, and sustainable development. The conference emphasized global cooperation and AI-driven innovation to support resilient and sustainable economic growth.



252

Publications



14.586

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

133



3.48

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



15.574

Views Count

Energy Investment and Economic Growth Evidence from China

This **study** by Abraham Deka from Near East University analyzes how energy investment and industrial value added influence China's economic growth. Using time series data from 1990 to 2022 and applying the ARDL model with Granger causality tests, the research finds that capital investment strongly supports growth, while energy investment and industrial value added show positive but statistically insignificant effects, indicating a need for more effective strategies. The study also notes that poorly managed financial resources and labor participation can hinder growth, emphasizing stronger policies to advance sustainable economic development.

The Impact of E-Service Quality on Customer Loyalty

This **study** by Chioma Judith Madueke and Şerife Eyüpoğlu from Near East University examines the impact of e-service quality on customer loyalty, with customer satisfaction as a mediator, among small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Nigeria. Six dimensions, reliability, web design, trust, empathy, convenience, and cultural inclusion, were analyzed using data from 492 respondents across Nigeria's four regions. Results from SPSS, SmartPLS, and AMOS indicate that e-service quality significantly enhances customer satisfaction, which positively influences customer loyalty.

CS-ARDL Analysis of Sustainable Development in Scandinavia

This **study**, conducted by Ali Raza, Mumtaz Ali, Turgut Tursoy, Mehdi Seraj, and Yusuf Olatunji Habeeb from Near East University, examines the short- and long-term effects of economic growth, sustainable energy, natural resources, technological innovation, and financial development on environmental sustainability in Scandinavian economies between 1990 and 2021. Using advanced econometric models, the research found that sustainable energy and technological innovation reduce CO₂ emissions, while natural resources and economic growth increase them. The authors recommend strengthening green technologies and renewable energy policies.



AI-DRIVEN EDUCATION INNOVATION

Professor Dux Leading the Way in Quality Education

An AI-based academic, **Prof. DUX**, developed by the Near East University Artificial Intelligence and Robotics Institute, has begun taking part in teaching activities from the second half of the 2023–2024 academic year. Introduced at Near East College, Dr. Suat Günsel Kyrenia College, and Near East Yeniboğaziçi College starting from the 6th grade, Prof. DUX provides personalized and inclusive learning support. By reducing reliance on printed materials and improving resource efficiency, the initiative aligns educational innovation with sustainability and demonstrates the growing global role of AI in environmentally responsible teaching.

INNOVATION

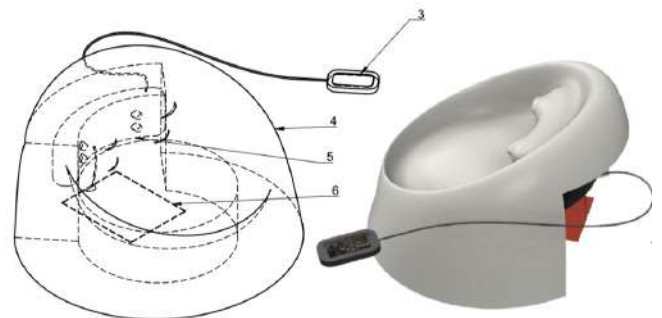


Dual PCR Diagnostic Kit for Chickenpox and Mpox Detection

Researchers Gülten Tuncel and Dr. Gökçe Akan from the DESAM Research Institute developed **a dual PCR diagnostic kit** capable of detecting Chickenpox and Mpox from a single sample. Because both diseases share similar symptoms, the new VZV-Mpox Dual Screening Kit improves diagnostic speed and accuracy. The innovation supports faster treatment decisions, enhances laboratory efficiency, and strengthens public health preparedness against emerging infectious threats. This advancement marks an important contribution to clinical diagnostics and global disease control efforts.

Multifunctional Birth Ball for Expecting Mothers

A **multifunctional birth ball** has been developed through collaboration between the Midwifery Department of the Faculty of Health Sciences and the NEU3D Laboratory. The design aims to reduce back and genital area pain during childbirth and support a more positive birth experience. Allowing movements such as sitting, walking, and gentle bouncing, the ball helps shorten labor duration by encouraging active birth positions. It also includes features that provide warming and massage to the genital area, helping to relieve discomfort and reduce fear associated with natural delivery.



INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS



Global Researches in Biotechnology

The “1st International NEU DESAM Biotechnology Congress,” organized by the Near East University DESAM Research Institute, concluded after four days of intense participation. The **congress** featured 112 researchers from around the world, including the USA, Germany, Austria, United Arab Emirates, China, Iran, TRNC, Kosovo, Egypt, Pakistan, and Türkiye, who presented their studies in biotechnology.

Prominent figures, including the Rector of Prizren Ukshin Hoti University Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mentor Alishani, and Istanbul Technical University (ITU) Rector Prof. Dr. Hasan Mandal also attended the event. Prof. Dr. Mandal, a former TUBITAK President and the current head of the Presidential Science, Technology, and Innovation Policies, delivered a keynote speech on the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in developing sustainable biotechnology solutions.

Throughout the congress, over 60 presentations were made across diverse fields, such as medicine, dentistry, health sciences, veterinary medicine, artificial intelligence, mathematics, and engineering. These studies will be published as articles, contributing to the global scientific community’s knowledge and promoting future joint projects.



238

Publications



4.410

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

153



2.23

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



9.725

Views Count

SEMINAR

The Role of AI in Vaccine Development

A **seminar** titled “A New Era in Vaccine Development: Utilizing Artificial Intelligence to Accelerate Vaccine Design” was hosted by the Near East University Health Operations Research Center. Researchers Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zubaida Said Ameen and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Auwalu Saleh Mubarak explained how AI improves clinical data analysis and vaccine molecule design, while Assoc. Prof. Dr. Berna Uzun moderated the session. The event highlighted AI’s role in speeding up vaccine development, increasing accuracy, and enabling faster responses to emerging global health threats.

STEM AWARENESS TRAINING

Bridging STEM and Sustainability

A team of academics, including Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Arıkan Sarioğlu from the Quality and Accreditation Coordination Office and the Sustainability Office, organized an **event** at Bülent Ecevit Anatolian High School to highlight the role of STEM in achieving the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals. The program explored how science, technology, engineering, and mathematics contribute to solving global issues such as climate change, inequality, and environmental degradation. Students were encouraged to reflect on their potential to support sustainability through future STEM careers and everyday actions.





COLLABORATION

Barrier-Free Kitchen Workshop

The “**Barrier-Free Kitchen Workshop**,” organized in partnership with the Tourism Research Center, Social Research and Development Center, and the Turkish Cypriot Orthopedically Disabled Association, brought together association members with students and faculty from the Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department. The workshop focused on practical techniques and adaptations that support independent and accessible cooking experiences. By promoting skill development and social participation, the initiative raised awareness of the culinary capabilities of individuals with disabilities and contributed to their empowerment and inclusion.



Oral Health for Refugee Children

A joint awareness **event** was held at the Human Rights House to promote oral health and proper tooth-brushing practices for refugee children. Organized by the Near East University in collaboration with the Refugee Rights Association, the program supported 43 children and their mothers through hands-on training delivered by research assistants, focusing on dental hygiene and cavity prevention. Alongside practical guidance, the event highlighted refugee rights and strengthened community support. The initiative combined health education with social awareness to contribute to the well-being and inclusion of displaced families.

ACCESSIBLE INFORMATICS DAYS

Eliminating Barriers in the Digital World

The 12th “**Accessible Informatics Days**,” organized by Near East University in collaboration with the TRNC Disability Committee, Manisa Celal Bayar University, the TRNC Accessible Informatics Platform, and Türkiye Accessible Informatics Platform, focused on eliminating barriers in the digital world. Held at the İrfan Günsel Congress Center, the event brought together experts, academics, students, and stakeholders to discuss accessibility in technology. The event included a crafts bazaar and exhibition by Lefkoşa and Mağusa Special Education Schools, showcasing handmade products by

individuals with disabilities. Proceeds supported the schools. A photography exhibition titled “Living with Disability” by the Cyprus Turkish Photographic Arts Association was also displayed. Three panels addressed key topics: “Accessible Informatics Initiatives in Türkiye,” “Web Accessibility Education,” and “Accessible Informatics Projects in the TRNC.” Speakers highlighted innovative practices such as accessible digital communication, video books for hearing-impaired individuals, and the role of digital transformation in societal inclusion.

COURSE

Disadvantaged Groups and Society

The **course** “Disadvantaged Groups and Society”, offered by the Faculty of Nursing, examines the experiences of socially disadvantaged populations and the structural factors that influence their well-being. The course focuses on how inequalities are produced and sustained through social, economic, cultural and political mechanisms. Students investigate different forms of discrimination and marginalization, while analyzing how intersecting identities such as gender, ethnicity, disability and socioeconomic status shape lived experiences.

WORKSHOP



Improving Language Skills of Children

A “**Language and Culture Workshop**” was held for children aged 7–11 by Near East University in collaboration with the Refugee Rights Association and the Child Protection Institution. Over three weeks, children improved their Turkish language skills through games, group activities, reading exercises, and themed sessions on friendship, cooperation, and environmental awareness. Interactive storytelling and vocabulary games supported both communication and cultural engagement. The program concluded with Cypriot music and certificate presentations, recognizing the contributions of Turkish Language Teaching Department students who led the activities.

STUDENT CONGRESS

Migration and Health

The 2nd International Student Congress, organized by the Faculty of Medicine and the Student Dean's Office, addressed the theme “**Migration and Health**.” The three-day program brought together medical students, experts, and researchers to explore how migration influences health systems, public health, and vulnerable populations. Through conferences, workshops, and interactive sessions on mental health, infectious diseases, access to healthcare, and ethical concerns affecting women and children, the event engaged 580 registered participants. The congress strengthened awareness among future healthcare professionals of the global health challenges linked to migration.

DISABILITY RIGHTS

“I Love You, I Am Your Voice”

Near East University, through its Social Research and Development Center, played a key role in two major events advocating for the rights of individuals with disabilities in Northern Cyprus, both organized under the auspices of the Presidency and led by First Lady Sibel Tatar.

The first initiative, the “**I Love You, I Am Your Voice**” project, launched in collaboration with the Ministry of National Education and the Cyprus Foundation for the Hearing and Speech Impaired (KİKEV), aims to raise awareness about challenges faced by the hearing-impaired and promote inclusivity in communication. The project encourages the use of sign language as a natural part of everyday life, enabling hearing-impaired individuals to participate fully in social and cultural activities.

The second event, the “**1st Disability Rights Workshop Action Plan Launch**”, focused on disability rights, accessibility, and combating discrimination. Attended by President Ersin Tatar, First Lady Sibel Tatar, ministers, stakeholders, and academics, the workshop provided a platform to discuss actionable solutions.

FILM SCREENING

Inclusive Cinema Festival

The **Inclusive Cinema Festival**, organized by the Faculty of Communication in cooperation with Telsim, opened at the Accessible Cinema and Activity Center with a screening of “Maya the Bee” for students from Algım Special Education Center. Coordinated by Lecturer Ufuk Altunç, the event involved university and Telsim representatives, highlighting the importance of social participation for individuals with special needs. The festival will continue for one year, offering free film screenings by appointment or through schools to provide accessible and enjoyable cultural experiences.



71

Publications



1.923

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

44



2.22

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



5.518

Views Count

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



WALLED CITY MUSEUM

Arts in the City

Near East University's the "**Walled City Museum**" in the heart of Nicosia emphasizes art as a bridge between the past and future. Housed in a 5-storey building, the museum offers a journey through Cyprus's history and art on each floor, creating a unique atmosphere for visitors. The museum features diverse works including paintings, prints, sculptures, photographs, films, and ceramics, along with the massive 10-meter "Nevruz" artwork by Orazbek Yassenbayev. It also showcases local history, a model car collection, and Karagöz-Hacivat art. Designed as a dynamic space with temporary and permanent exhibits, the museum aims to become a hub for cultural and artistic exploration.



Ancient Cypriot Motifs Revived with Stained Glass Art

The Walled City Museum in Nicosia, near the historic Kyrenia Gate, now features exquisite **stained glass art** inspired by 2,500-year-old Cypriot motifs. Created by artist Sinem Akin Kiliç from the Cyprus Museum of Modern Arts, the works revive ancient patterns such as bird figures and lotus flowers from the archaic period. Installed after seven months of meticulous craftsmanship, the pieces link Cyprus's rich cultural heritage with modern artistry, enhancing the museum's role as a living reflection of the island's history.

Cultural Discovery Tour

The Walled City Museum hosted 120 students from Dr. Suat Günsel Nicosia State Primary School along with their teachers. Accompanied by the vice principal and class teachers, students explored the museum exhibits and enjoyed an engaging visit. Part of the "**Let's Visit and See**" activity within the Turkish language course, the children examined the museum's collections with curiosity and awe. They were amazed by Cyprus's rich cultural heritage, which has been preserved and passed down from the past to the present. The visit provided a memorable opportunity for students to learn about their history and culture firsthand.

Near East University's museums, namely, Cyprus Museum of Modern Arts, Cyprus Car Museum, Walled City Museum, Herbarium and Natural History Museum and GÜNSEL Art Museum hosted 2,000 students from approximately 20 schools providing education in the 2023-2024 academic year.



EMBROIDERY WORKSHOP

Weaving Heritage

The Atatürk Faculty of Education, in collaboration with HASDER Handicrafts Center, organized a **Lefkara Embroidery Workshop** to promote Cypriot cultural heritage. Held from December 21–28, 2024, the workshop engaged ten students from the Art and Social Studies Education Departments under the guidance of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Miralay and Assoc. Prof. Dr. İpek Danju. Participants learned traditional embroidery techniques reflecting patience and craftsmanship. At the closing ceremony, Dean of the Atatürk Faculty of Education Prof. Dr. Umut Akcıl emphasized preserving and celebrating Cypriot culture through experiential learning.



CULINARY CULTURAL EXCHANGE

International Students Explored Turkish Cypriot Cuisine

The Gastronomy and Culinary Arts Department of the Tourism Faculty hosted an **international workshop** introducing international students to traditional Turkish Cypriot cuisine. Thirty participants from various countries prepared dishes such as “Badadez Köftesi,” “Mücendıra,” and “Gullirikya” after a brief presentation on Cyprus’s culinary heritage.



230

Publications



5.689

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

137



1.9

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



11.594

Views Count

MASTER'S PROGRAM

Sustainable Urban Planning Scholarships

The Graduate School of Near East University launched the “**Master’s Program in City and Regional Planning**,” offering a total of 26 full scholarships for personnel from 18 municipalities and the TRNC City Planning Department. This program is a significant step towards promoting sustainable cities and livable urban environments in Northern Cyprus. It aims to strengthen local governments and planning units through a contemporary approach that prioritizes environmental sustainability and social quality. NEU Rector Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ emphasized that the program is an important opportunity to enhance evidence-based decision-making in local governance.

COLLABORATION

University and Symphony Orchestra Partnership

Near East University formalized its long-standing cooperation with the Presidential Symphony Orchestra of Northern Cyprus by signing a **partnership protocol**. Rector Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ and Conductor Ali Hoca signed the agreement, which covers concerts, educational activities, and cultural events. The university will provide venues and promotional support to help reach a broader audience. The collaboration aims to enhance cultural engagement and promote the arts within the community through joint efforts in organizing and supporting various artistic events.

SYMPOSIUM

New Technologies and AI in Emergency Aid and Disaster Management

The “1st Symposium on New Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Emergency Aid and Disaster Management” was held online on May 17, 2024, organized by the Near East University, Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Emergency Aid and Disaster Management. The Honorary Chair of the **symposium** was Prof. Dr. Adile Öñiz Özgören, while the Symposium Chair was Uzm. Dr. Murat Çetin. The event featured three panels. In the “Artificial Intelligence in Disasters” panel, Assoc. Prof. Göksu Bozdereli Berikol discussed “The Role of AI in Disaster Triage,” and Assoc. Prof. Fatih Doğanay presented “AI Applications in Disaster Risk Management.” The “Innovations and Technologies in Disasters” panel explored “Tools for Disaster Preparedness Assessment” and “Digital Technologies in Disasters.” The final panel, “Future of Disasters” included the question of “What Will We Use in the Future of Disasters?”



EVENTS

Dangers of Counterfeit Food

On June 7, World Food Safety Day, Near East University's Faculty of Agriculture, Department of Food Engineering, organized an event titled **"Imitation and Adulteration in Food"** to address the pressing issue of counterfeit food products and their negative effects on health.

The event gathered a distinguished group of participants, including Ercan Akerzurumlu, Director of the Department of Agriculture of the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Beste Öymen, President of the Chamber of Food Engineers, along with numerous faculty members, researchers, and students. Discussions covered a range of crucial topics such as the health impacts of fake food products, detection methods, the significance of quality control in the food industry, and the role of legal regulations

and inspection processes. Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, and Ercan Akerzurumlu delivered the opening speeches, setting the tone for the informative sessions that followed.

Presentations were made by esteemed faculty members Prof. Dr. Nevzat Artık and Dr. Şebnem Güler from the Department of Food Engineering, as well as Dr. Mehmet Güler, President of the Adana Olive Production and Marketing Cooperative (ZEYKOOP).

In addition to addressing the scientific and regulatory aspects, the "Imitation and Adulteration in Food" event also offered practical advice for consumers on making safe food choices and emphasized the importance of building trust between the food industry and consumers.

"Exchange Table" in Collaboration with Green Hub

Near East University, in collaboration with the Sustainable Living Community Green Hub, organized the **"Exchange Table"** event to promote sustainability and raise environmental awareness among students. The event, supported by the Office of Dean of Students and the Faculty of Tourism, encouraged participants to exchange unused clothes, jewelry, books, and household items at stands set up on campus. The event aimed to reduce waste by encouraging the exchange of unused items and to inspire students to adopt habits that protect the environment. This initiative served as a platform for raising awareness about the value of reusing resources and promoting a more sustainable campus culture.

With the slogan "Share, exchange, protect the future," the event emphasized the importance of waste reduction, reuse, and adopting an eco-friendly lifestyle. Prof. Dr. Dudu Özkum Yavuz, Dean of Students, stated that such events play a key role in developing students' social and environmental responsibilities. "This activity offers our students a chance to grow both socially and academically," she noted. Prof. Dr. Nesrin Menemenci Bahçelerli, Dean of the Faculty of



Tourism, highlighted the significance of practical experiences in sustainability. "This event helped our students understand the importance of eco-friendly practices through direct involvement," she said, thanking Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Uzunsaf and Green Hub for their contributions.

Green Hub Team Leader Tuğba Yılmaz explained that the event aimed to inspire students to adopt sustainable habits. "By encouraging reuse and exchange, we sought to enhance environmental awareness within our university community," she added.

Innovative Chemical Approaches for Improved PVC Sustainability

This multicenter **research** was conducted with Near East University scholars Huzaifa Umar and Dilber Uzun Özşahin, together with Great Iruoghene Edo, Winifred Ndudi, Ali B. M. Ali, Emad Yousif, Khalid Zainulabdeen, Priscillia Nkem Onyibe, Helen Avuokerie Ekokotu, Endurance Fegor Isoje, Ufuoma Augustina Igbuku, Arthur Efeoghene Athan Essaghah and Dina S. Ahmed. The publication investigates poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC), a prominent polymer in industrial applications that faces thermal instability due to structural imperfections formed during free-radical polymerization.

The study reviews PVC’s characteristics, functional limitations, chemical modification strategies, and recycling approaches. It highlights the role of inorganic and organic stabilizers, along with advanced chemical treatments, in improving PVC’s stability and performance. The work also explores emerging techniques such as grafting polymerization, substitution reactions and controlled dehydrochlorination to enhance PVC’s functionality. Additionally, the environmental implications of PVC usage are evaluated from a chemical recycling perspective, supporting the development of more sustainable material technologies.

A collaborative study involving Near East University researchers Huzaifa Umar and Dilber Uzun Özşahin examined the thermal instability of poly(vinyl chloride) (PVC), a widely used industrial polymer. The publication reviews PVC’s structural limitations, modification methods, and recycling strategies. It emphasizes the role of stabilizers and advanced chemical treatments in enhancing performance and durability.

The research also explores grafting and substitution techniques while assessing PVC’s environmental impact through chemical recycling, contributing to the advancement of sustainable polymer technologies.



Zero Waste Mission

The **Zero Waste** goal encourages public awareness, promoting the recycling of waste and supporting its use in ecosystems without causing harm, thereby carrying the mission of leaving a clean environment for future generations. The “Zero Waste Target” project, initiated and continued under the coordination of Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, the Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Near East University, and under the patronage of Mrs. Sibel Tatar, the wife of the President of the TRNC, is being maintained as a pioneering and significant project in terms of waste management since its commencement in 2022.

In this context, on January 4, 2024, Dean Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, accompanied by Mrs. Sibel Tatar, visited Esentepe Junior High School to deliver a comprehensive presentation on waste separation as part of the “Zero Waste Target” Project.

As a head of the committee, she shared valuable insights into the significance of responsible waste management. The presentation aimed to raise awareness among teachers and students about the environmental impact of waste and the important role they play in achieving the “Zero Waste Target.”

Waste Water Treatment Plant Design

This **course** provides students with the skills needed to design efficient wastewater treatment plants. Topics include understanding legal regulations, choosing between centralized and decentralized systems, and selecting appropriate treatment methods and mechanical components. Students learn to develop sustainable project criteria, design treatment plants, and explore innovative approaches like biofilm and anaerobic systems. The course also covers cost analysis, construction management, and hydraulic design, preparing students to contribute to global efforts in providing safe, sustainable water resources for communities worldwide.



136

Publications



3.013

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

78



1.65

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



6.734

Views Count



RESEARCH

Limits of Carbon Dioxide Removal

A **study** involving Near East University researcher Humphrey Adun highlights the potential dangers of over-reliance on Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) technologies, which are increasingly being used to combat global climate change. Published in Nature Communications, the study, conducted by researchers from Tianjin University, the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and Near East University, reveals that while CDR methods like direct air capture (DAC), bioenergy carbon capture and storage (BECCS), and ocean fertilization offer innovative solutions, their large-scale implementation could lead to significant environmental and socio-economic problems.

The study warns that heavy dependence on CDR technologies could delay efforts to combat climate change. In scenarios of intensive CDR application,

residual carbon dioxide emissions could persist at 8 gigatons per year until 2050, hindering the achievement of net-zero targets in many Asian countries. Additionally, the research points out that large-scale CDR projects could strain land and water resources, potentially threatening food security by reducing agricultural land and exacerbating water scarcity in already vulnerable regions.



AI and System Thinking for Climate Change Modeling

This **study**, conducted by Vahid Nourani, Hüseyin Gökçekuş and Farhad Bolouri from Near East University together with Jamal Mabrouki from Morocco, examines advanced approaches for modeling future climate change conditions. Climate change is recognized as a complex system influenced by numerous interacting factors, which makes future prediction highly challenging. Artificial intelligence (AI), particularly artificial neural networks (ANN), can forecast future climate behavior using historical data. System thinking (ST), on the other hand, focuses on feedback loops and dynamic relationships, allowing policy impacts to be explored in an integrated way. The research reviews existing studies that apply both AI and ST to climate-related parameters, assessing their respective strengths and limitations. Findings indicate that combining AI's predictive capabilities with ST's policy-oriented structure offers a more comprehensive understanding of future climate pathways. This hybrid approach can support more informed decision making and the development of more effective climate action strategies.

SYMPOSIUM

Sustainable Living Principles for Planetary Health

The **symposium** “Sustainable Living Principles for Planetary Health,” organized with the Faculty of Health Sciences and the Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, emphasized sustainable lifestyles and environmental awareness. Held at the İrfan Günsel Congress Center, it featured thematic sessions on humanity’s impact on nature, sustainable agriculture, technology, and lifestyle behaviors. Presentations by leading academics highlighted planetary health, food systems, and ecological responsibility. The event concluded with a call to action, urging participants to adopt sustainable habits and advocate for environmental well-being.

RESEARCH

Climate and Human Impacts on Miandoab Groundwater

A **study** co-authored by Vahid Nourani from Near East University, together with international researchers Nardin Jabbarian Paknezhad, Yongqiang Zhang, and Dominika Dąbrowska, analyzed the Miandoab aquifer in northwestern Iran to examine groundwater level variations for the periods 2002–2020 and 2025–2050 using partial and multi-wavelet coherence analyses. The research found declining groundwater, precipitation, and soil moisture trends, alongside rising temperature and vegetation indices, highlighting that climate change and human activity show the strongest coherence with groundwater fluctuations, underscoring their growing influence on future water resources.

SYMPOSIUM



Climate Change and Maternal Health

A **symposium** titled “A Vital Solution to Climate Issues: Midwives” organized by the Department of Midwifery at the Faculty of Health Sciences, Near East University. The event attracted significant participation and interest, addressing global warming, the impact of the climate crisis on pregnancy, childbirth, and neonatal care, as well as postpartum consequences.

The symposium began with an opening speech by the Chair of the Midwifery Department, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Filiz Yarıcı. Keynote speaker Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burcu Avcıbay Vurgeç from Çukurova University, Türkiye discussed the importance of taking necessary precautions regarding climate issues and highlighted midwives’ unique role in providing healthy, sustainable care for women and children, who represent more than half of the population.

The event included discussions on topics such as “The Impact of Climate Change on Pregnancy and Birth,” “Maternity and Women’s Health Indicators in the TRNC,” and “Midwifery, Legal Regulations, and Challenges in the TRNC.” The symposium concluded with a role-play performance by final-year midwifery students on “Family Planning.”

The symposium “A Vital Solution to Climate Issues: Midwives,” organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences’ Department of Midwifery, explored the effects of climate change on pregnancy, childbirth, and women’s health. Opened by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Filiz Yarıcı, the event featured keynote speaker Assoc. Prof. Dr. Burcu Avcıbay Vurgeç, who emphasized midwives’ critical role in sustainable healthcare. Sessions addressed maternity indicators, legal challenges, and the climate crisis’s impact on maternal care, concluding with a student role-play on family planning.



213

Publications



6.258

Citation Count



International Collaboration

121



2.43

Field Weighted Citation Impact



7.587

Views Count



RESEARCH PROJECT

Monitoring Microplastics in Mediterranean Karstic Waterways

Researchers from Italy, France, North Cyprus, and South Cyprus collaborated on a **project** conducted in North Cyprus, where Tetide Speleology Association and the University of Sannio researchers joined their counterparts from Near East University for fieldwork in the Besparmak Mountains.

The international project, of which Near East University is a part, aims to investigate the presence of microplastic pollution in freshwater sources within karstic areas across 23 Mediterranean countries. Titled "Monitoring Microplastics in Mediterranean Karstic Freshwaters," the project seeks to trace small plastic particles that could pose threats to aquatic life and human health through the food chain.

Rapidly increasing plastic pollution poses a serious global environmental challenge, affecting the environmental, social, economic, and health dimensions of sustainable development. Without intervention, experts warn that the amount of plastic waste entering aquatic ecosystems could triple by 2040, reaching approximately 23-37 million tons annually.

The ongoing project aims to assess the current situation in the Mediterranean region to effectively combat microplastics. Stakeholders in the project include Tetide Speleology Association (Italy), French Federation of Speleology Commission Scientifique (France), Speleology Enthusiasts Association (North Cyprus), University of Sannio Department of Science and Technology Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services Laboratory (Italy), and University of Nicosia (South Cyprus).

Researchers from Near East University and the University of Sannio conducted fieldwork together in the Besparmak Mountains. Their findings will be combined with those from field research in Italy, France, and South Cyprus.

The study aims to identify the types and levels of microplastics in freshwater sources to combat the threats posed by microplastics to human health and the environment. Furthermore, the project seeks to develop effective strategies for preserving karstic areas containing soluble rocks and cave ecosystems and reducing microplastic pollution.

Prof. Dr. Salih Gücel, Head of the Near East University's Environmental Research Center and Deputy Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, emphasized the importance of the fieldwork in North Cyprus, highlighting its contribution to understanding microplastic pollution in the Mediterranean region. He stressed the need for environmental awareness to protect water resources in the region.



CONFERENCE

Water Problems in Mediterranean Countries

The 4th **International Conference** on Water Problems in Mediterranean Countries (WPMC-2024) continued Near East University’s long-standing scientific tradition established with WPMC-97, WPMC-2019, and the 2023 edition. The conference gathered scientists, policymakers, and stakeholders to address pressing water-related challenges in arid and semi-arid regions of the Mediterranean basin. Participants discussed water quality and quantity, the effects of climate change on natural resources, and sustainable water management practices aligned with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Multidisciplinary presentations explored innovative research and technological solutions for monitoring and conserving water resources. The event also facilitated collaboration among academia, industry, and public authorities, fostering partnerships aimed at promoting resilience against water scarcity. By integrating scientific, social, and environmental perspectives, WPMC-2024 strengthened international cooperation and contributed valuable insights toward ensuring water security and sustainability in the Mediterranean region and beyond.



RESEARCH

Assessment of Macroplastic Ingestion in Loggerhead Turtles in the Eastern Mediterranean

A **collaborative study** co-authored by Wayne J. Fuller from Near East University and an international research team examined macroplastic ingestion in loggerhead turtles (*Caretta caretta*) across the eastern Mediterranean between 2012 and 2022. Analysis of 131 turtles revealed that 42.7% had ingested macroplastic, predominantly sheet-like, clear, or white materials made of polypropylene and polyethylene. The findings indicate selective ingestion behavior and provide rare insights into early life stages, including post-hatchlings. The study underscores the urgent need for expanded sampling and the inclusion of additional species, such as green turtles, to improve regional bio-monitoring of marine plastic pollution and strengthen conservation efforts across the Mediterranean ecosystem.

WORKSHOP

Marine and Coastal Protection Management

The “Marine and Coastal Protection Management **Workshop**,” organized by a consortium led by Stantec and funded by the EU Aid Program for the Turkish Cypriot community, took place on October 17-18, 2024. The event, part of the “Environment for Cyprus” project, brought together experts to discuss sustainable management strategies for the island’s marine ecosystems and coastal areas. During the workshop, Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, emphasized the importance of knowledge sharing, strategy development, and promoting collaboration among stakeholders. She also stressed the need for public awareness and the creation of effective awareness-raising strategies.

COURSE

Environmental Microbiology

The Environmental Microbiology **course**, offered by the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering, explores the vital role of microorganisms in environmental systems. It covers microbial diversity, metabolism, and their influence on ecological and engineering processes. Students study applications in water, pollution control, and bioremediation. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and independent research, enabling students to apply microbiological principles to solve real-world environmental challenges and design sustainable, science-based solutions.



41

Publications



935

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

30



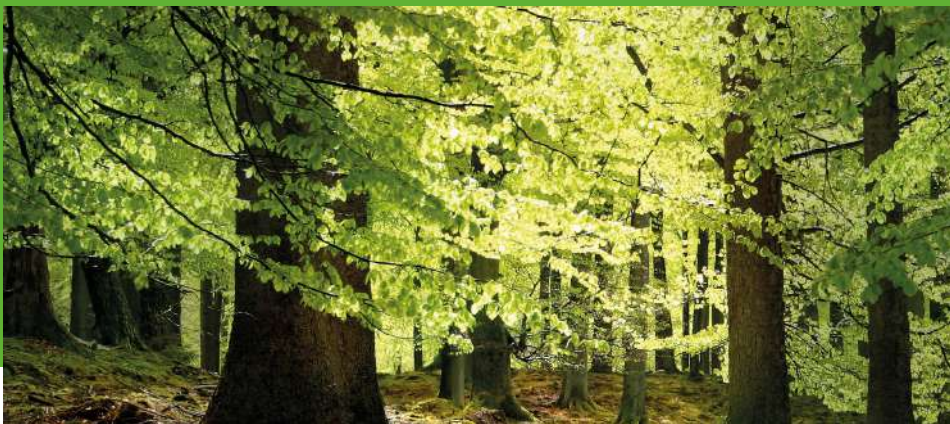
1.86

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



1.596

Views Count



SEMINARS

Effective Use of Biological Insecticides in Combatting Pest Insects

A **seminar** titled “Effective Use of Biological Insecticides in Combatting Pest Insects” held at Near East University addressed the use of biological insecticides in combating invasive pests that have been damaging forests and agricultural products in recent years in Northern Cyprus.

Organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Agriculture at Near East University and the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources, the seminar was led by Prof. Dr. Ataç Uzel, an expert in Basic and Industrial Microbiology at the Department of Biology of the Faculty of Science at Ege University.



In attendance were Hüseyin Çavuş, the Minister of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and Olgun Amcaoğlu, the Minister of Economy and Energy, alongside Dr. Reşat Değirmenci, Director of Agriculture and Natural Resources, and İpek Kızılduman, Director of the General Agricultural Insurance Fund. Also present were Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Tüzünkan, Vice Rector of Near East University, and Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture at Near East University.



Smart Technologies in Beekeeping: Managing Honey Bee Diseases

Distinguished expert Dr. Gennaro Di Prisco, representing the prestigious Italian National Research Council's Institute of Sustainable Plant Protection, took center stage at a **seminar** hosted by the Near East University. The collaborative effort between the university's Faculty of Agriculture, the Cyprus Turkish Chamber of Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB), and the Northern Cyprus Beekeepers Association aimed to explore the intersection of beekeeping and modern technology.

The event garnered a diverse audience, including notable figures such as KTMMOB President Erkut Uluçam and Northern Cyprus Beekeepers Association President Hasan Kozok. With a focus on pressing issues like the impact of climate change on beekeeping and the adoption of sustainable practices, the seminar provided valuable insights into the future of apiculture. Titled “Honey Bee Diseases and Management, Using Smart Technologies in Beekeeping” the seminar attracted widespread attention and participation from students, academics, and industry professionals alike. Dr. Di Prisco's presentation underscored the crucial role of embracing technological advancements to ensure the resilience and sustainability of beekeeping practices.

CONGRESS

Fertility and Udder Health in Farm Animals

The 7th International **Congress** on Fertility and Mammary Health in Farm Animals, organized by the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Diseases of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine at Near East University, brought together more than 1,000 participants, including over 600 international attendees from countries such as the USA, Spain, the UK, Italy, Poland, and Türkiye. Chaired by Prof. Dr. Selim Aslan, the three-day congress featured experts presenting cutting-edge research and technologies to enhance reproductive health and productivity in farm animals. Sessions focused on improving fertility, dairy efficiency, and veterinary innovation, fostering global collaboration in animal science. Cutting-edge research findings, innovative technologies, and practical applications were shared and debated among attendees, promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange.

RESEARCH

Sustainable Technologies for Pesticide Removal

A **study** co-authored by Vahid Nourani from Near East University, together with Nardin Jabbarian Paknezhad, Yongqiang Zhang, Dominika Dąbrowska, and other researchers, examines technological innovations for removing pesticides from contaminated soils. The paper reviews the environmental and health risks posed by pesticide residues and highlights bioremediation, nano-, and bioelectrochemical methods as effective solutions. Results show that bioremediation can eliminate up to 90% of soil pesticides, while combining electrochemical oxidation and bioelectrochemical systems enables near-complete removal for sustainable agricultural use.

DISCOVERY



New Moth Species Scrobipalpa chardonnayi Discovered

Near East University researchers, in collaboration with Austrian entomologist Dr. Peter Huemer, have discovered a **new moth species** in the Yeşiltepe-İlgaz region of Kyrenia-Alsancak, Northern Cyprus. Identified as *Scrobipalpa chardonnayi*, the species differs from known ones both morphologically and genetically. Characterized by its gray-blue wings with orange-brown spots and distinct black markings, it shows about a 6% genetic divergence from related species. The discovery, led by Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, was published in the Journal Zootaxa.

COURSE

The Rural Landscape Planning

The Rural Landscape Planning **course**, offered by the Department of Landscape Architecture, emphasizes the integration of ecological principles in designing and managing both rural and urban environments. Students explore sustainable planning for transportation networks, recreation areas, forests, national parks, and conservation zones, with a particular focus on soil health as a foundation for ecological resilience. Through case studies, field analysis, and applied design tasks, participants learn to evaluate environmental impacts and land use challenges. The course equips students with practical skills to develop biodiversity-enhancing, sustainable, and resilient landscapes that harmonize ecological preservation with community development.



50

Publications



886

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

42



2.59

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



2.005

Views Count

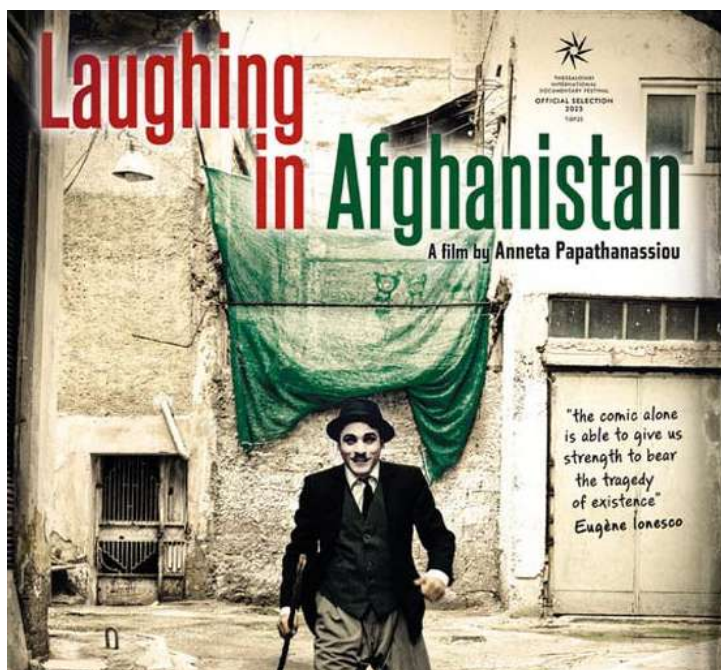


DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

Laughing in Afghanistan

Near East University's Faculty of Communication hosted a screening of **Laughing in Afghanistan**, a documentary directed by Greek filmmaker Anneta Papathanassiou. The film portrays the life of Karim Asir, known as Afghanistan's "Charlie Chaplin," who uses art to resist oppression despite the challenges in his conflict-torn country. The event, organized in collaboration with the Department of Film Production and Broadcasting and the Department of Journalism, took place at the Accessible Cinema Hall and drew a large audience of journalism students. Following the screening, a discussion highlighted the resilience of Afghan artists and the obstacles they face under Taliban rule, including censorship and death threats.

Director Papathanassiou emphasized the importance of showcasing Afghanistan's artistic side, often overshadowed by conflict. She shared her commitment to human rights and plans for future works addressing global struggles.



ART FOR PEACE

Advocacy for Ukrainian Women Amidst War

Near East University hosted Ukrainian artist Olesya Drashkaba at a **seminar** organized in collaboration with the Near East Institute, the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, and the U.S. Embassy. The event introduced Drashkaba's international project and mobile exhibition titled "Womanly Face of War", developed in cooperation with the Ukrainian art platform Sunseed Art and the Resilient Ukraine organization.

The project, which reflects the experiences of women during the ongoing war in Ukraine, aims to raise global awareness through artistic expression. Bringing together students and academics, the seminar provided an opportunity to discuss the role of art in documenting the human and social impacts of war.



LECTURE

Renowned Scholar Prof. Dr. Vamık Volkan Discusses Psychological Roots of Wars

Renowned Turkish- Cypriot psychiatry professor Prof. Dr. Vamık Volkan delivered a compelling **lecture** at Near East University, exploring the psychological factors that lead to the outbreak of wars through contemporary examples. Throughout his distinguished career, Prof. Volkan has delved into the psychoanalytic dimensions of political conflicts, shaping the field of political psychology. In his lecture titled “Why Are There Wars?”, he provided deep insights into the emotional and collective dynamics driving global crises. Part of the “Conference Series” organized by the Near East University Center of Excellence, the event was open to the public and drew a diverse audience. Prof. Volkan’s talk offered a profound perspective on how unresolved traumas and group identities can perpetuate cycles of conflict, highlighting the psychological path toward peace.

CONFERENCE

Changing Politics and Security Environment in the Middle East

The **conference** titled “Changing Politics and Security Environment in the Middle East,” organized by the Near East University Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, brought together distinguished experts to analyze the evolving dynamics of the region. Hosted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sait Akşit, Head of the Department of International Relations, the event explored political, economic, and security dimensions of ongoing regional developments. Discussions centered on the repercussions of the Israel-Palestine conflict and the need for new approaches to promote peace. Scholars from leading Turkish universities provided in-depth analyses of Israel, Palestine, Iran, and Turkey’s shifting roles in the post-Gaza War era.



76

Publications



14,633

Citation Count



International
Collaboration

29



7.98

Field Weighted
Citation Impact



11,908

Views Count

PANEL



Sustainable Development Goals in Municipalities

A **panel** titled “Sustainable Development Goals in Municipalities” was jointly organized by the Near East University Societal Research and Development Center, the Cyprus Turkish Orthopedic Disabled Association, and the Ministry of Interior Local Governments Directorate. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Zehra Altınay and Prof. Dr. Fahriye Altınay, the panel featured speakers including Prof. Dr. Gökmen Dağlı, Prof. Dr. Phillip Benanchour, and Cenk Dökmen. Discussions addressed integrating SDGs into municipal governance, emphasizing strategic planning, institutional capacity building, and inclusive sustainability practices that link local initiatives with global development priorities.

RESEARCH

The Role of Cultural Transformation and Communication in Peacebuilding

This **study** by Ayça Demet Atay and Naile Berberoğlu from Near East University, titled “Peace Communication: A Transdisciplinary Perspective for Peace at the Intersection of Cultural, Peace and Communication Studies,” is published in the journal *Peacebuilding*. The analysis emphasizes that cultural transformations essential to peacebuilding are mainly achieved through hybridization and effective communication. Experts highlight that for peace to permeate everyday life, horizontal dialogue based on empathy and mutual recognition is crucial. Without these, anti-dialogues driven by hegemonic power dynamics may persist. From a poststructuralist perspective, critically analyzing discourse and cultural meanings reveals the power relations shaping daily life and obstructing successful peace initiatives. The authors argue that integrating insights from communication research and cultural studies is vital for the effective implementation of peace efforts, especially in conflict zones.



HEALTH COLLABORATION

Sexual Health Education Program in Iskele

Near East University's Center of Gender Studies (TOCAM) and the Dean of Students Office Sexual Health Service Unit, in collaboration with Iskele Municipality, conducted a month-long **public education** initiative on sexuality and sexual health across the Iskele region. Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dilek Sarpkaya Güder, the program reached 21 villages and focused on lifelong sexual health, safe practices, and breaking social taboos surrounding sexuality. The sessions emphasized respect, awareness, and open communication to promote positive sexual well-being.



INTERNATIONAL PROJECT

Three Bacteriophages from Pond Waters to Combat Multidrug-Resistant Infections



Researchers from Near East University and La Trobe University, in collaboration, have isolated three bacteriophages in an **international project** aimed at combating one of the most significant sources of hospital infections, multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. In an international project led by Dr. Ferdiye Taner from the Near East University DESAM Research Institute and Associate Professor Dr. Steve Petrovski from La Trobe University in Australia, three bacteriophages isolated from the waters of a pond located on the Near East University campus have sparked hope in the fight against multidrug-resistant *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, the most common source of hospital infections.

The increasing resistance of bacteria to antibiotics poses a challenge in treating many bacterial infections, recognized as a global public health threat by the World Health Organization (WHO). Bacteriophages represent a promising alternative to antibiotics in the treatment of bacterial infections. Through international collaborations, the newly isolated bacteriophages by Near East University offer a robust alternative against antibiotic-resistant bacteria threatening global public health. The project titled "Investigation of the Molecular Mechanism of Antibiotic Resistance Spread in *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* Strains and Exploration of New Bacteriophages as an Alternative Treatment Approach" focuses on bacteriophages as an effective biological combat method against bacteria. Derived from the terms "bacteria" and "phage" (to eat), bacteriophages inject their genetic material into bacterial cells, causing them to multiply within the cell. As a result, the bacterial cell is ruptured and destroyed, releasing bacteriophages to infect subsequent target bacterial cells.

Inclusive Education and Accessibility

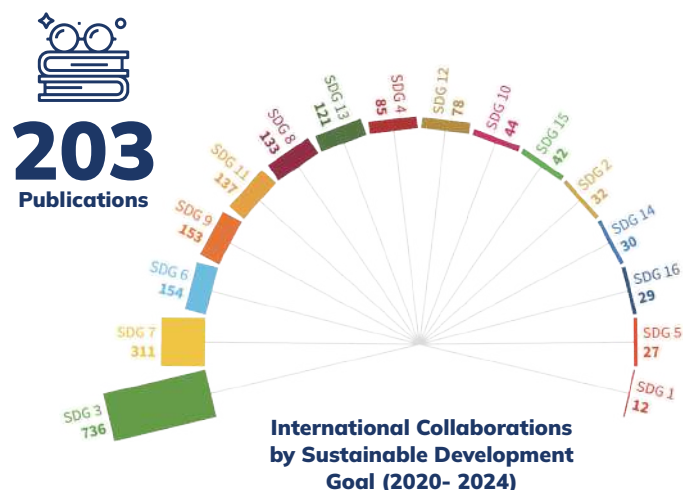
The **6th International Conference** on Interdisciplinary Educational Reflections (ICIER 2024), jointly organized by Near East University's Atatürk Faculty of Education and the Graduate School of Education, took place at the Near East University Grand Library under the theme "Inclusive Education and Accessibility." Supported by the Ministry of National Education, the three-day international event gathered more than 100 participants from Northern Cyprus, Turkey, Kazakhstan, and China.

Featuring 54 research papers and five interactive workshops, the conference focused on inclusive and accessible education practices, strategic planning, and interdisciplinary scientific research. Sessions emphasized equality, diversity, and innovation in education while exploring ways to create learning environments accessible to all.

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

Visit to the Refugee Rights Association

Faculty members and students from Near East University's Departments of Political Science and Public Administration and International Relations visited the **Refugee Rights Association** (RHA) in Nicosia to strengthen relations with civil society and enhance academic collaboration. The delegation, including Prof. Dr. Nur Köprülü and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Sait Akşit, emphasized the role of universities in advancing social responsibility and humanitarian awareness. Discussions focused on joint initiatives, awareness programs, and research collaborations promoting refugee rights, social inclusion, and student engagement in community-based learning.



Collaborations with İstanbul, İnönü, and Manisa Celal Bayar Universities

Near East University strengthens its medical research network through new and renewed **collaborations** with İstanbul University, İnönü University, and Manisa Celal Bayar University, advancing joint initiatives in health sciences.

The partnership with İstanbul University focuses on the development of a diagnostic kit designed to detect the genetic causes of rare metabolic diseases in children, supporting early and accurate diagnosis through advanced molecular methods. In parallel, the renewed **cooperation** with Manisa Celal Bayar University centers on the creation of an HDV real-time PCR diagnostic kit, addressing a significant clinical need in the early detection of Hepatitis Delta infection and contributing to national diagnostic capacity.

Collaborations with İnönü and Manisa Celal Bayar Universities also expand clinician and researcher mobility, enabling reciprocal access to laboratories, joint project development, and coordinated scientific activities. Together, these partnerships enhance shared expertise and foster meaningful progress in medical research, innovation, and health service development.

DIABETES CAMP



Hands-on Training in Diabetes Management

The "**Diabetes Camp**," jointly organized by the Near East University DESAM Research Institute, the Faculty of Health Sciences, and the Cyprus Turkish Diabetes Association, brought together 60 participants for three days of hands-on training in diabetes management. Guided by Near East University specialists, attendees learned about nutrition, physiotherapy, and self-care practices. The camp's interactive sessions encouraged participants to share experiences and engage directly with experts, promoting practical skills for improving daily diabetes management and overall quality of life.

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***Sustainability:
A Matter of Responsibility, not a Choice***

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