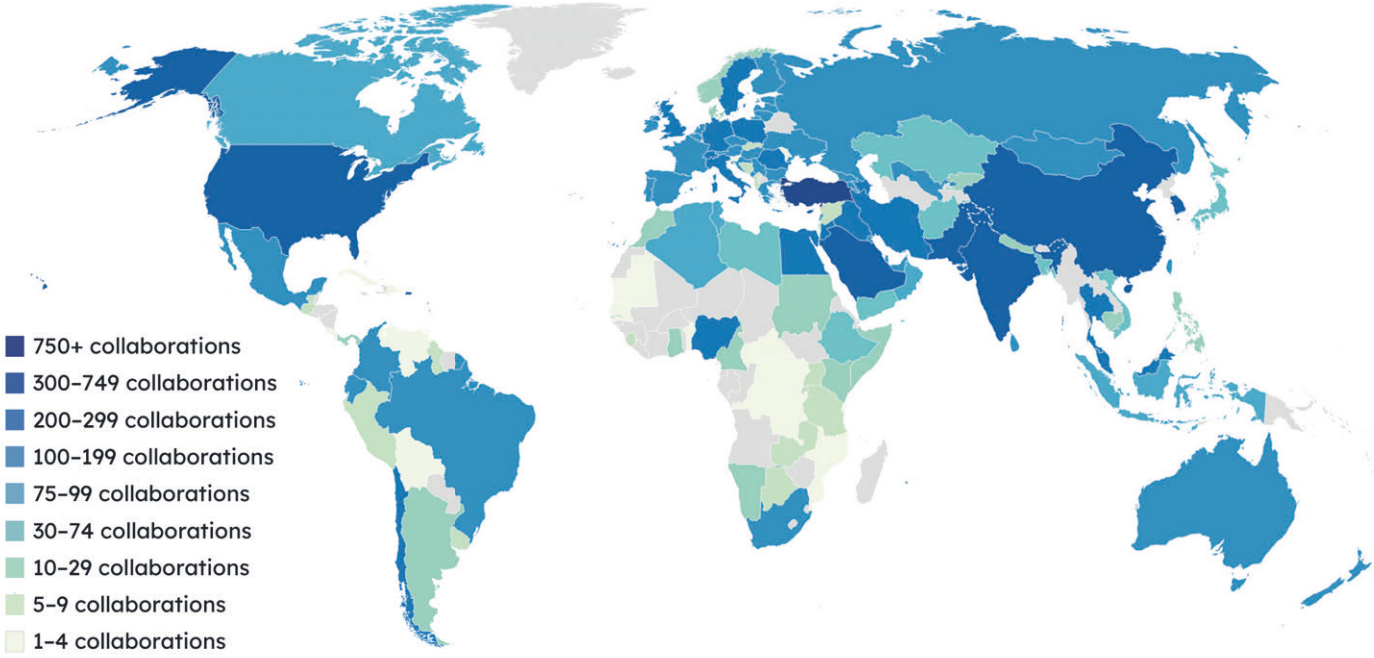
NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

SUSTAINABILITY REPORT 2025



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Global Research Collaborations



In 2025, Near East University (NEU) collaborated with researchers affiliated with 136 countries and territories, reflecting the extensive geographical reach of its international research network. The highest numbers of jointly authored publications involved Türkiye, Cyprus, Pakistan, India, and Saudi Arabia, highlighting NEU's strong research connections across different regions.

These collaborations reflect NEU's active participation in the global scientific community and its continued engagement in international knowledge exchange. Through joint research and co-authored publications, the university maintains connections with researchers and institutions across Europe, Asia, Africa, the Americas, and Oceania, supporting scientific cooperation and opportunities for further academic collaboration.

The map illustrates the geographical distribution and intensity of NEU's international research collaborations in 2025. The broad distribution of collaborating countries demonstrates the diversity of its research connections, while the varying publication counts highlight the strength of individual country-level partnerships. This extensive international network reflects NEU's sustained presence in global research and its contribution to the exchange and development of scientific knowledge.

NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY

BIBLIOMETRICS

2021–2025 | RESEARCH PERFORMANCE

RESEARCH AT A GLANCE

2021–2025

SCHOLARLY OUTPUT
7,524

CITATION COUNT
126,381

FIELD-WEIGHTED CITATION IMPACT
1.94

INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION
74.4%

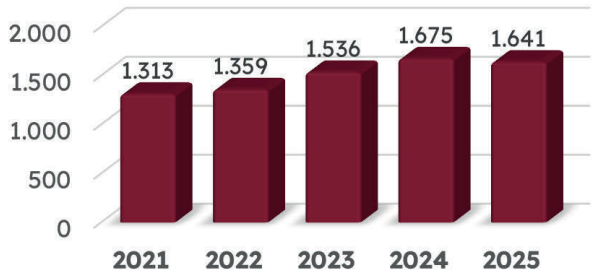
VIEWS COUNT
323,979

PUBLICATIONS IN TOP 10% JOURNAL PERCENTILES
29.8%

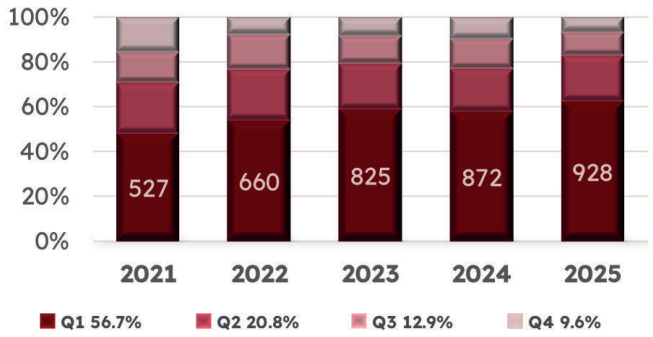
PUBLICATION PERFORMANCE

2021–2025

PUBLICATIONS



JOURNAL QUARTILES



PUBLICATIONS BY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL

2021–2025



- SDG 1
- SDG 2
- SDG 3
- SDG 4
- SDG 5
- SDG 6
- SDG 7
- SDG 8
- SDG 9
- SDG 10
- SDG 11
- SDG 12
- SDG 13
- SDG 14
- SDG 15
- SDG 16
- SDG 17

Scopus SciVal

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Prof. Dr. İrfan Suat Günsel

Chairman of the Board of Trustees

Dear Stakeholders,

The responsibility of a university toward the future is reflected in the lives of the individuals it educates, and the impact and contributions of knowledge it produces for the society. At Near East University, we view sustainability as the core of our commitment to fostering societal development through education, science, culture, the arts, and sports.

Challenges such as climate change, the strain on natural resources, and social inequalities heighten the responsibilities of universities. Consequently, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, we prioritize bridging our scientific expertise with societal needs and sharing our resources with the community.

By ensuring that all our academic events are open to the public, we facilitate the dissemination of knowledge to a broader audience. We encourage individuals of all ages to engage in learning and dialogue through congresses, conferences, seminars, and discussions. Opening our campus-based events to the public strengthens the bond between our university and society.

Our museums are a vital component of our commitment to sharing our cultural heritage with the public. We ensure that young people can connect with art, history, and cultural heritage from an early age by providing free admission to all children under the age of 18.
Besides, we view our sports facilities as an integral part of this holistic approach which promotes healthy living, solidarity, and a culture of collective achievement. Sharing knowledge, opening campus life to the public, and facilitating children's access to cultural opportunities are tangible manifestations of our commitment to building a sustainable society. We believe that the knowledge and awareness that each individual, who is engaged with our university's accumulated expertise and carries into their own circles, will further amplify this endeavor.

This report provides an opportunity to assess our work and helps guide our future steps. I hereby would kindly like to thank our faculty members, staff, students, alumni, and all our stakeholders for their contributions. Driven by the unifying power of science, culture, art, and sports, we will continue to work toward a more livable, equitable, and inclusive society.



Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ

Rector

Dear Stakeholders,

Sustainability requires universities to assume responsibility across all domains, from education and research to campus life and management philosophy. At Near East University, we aim to fulfill this responsibility by producing high-quality scientific work and ensuring that these efforts contribute meaningfully to the lives of the community.

Challenges in areas such as climate, energy, water, food, and health necessitate the convergence of diverse areas of expertise. By working together, researchers from various disciplines enable us to view problems from a broader perspective and translate our academic knowledge into practical application.

We also view campus life as an integral part of this approach. Efficient use of energy and water, waste reduction, enhanced accessibility, and the responsible management of our resources are all achievable through our collective contribution. We believe that the steps taken in daily life by our academic and administrative staff, our students, and all our units will foster lasting change.

To track our progress, we regularly monitor the outcomes of our initiatives and evaluate them using reliable data. This report helps us identify the areas in which we have made strides, as well as those that require further attention. We intend to use the insights gained here to define our priorities and refine our practices.

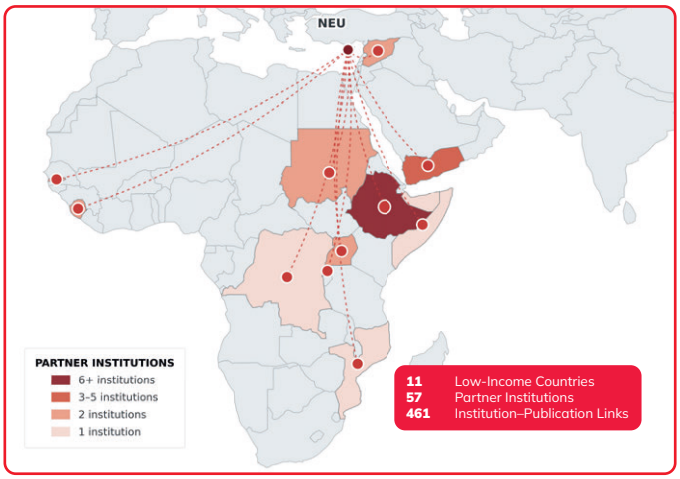
Embedding sustainability within our university depends on integrating this perspective into our courses, research, laboratory work, and everyday decision-making processes. As the Rectorate, our role is to foster a work environment where everyone can contribute and to ensure the continuity of this effort.

I would like to thank my academic and administrative colleagues, our students, and our stakeholders who contributed to the preparation of this report. I do believe that by learning and producing together, we will further strengthen our university's contribution to a sustainable future.

1 NO POVERTY



GLOBAL COLLABORATION



Partnerships with Institutions in Low-Income Countries

This map highlights Near East University's research collaboration network with institutions in countries classified as low-income by the World Bank.
In 2025, the University collaborated with 57 institutions across 11 low-income countries, demonstrating active research engagement with partners in economically vulnerable contexts.

The figure of 461 institution–publication links reflects collaboration connections rather than unique publications, as one publication may involve multiple institutions.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Supporting Mothers Through Literacy Education



A protocol signed between Near East University and the Turkish Cypriot Child Protection Institution launched a literacy program for mothers who cannot read or write. The "Reading and Writing Course Collaboration Protocol" was signed by the university's Faculty of Arts and Sciences and the institution, with the aim of strengthening ties between academia and society. The six-month program is run by the university's Social Contribution Commission and the institution. It relies on voluntary contributions from faculty members and students. The course is offered free of charge, removing financial barriers and making literacy education more accessible to mothers who might otherwise have limited opportunities to participate. Beyond teaching reading and writing, the courses are designed to give mothers the basic language skills they need in everyday life. Ten mothers took part in the first phase, learning from volunteers from the Turkish Language Teaching Department, including faculty and students. The program is coordinated by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Yeniasır, Prof. Dr. Burak Gökbulut and Tülay Kaya Tekman, Vice Principal of the Turkish Language Preparatory School. Prof. Dr. Gökbulut, Chairman of the Social Contribution Commission, described literacy as a fundamental human right.



Poverty and Exclusion Among Student Workers in North Cyprus

This **study** by Near East University academic Sharon Nyarai Karinda published in Social Sciences & Humanities Open examines the employment experiences and political participation of international students working in North Cyprus.
The study explores the relationship between international education, employment and political representation, highlighting international students' contributions to the local food and catering industry. Based on a semi-structured questionnaire, the research investigates employment conditions, work permits, working hours and access to representation. Drawing on Albert O. Hirschman's framework of exit, voice, and loyalty, its findings provide insights into the challenges faced by international student workers while pursuing their education and contributing to the local economy.
The study contributes to academic discussions on migration, labour rights and student welfare, emphasizing the importance of institutional cooperation and effective policies to support international students and promote fair working conditions.



RESEARCH



Governance and Labor Market Challenges in Reducing Poverty

Poverty and inequality are closely interconnected, and achieving progress in one often requires addressing the factors that contribute to the other. A **study** by Obadiah Jonathan Gimba, Mehdi Seraj, Hüseyin Özdeşer and Muhammad Mar'I examines how corruption and unemployment influence income inequality across nine Sub-Saharan African countries between 2000 and 2023. Using a quantile-on-quantile approach, the researchers investigate how these relationships vary across different levels of corruption, unemployment and income inequality. The findings reveal significant differences between countries. Botswana, Seychelles and Mauritius, which have higher per capita income levels, experience fewer adverse shocks associated with corruption and unemployment. In middle-income countries such as Nigeria, Kenya and Angola, the effects of corruption are particularly pronounced, while unemployment also contributes to unequal income distribution. The study highlights that policies addressing corruption and unemployment may produce different outcomes depending on national economic conditions. These findings underline the importance of strengthening institutional quality, improving employment opportunities and developing policies tailored to local circumstances. Tackling governance and labor market challenges together is essential for promoting more inclusive economic development and reducing income inequality.

14
Scholarly Output

108
Citation Count

International Collaboration
4

1.53
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

313
Views Count

Full scholarships:

20% of all international students receive a full scholarship.

Scholarships for Students from Low-Income Countries:

63% of scholarship recipients come from low-income countries.

International reach:

30% of international students come from low-income countries.

2025

2 ZERO HUNGER



SECTORAL MEETINGS

Connecting Science and Olive Producers

Olive producers, scientists and students exchanged knowledge on improving olive production in Northern Cyprus at the "**Olive Producer Meetings**," organized by the Faculty of Agriculture's Department of Food Engineering and the İrfan Günsel Research Center. Participants examined the genetic, biological and morphological characteristics of local olive varieties, along with pollinator selection, fertilization biology and maintenance practices.

The meeting strengthened the link between scientific research and sustainable agricultural production in the region. A **second round** of "Olive Producer Meetings" gave growers and agricultural experts the chance to discuss strategies for improving olive diversity and productivity.

Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, made the opening remarks, followed by presentations from Dr. Mehmet Güler and Assist. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güler. Discussions covered pollination biology, fertilization, cultivation practices and the characteristics of Northern Cyprus olive varieties. Participants left with practical insights into pollinator selection, soil management and plant care, underlining the value of combining scientific research with sustainable farming.



TRAINING



Food Safety Training and Certificate Program

Professionals from the food sector in Northern Cyprus and students of food-related disciplines took part in a free, two-day ISO 22000:2018 Food Safety Management System and HACCP **Certificate Program**, organized by the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine and Experimental Health Sciences Research Center (DESAM). Vet. Dr. Tolga Yaroğlu of the Food Laboratories and Food Inspectors Association (GLADER) delivered the training, explaining the key requirements of the standard and sharing practical insights and real-world industry examples. The program supported sectoral development and strengthened food safety awareness, helping participants apply effective food safety practices in their own workplaces.

PARTNERSHIP

University–Industry Partnership for Citrus Innovation

A new partnership to strengthen citrus production through science was announced after a delegation from the Turkish National Citrus Council (UTK), led by President Kemal Kamaz, visited the Faculty of Agriculture and met Founding Rector Dr. Suat İrfan Günsel. The delegation included representatives of the Mediterranean Citrus Producers Association, the Cyprus Turkish Citrus Exporters Association, Interfresh EuroAsia and Cypfruvex Turkey. Both sides agreed to launch joint projects on advanced agricultural technologies, sustainable production methods, R&D and training for citrus producers. The aim was to raise efficiency, productivity and quality through science-based solutions.



RESEARCH

Sustainable Agriculture in Libya

Near East University researchers Fadel Ali Ramadan Agila and Aşkın Kiraz (2025) examine how climate change affects farmers in Libya, an arid and semi-arid country with limited institutional support for sustainable agriculture. Surveying 506 farmers across the country, the **study** finds that climate awareness, risk perception, and self-efficacy are positively associated with adaptive behavior. Farmers with less education, less experience, or reliance on cooperative funding showed weaker adaptation. The authors recommend strengthening cooperatives and integrating environmental education into agriculture.

21
Scholarly Output

1,022
Citation Count

International Collaboration
16

16.26
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

4,849
Views Count

SEMINARS

International Dimension of Food Safety Management

Global food safety standards, from farm to table, took center stage at a **seminar** organized by the İrfan Günsel Research Center.
Academics and students heard Prof. Dr. Beyza Hatice Ulusoy, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Veterinary Medicine, stress the need for global cooperation and knowledge-sharing for safe and sustainable food production.
She also compared food safety policies across countries.
Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, President of the Center, highlighted its mission to protect Cyprus's agricultural heritage through research. A Q&A session closed the seminar and encouraged further dialogue.



"Bread Talks": From Wheat to Sourdough

Is bread a friend or foe to modern diets? The "**Bread Talks**" seminar explored the cultural, nutritional and scientific dimensions of one of humanity's oldest foods. Organized by the Department of Food Engineering and the İrfan Günsel Research Center, the seminar featured Prof. Dr. M. Serta Özer of ukurova University and Agricultural Engineer Nesrin Karataş, who discussed bread's historical evolution, nutritional value, healthy consumption habits and industrial production.
Local producers, academics and students took part. Asst. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güler concluded that such initiatives raise awareness about sustainable food production and informed consumption.

COURSE

Mediterranean Diet and Health

This **course** (BES417), offered by the Faculty of Health Sciences, explores how the Mediterranean diet supports health through plant-based foods, legumes, whole grains, and local produce, while examining the sustainability of the food systems that produce them. Students assess how seasonal farming, small-scale producers, and reduced food waste can help keep these practices viable in the face of climate change and economic pressures, and whether the diet can serve as a model for resilient, accessible food production.



CANCER PREVENTION

Free Prostate Cancer Screening

Near East University Hospital collaborated with the Cancer Patients Assistance Association (KHYD) to conduct an island-wide **prostate cancer** awareness and screening program during March 2025. The joint initiative provided free Prostate-Specific Antigen (PSA) testing through Near East University Hospital and the affiliated hospital network, supported by mobile healthcare teams reaching communities across Northern Cyprus. A total of 898 individuals received free PSA tests, with approximately 100 participants identified as requiring further medical evaluation and referred for additional examinations. Screening activities took place at hospital facilities and community locations, including public institutions and markets in Nicosia, Kyrenia, Famagusta, and İskele. Mobile healthcare services helped extend access to individuals outside conventional hospital settings. Through cooperation between the university's clinical teams and the Association, the program combined cancer awareness, community engagement, preventive screening, and referral for further medical assessment.



EMPLOYEE WELL-BEING



Promoting Active Lifestyles Through Campus Sports Facilities

Near East University encourages employees to maintain healthy and active lifestyles through access to **sports facilities** and recreational opportunities across its campus. The university's Olympic Swimming Pool and Sports Tower provide facilities for swimming, fitness, exercise, and other forms of physical activity. These resources offer opportunities for employees to incorporate regular exercise into their routines and support their physical and psychological well-being.

To encourage staff participation in physical activity, Near East University promotes special membership packages and discounted access to recreational facilities specifically for employees. Employee-focused promotional campaigns have included preferential membership opportunities at the Olympic Swimming Pool and combined membership packages covering both the Olympic Swimming Pool and Sports Tower.

HEALTHCARE COOPERATION

NEU Expands Access to Specialized Healthcare

Near East University maintains an institutional cooperation protocol with the Ministry of Health of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to strengthen healthcare services and improve access to specialized medical treatment. Under this collaboration, Near East University Hospital and Near East University Dental Hospital provide clinical support and advanced diagnostic and treatment services for patients referred from public healthcare institutions.
The referral mechanism enables patients requiring specialised procedures or advanced medical technologies to receive care through the university's healthcare infrastructure.
This continuing partnership supports coordination between public hospitals and university healthcare services, contributes to the capacity of the national healthcare system, and facilitates access to specialized treatment.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

NEU Promotes Healthy Ageing

Near East University signed a **cooperation protocol** with the Association for Elderly Rights and Mental Health on 24 March 2025 to support healthy ageing, mental well-being, and the quality of life of older adults. The agreement established a framework for joint educational, healthcare, psychosocial, and scientific activities addressing the needs of the ageing population. The partnership progressed into practical community engagement in December 2025, when Near East University's Faculty of Health Sciences and the Association jointly organized the "Exercise in the Journey of Healthy Ageing" program at Merkez Lefkoşa, hosted by Nicosia Turkish Municipality. The program combined scientific presentations with practical group exercises addressing physical activity, musculoskeletal health, balance, mobility, and functional independence in later life.

260
Scholarly Output

7,329
Citation Count

International Collaboration
212

9.88
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

26,001
Views Count

SYMPOSIUM



Exploring the Past, Present and Future of Sleep Science

Near East University commemorated World Sleep Day with a **symposium** titled “Past, Present, and Future in Sleep Studies,” organised in collaboration with its Faculty of Health Sciences, the Brain and Consciousness States Research Center (BEBAM), and the Turkish Sleep Medicine Association. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Adile Öniz Özgören, Dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences, the symposium featured experts including Prof. Dr. Murat Aksu, Board Member of the Asian Sleep Medicine Society; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gonca İnanç, Vice Dean of the Faculty; and Prof. Dr. Murat Özgören, Director of BEBAM. Presentations explored sleep medicine, current research and the historical development of sleep science.

PARENTAL EDUCATION



Awareness of Child Development

A **10-week program** helped parents of children aged 48-72 months improve their understanding of sexual education, their children's developmental processes and healthy communication within the family. Conducted with the Prime Ministry's Anti-Drug Commission and the Atatürk Faculty of Education, the program found low knowledge among parents in pre-tests, but significant gains in attitudes and communication skills by its end.
The program also provided parents with guidance on addressing children’s questions in an age-appropriate manner, establishing healthy personal boundaries, and creating a safe family environment based on trust, openness and mutual understanding.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



SCIENCE EDUCATION

Hands-On Science for Young Learners

Near East University's **5th Science and Technology Festival** brought together 300 children from Near East Preschool and Near East Primary School for a day of hands-on scientific discovery. Organized by the Atatürk Faculty of Education in collaboration with its departments of Primary Education, Classroom Teaching, and Computer and Educational Technologies Teaching, the event was held in the faculty's foyer. Seventy prospective teachers prepared 30 experimental stations, where children explored scientific concepts through interactive activities and experiments. Working in groups, visitors conducted experiments, participated in demonstrations and discovered how science relates to everyday experiences.
Coordinated by Prof. Dr. Engin Baysen, the program featured concept-based learning, surprising experiments and activities designed to address common misconceptions. Five experiment formats also demonstrated the scientific principles behind proverbs and daily experiences. Presentations showed how these approaches can be incorporated into teaching to make learning engaging and effective.



CERTIFICATE PROGRAM



Future-Oriented Teaching and Learning

Near East University's Lifelong Education Center (YABEM) offers a structured **certificate program** titled "21st Century Learning and Teaching Skills," providing opportunities for participants to develop competencies relevant to contemporary education and professional life. The program consists of eight hours of instruction delivered over four days. Its curriculum includes critical thinking and problem-solving, creativity, collaboration, effective communication, technology literacy and the collection and use of information through digital tools. The publicly accessible program description provides an advance registration opportunity and specifies that participants receive a certificate of participation. Through its practical and competency-oriented approach, the programme aims to support lifelong learning, encourage the development of transferable skills and help participants adapt to the evolving demands of modern educational environments and professional settings.

PANEL

Children’s Rights in Preschool Education

The "**Children's Rights in Preschool Education Panel**" brought together experts and academics to discuss early childhood rights, safety, and protective mechanisms. Organized by the Near East University Dean of Students Office, Preschool Teaching Club, Atatürk Faculty of Education, and Social Research and Development Center, the event focused on the importance of introducing rights awareness during the preschool period.
Sessions addressed rights-based services in early childhood, the role of the social state, family protection, legal responsibilities in preschool education, preventive social services for children aged 0--6, rights-based classroom practices, and digital security. The multidisciplinary program emphasized the relationship between early education, child protection, and rights awareness.

COLLABORATION

“My Voice Matters!”

The Department of Preschool Teaching at Near East University’s Atatürk Faculty of Education marked 20 November World Children’s Rights Day with simultaneous activities held in collaboration with partner schools. Organized under the slogan “**My Voice Matters!**”, the events aimed to raise awareness of children’s rights while creating a meaningful and high-quality experience for children. Coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dervişe Amca Toklu, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Şebnem Güldal Kan, and Specialist Hulin Sıddık, the department joined forces with Pınarbaşı Kindergarten, Yetenekli Eller Preschool Education Center, and the Nicosia Turkish Municipality Elele Preschool Education Center. Through interactive and creative activities, children were encouraged to express themselves, participate actively, and learn about their rights in an engaging environment.

61
Scholarly Output

193
Citation Count

International Collaboration
25

1.36
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

2,134
Views Count

SYMPOSIUM

National Sexuality and Sexual Health

The Near East University Sexual Health Services Unit, operating under the Dean of Students Office, organised the 2nd National Sexuality and Sexual Health Symposium as a free educational event open to the general public. The **symposium** brought together academics, physicians and healthcare professionals from Türkiye and Northern Cyprus to share scientific knowledge on sexual and reproductive health with the public. Across three sessions, speakers addressed sexual health education, healthy relationships, pregnancy, menopause, sexual well-being and the prevention of sexually transmitted infections. By providing free public access to expert-led discussions on sensitive and important health topics, the symposium contributed to lifelong health education and enabled participants beyond the University's formal educational program to access reliable information relevant to their personal health and well-being.



CONFERENCE

Advancing Sustainable Education

Social sustainability in education was the theme of the 7th International **Conference** on Interdisciplinary Educational Reflections (ICIER 2025), which brought together 130 participants from various countries. Jointly organized by the Atatürk Faculty of Education and the Institute of Graduate Education and Research, the conference presented more than 70 academic papers, while workshops on effective communication, bibliotherapy, statistical analysis and qualitative data tools trained over 80 educators, graduate students and academics. Keynote speakers included Prof. Dr. Aras Bozkurt and Prof. Dr. Yunus Eryaman. Prof. Dr. Umut Akçıl emphasized the need for transformative change in education systems.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



JOINT PROTOCOL

Support for Women Affected by Violence

On November 25, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, Near East University (NEU) and the Nicosia Turkish Municipality signed a **cooperation protocol** to support women affected by violence and their children. The protocol provides for free medical consultations, necessary laboratory tests and diagnostic imaging, dental care, and psychotherapy where needed for women and children referred by the Nicosia Turkish Municipality Women's Shelter.
The protocol ensures the protection of beneficiaries' personal data in accordance with relevant legislation. Coordinated by NEU's Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM), the initiative strengthens institutional collaboration and advances women's empowerment and social recovery.



EVENT

Preventing Gender-Based Violence

Academics and experts came together at Near East University for an awareness **event** held in the context of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Organized by the Department of Midwifery under the slogan "We Have Something to Say, We Have the Power to Bring Change" the program examined violence against women and young people from different perspectives. The event highlighted the responsibilities of health professionals in recognizing, preventing, and responding to violence against women, while also emphasizing women's rights and the broader social dimensions of gender-based violence.

STEM MENTORING

"Girls Shaping the Future"

Near East University's Sustainability Office organized the "**Girls Shaping the Future**" activity for 10th-grade female students at Değirmenlik High School. The program aimed to strengthen girls' participation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and increase awareness of STEM-related career opportunities. Academics from Near East University and a representative of the Veterinary Medical Association shared professional experiences and discussed the contribution of STEM to sustainable development and gender equality. An interactive question-and-answer session enabled students to explore different career paths and ask questions about professional life.

MARCH ON CAMPUS

“We Are Here, We Are Strong, We Are Free”

On Near East University’s campus, the Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM) led a **march** to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Under the theme “We Are Here, We Are Strong, We Are Free,” the march began at the Faculty of Communication and drew many faculty members and students. TOCAM President Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayça Demet Atay read the center’s press statement, which described violence against women as a universal crime against humanity rather than an individual problem.



SYMPOSIUM



Women and Society

Strengthening the role of women in social life was the aim of the "**Women and Society Symposium**," held to mark International Women's Day on 8 March in Dikmen Municipality. Organized by the Atatürk Faculty of Education's Preschool Teaching Department and the Social Research and Development Center, it was coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dervişe Amca Toklu and moderated by Prof. Dr. Zehra Altınay and Prof. Dr. Fahriye Altınay. Speakers addressed women and parenthood, creativity, social life and gender roles, arguing that societal norms should not limit women's identities. Dikmen Mayor Yüksel elebi presented certificates of appreciation to the speakers.

EXHIBITION

Beyond Silence: The Lens of Resilience

Organized by Near East University’s Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM) and the Nicosia Turkish Municipality Women’s Shelter, the “**Visual Diary**” photography exhibition opened on 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. Featuring photographs by seven women staying at the shelter, the exhibition provided a creative space for self-expression while protecting their identities through flower-inspired pseudonyms. Following digital photography training provided by TOCAM, participants shared their experiences, emotions, and hopes through art.

13
Scholarly Output

59
Citation Count

International Collaboration
7

1.16
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

244
Views Count

SUMMIT



Young Women Shaping Their Future

The “**Young Women Shaping Their Future Summit**” brought together young women students to explore career planning, leadership, workplace dynamics and effective communication. Organized by the Near East University Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM), Dean of Students Office, and Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, the summit focused on strengthening young women’s confidence and leadership potential. In the first session, Assist. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek discussed the importance of psychological resilience in a changing work environment, while Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Miralay examined the impact of individual and organizational motivation on success. In the second session, Assist. Prof. Dr. Ayten Erçoban Evren addressed gender-based discrimination in the workplace. Assist. Prof. Dr. zen atal provided practical guidance for effective CV writing. Assist. Prof. Dr. Fatma Türüş Seraj explored women’s role in economic life and their entrepreneurial potential. Finally, Senior Lecturer Ufuk Altunç highlighted the decisive role of effective communication in career success.

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



WASTEWATER TREATMENT

Expanding Campus Water Reuse

Wastewater treated at the campus treatment plant is reused for irrigating green spaces and flushing toilets. Near East University has increased the capacity of its wastewater treatment plant to improve water-use efficiency and advance sustainable campus practices. Following the expansion, the plant now treats 300,000 m^3 of wastewater annually, supporting the efficient reuse of water resources and reducing the campus's demand for freshwater.

Wastewater generated on campus is treated and recovered for reuse. The treated water is used to irrigate the university's green spaces and flush toilets. This reduces the demand for clean water for these purposes and enables water to be reused within the campus.

Using treated wastewater for purposes that do not require potable water, such as irrigating green spaces and flushing toilets, contributes to the conservation of water resources. The increased treatment capacity also strengthens the campus wastewater management infrastructure and supports the wider reuse of water.



WATER CONSERVATION



Water-Saving Campus Planting

Near East University is bringing environmental responsibility into its campus landscape by planting species with low water requirements. Cacti, olive trees, carob trees, palms and date palms form part of an approach that seeks to create welcoming green spaces while conserving precious water resources.

The university's planting choices reflect a simple principle: a greener campus should also be mindful of the water needed to sustain it. Alongside appearance and the character of outdoor spaces, water requirements are therefore an important consideration in campus landscaping.

By choosing plants that require comparatively little water, the university aims to limit irrigation demand while continuing to enrich its grounds. This approach brings water conservation into the planning of green spaces, making plant selection an essential part of responsible landscape management.

POSTER COMPETITION

High School Students Raise Water Conservation Awareness

To commemorate World Water Day on 22 March, Near East University's Faculty of Communication organized an inter-school **poster competition** on the theme "The Value of Water and Our Future." High school students from various schools used creative visual design to raise awareness of the global water crisis and the importance of water conservation.
The award ceremony, held at the Faculty's Orange Hall, featured opening speeches by Dean Prof. Dr. Fevzi Kasap and Yusuf İnanıroğlu, Director of the Ministry of Education's General Secondary Education Department. Students attended the ceremony alongside their families. Maria Shetakova of 19 May Turkish Maarif College won first place, followed by Azra Olkar of Famagusta Vocational High School in second place and Nehir Uluerkoç of Atatürk Vocational High School in third place. Nil Deniz Seçgen received the Jury's Special Award. Following the awards, certificates of appreciation were presented to the jury members by Prof. Dr. Fevzi Kasap.



50
Scholarly Output

1,371
Citation Count

International Collaboration
40

9.27
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

4,840
Views Count

CONFERENCES



Experts Explore Water and Environmental Challenges

Near East University hosted two linked **international events** in December 2025: the 5th International Conference on Water Problems in Mediterranean Countries (WPMC-2025) and the 8th International Conference on Natural Resources and Sustainable Environmental Management (NRSEM-2025). Held in hybrid format, they brought together researchers, policymakers and practitioners on campus and online. Participants included academics, local-government representatives, public officials, engineers and environmental stakeholders. Gönyeli-Alayköy Mayor Hüseyin Amcaoğlu served as a Conference Co-Chair, embedding local government in the organization itself. Discussions covered water diplomacy, groundwater protection, desalination, water reuse and smart cities. International contributions from Japan, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, Türkiye, Cyprus, Libya and the Russian Federation focused on which strategies could be adapted to Mediterranean and other regional settings.

RESEARCH



Groundwater Management in Güzelyurt

Farhad Bolouri, Hüseyin Gökçekuş, Vahid Nourani and Youssef Kassem from Near East University examine groundwater depletion in the Güzelyurt region of Northern Cyprus, where intensive agriculture and urban growth have lowered water levels and degraded water quality. Using a group model building approach with policymakers, farmers, water managers, and academics, the **study** warns that external water transfers may provide temporary relief but may deepen problems without sustainable demand-management policies.

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



RENEWABLE ENERGY

NEU Advances Plans for Campus Solar Power Plant

Near East University is advancing plans for a solar power plant that will bring clean, locally generated electricity to the campus. A feasibility study has been completed for two siting alternatives. The first covers four separate sites totalling about 112,000 m²: two areas near the campus (roughly 74,000 m² and 8,000 m²) and two in the Yeniboğaziçi region (roughly 18,000 m² and 12,000 m²). The second places a plant of similar capacity on a single site. The final location will be selected based on the study's findings. Following consultations with the relevant local authorities, preparations for the pre-application are at the final stage. Two-dimensional layout plans, electrical diagrams, the feasibility report and monthly production simulations are ready to support the final application. Currently, the solar panels on Near East University campus generate 2.7 megawatts renewal energy per year.



INNOVATION



Solar-Powered AI for Sustainable Beekeeping

Near East University's Artificial Intelligence (AI), the Internet of Things (IoT) Research Center has developed Beehive, an **AI-powered smart beehive system** designed to improve honey production, monitor bee colony health and support sustainable beekeeping. Integrating AI and IoT and solar energy, the system uses sensors and intelligent analytics to monitor hive temperature, humidity, weight, bee activity and security in real time. It also aims to identify early signs of disease, predict swarming behavior and alert beekeepers to potential risks, enabling timely intervention and reducing the need for disruptive manual inspections. Solar power and energy-efficient sensors support continuous, environmentally conscious operation. By combining digital monitoring with renewable energy, Beehive promotes data-driven hive management, more sustainable honey production and the protection of pollinators facing environmental pressures, including climate change and habitat loss.

RESEARCH

Rainwater Harvesting and Solar Energy for Farms in Northern Cyprus

A **study** by Youssef Kassem, Hüseyin Gökçekuş, Aşkın Kiraz and Abdalla Hamada Abdelnaby Abdelnaby, published in the international journal Sustainability, investigates an innovative hybrid system integrating rooftop solar panels with rainwater harvesting to support sustainable water and energy management in agriculture. Focusing on a farming household in Gönyeli, Northern Cyprus, the research evaluates the technical and economic feasibility of combining these two renewable resource systems. To overcome the limited availability of local rainfall records, the researchers compared nine satellite and reanalysis precipitation datasets with 43 years of ground-based measurements collected in Nicosia between 1981 and 2023. ERA5 demonstrated the highest accuracy and was selected for estimating rainwater harvesting potential. The findings indicate that the proposed system could meet approximately 31% to 38% of the farm's annual irrigation water demand under average rainfall conditions, with considerably higher collection potential during heavy rainfall.

Patents, Energy Prices and Renewable Energy

T.S. Adebayo and B. Uzun of Near East University together with V.O. Olanrewaju from the European University of Lefke examine whether **energy patents** and energy prices encourage the shift toward renewable energy. Most research on innovation and renewables overlooks patents, especially the difference between clean energy patents and fossil fuel patents. Using quarterly data from 2000 to 2023 and wavelet quantile methods to handle nonlinear patterns, the authors find long-run links between these variables across different quantiles and time horizons. Fossil fuel patents reduce renewable energy use, and clean energy patents have a weaker negative effect, mainly in the short term. Higher energy prices and economic growth support renewable adoption, with growth having its strongest influence in the short run. The authors propose policies based on these results.

149
Scholarly Output

1,437
Citation Count

International Collaboration
92

2.00
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

3,415
Views Count

HYBRID WORKSHOP SERIES

Climate Change and En-ROADS Scenario Simulation: Sixth Session

The sixth session in the hybrid **workshop series** on climate change examined how the En-ROADS simulation tool can model future scenarios. Participants reviewed how greenhouse gases trap heat and drive extreme weather, rising sea levels and threats to agriculture, water and health. The session also explored the water-energy-food nexus, showing how these sectors depend on one another. Farhad Pali then demonstrated the simulator, where combined policies such as carbon pricing, renewable energy and reduced deforestation could limit warming to about 1.6°C by 2100. Regional maps for Cyprus and Antalya illustrated flood risks and the benefits of early action.

RESEARCH



Floating Solar at Near East University Pond

Youssef Kassem, Hüseyin Çamur and Mohamed Almojtba Hamid Ali Abdalla, all from Near East University, published a **study** in Future Technology on floating solar photovoltaic (FPV) systems for the pond on the university campus in Nicosia. The authors tested coverage levels of 45%, 60%, 75% and 90%, along with several fixed and sun-tracking designs. Their simulations found that larger coverage produced more electricity and cut the cost of energy. The same coverage also reduced evaporation, saving up to about 5,589 cubic meters of water a year at 90%. Estimated emissions reductions ranged from 330 to 659 tCO_2 per year, and the payback period stayed near 3.2 years. The authors recommend field measurements to confirm these simulated results.

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



EMPLOYEE WELFARE

Insurance Benefits for University Staff and their Families



Near East University supports employee well-being not only through teaching and research but also by promoting financial security and access to insurance benefits for its staff. Through Near East Insurance, university employees and their family members can access preferential insurance packages designed to help reduce costs, support health and provide greater financial security.
Staff and their families receive a 10% advantage on traffic insurance, a 90% advantage on additional coverages under comprehensive insurance, and a 40% advantage on both home and personal accident insurance. The driver insurance policy offers savings of up to 50%, and payments can be spread over up to eight installments.

Health Coverage for Spouses and Children

The Spouse and Child Policy extends health-related benefits to employees' families. It provides unlimited coverage for outpatient and inpatient treatment at contracted healthcare institutions, as well as an annual dental care package covering one examination, diagnostic imaging and cleaning. The policy also includes two complimentary psychological counselling sessions per year. Payments can be made interest-free in five installments, either through salary deduction or by credit card. In addition, employees can benefit from savings of up to 55% on insurance policies for their spouses and children. Together, these benefits help ease the financial burden of insurance and healthcare, promote physical and mental well-being, and contribute to a more secure and supportive working environment for university employees and their families.

TRAINING



Building Financial Skills for Youth

Near East University continues to build young people's essential life skills through its commitment to social responsibility and sustainable development. As part of this effort, the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences organized a Financial Literacy and Entrepreneurship **Training** for 11th-grade students at Meral-Vedat Ertüngü State High School. The session was led by Assist. Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Baykan, Head of the Department of Human Resources Management, and aimed to strengthen students' economic awareness and entrepreneurial mindset. The program covered budget management, saving habits, financial risks, entrepreneurship culture, and business idea development.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS



Staff Discounts on Everyday Services

Near East University offers its employees exclusive discounts on a wide range of services, making everyday living more affordable. Staff can enjoy 30% off at the Near East Sports Tower, supporting physical activity and healthy lifestyles, and 5% off at IKAS SuperMarket for daily shopping and everyday needs. Health services are also covered, with 10% off at the Near East University Hospital and 30% off examinations at the Animal Hospital. Employees benefit from 10% off car rental, 10% to 12% off flooring and 10% off furniture for home improvements, and 20% off printing and copy services. Family needs are supported through 25% off at partner schools (40% for teachers) and 15% off at partner hotels and residences.

134
Scholarly Output

2,920
Citation Count

International Collaboration
72

6.32
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

9,514
Views Count

RESEARCH

Green Finance for a Low-Carbon Future

A **study** titled “Impact of Financial Inclusion, Economic Growth, Natural Resource Rents, and Natural Energy Use on Carbon Emissions: The MMQR Approach” by Teining Shang, Ahmed Samour, Jawad Abbas, Mumtaz Ali, and Turgut Tursoy was published in Environment, Development and Sustainability. Mumtaz Ali and Turgut Tursoy contributed as co-authors from the Banking and Finance Department at Near East University. Analyzing the world’s ten largest carbon emitters from 2004 to 2018, the study finds that renewable energy reduces emissions, while financial inclusion, economic growth, and natural resource rents increase them. The authors recommend green financial policies and investment in renewable technologies.

Role of Institutional Quality in Women’s Employment

A **study** titled “Female Labour Participation in Sub-Saharan African: The Role of Institutional Quality” by Habiba Mohammedbello Umar, Mehdi Seraj, and Huseyin Ozdeser was published in the Journal of the Knowledge Economy in 2025. Mehdi Seraj and Huseyin Ozdeser contributed as co-authors from the Department of Economics at Near East University. Examining Sub-Saharan African countries between 1996 and 2021, the study finds that economic growth, voice and accountability, and regulatory quality increase female labor force participation, while population growth, fertility rate, and self-employment reduce it. The authors recommend gender-inclusive governance reforms, sector-specific interventions, and investment in women-focused infrastructure.

POLICY

Updated Human Resources Policy

Near East University updated its **Human Resources Policy** in 2025, reaffirming its commitment to ethical conduct, non-discrimination, employee well-being, professional responsibility, and institutional development. The policy regulates recruitment, working conditions, leave entitlements, performance evaluation, and employee benefits for academic and administrative staff. It promotes fair recruitment regardless of ethnic origin, religion, disability, age, immigration status, or gender, while prioritizing the employment of university graduates.
Core employee values include honesty, confidentiality, accountability, adaptability, and environmental sustainability. Support measures include annual and special leave, maternity and breastfeeding leave, health insurance, affordable on-campus housing, transportation, and tuition scholarships for eligible employees and their children. Academic staff performance is evaluated through annual goals and defined criteria.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



TEKNOFEST 2025

Smart Sensors for Safer Agriculture

The Heavy Metal team, led by Mehmet Karagözlü and supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Süleyman Aşır won first place in the Agriculture Category of the TEKNOFEST TRNC 2025 Research Project Competition. 15,750 teams applied to **TEKNOFEST**, which was held at the Old Ercan Airport. Team members Valarie Oru Agbor, Fulya Yonucu and Benaz Shirgir developed a portable sensor that detects heavy metals such as lead in soil and water on site, giving farmers and agricultural experts immediate results to guide safer farming. Heavy metals like lead, cadmium, arsenic and mercury pose serious health risks, especially to children, and traditional laboratory methods are costly and slow. The project instead uses electrochemical detection with a screen-printed electrode modified with molecularly imprinted polymers, gold nanoparticles and graphene oxide. This design improves selectivity and sensitivity for lead ions, and tests show it resists interference from cadmium and copper. The team aims to make rapid, low-cost analysis available to farmers and researchers, supporting food security and environmental protection.



HEALTH INNOVATION



Hepatitis D PCR Diagnostic Kit

Near East University's DESAM Research Institute and Manisa Celal Bayar University have developed a locally produced Hepatitis D Virus Real-Time **PCR Diagnostic Kit**. Because HDV depends on the Hepatitis B virus and accelerates liver damage, raising the risk of cirrhosis and liver cancer, early detection is vital. The kit helps ease the shortage of diagnostic tools, and the findings have been published internationally.

Genetic Testing for Childhood Diseases

DESAM and Istanbul University's Faculty of Medicine have developed a **genetic testing kit** for rare inherited metabolic diseases in children, helping prevent irreversible developmental damage. Using Oxford Nanopore Technology, the kit analyzes multiple genes simultaneously, supporting newborn screening with Tandem Mass Spectrometry and enabling faster, more reliable and cost-effective diagnosis of rare diseases.

CONFERENCE



Future of Synthetic Biology

Synthetic biology's power to reshape science, industry and society was the topic of a lecture by Prof. Dr. Mehmet ztürk, a molecular biology and cancer genetics expert, in the DESAM Research Institute's "**Periodic Conferences**" series at Near East University Hospital. Prof. Dr. Öztürk highlighted the significant momentum synthetic biology has gained in recent years. “What began with the production of human insulin has evolved into innovative applications such as mRNA-based vaccines, organ transplantation from genetically modified pigs, and biomaterial development,” he said. He stressed that the field plays a crucial role in healthcare, agriculture, environmental technologies and biomaterials development, and predicted that its influence would keep growing and drive innovations across industries. ztürk also leads projects at the newly established Synthetic Biology Research and Technology Center in Northern Cyprus. The conference offered a platform for academic and industrial collaboration.

101
Scholarly Output

1,161
Citation Count

International Collaboration
69

2.72
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

3,652
Views Count

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Expanding Institutional Capacity for AI Education and Research

In 2025, Near East University established its **Faculty** of Artificial Intelligence and Informatics as its 21st faculty, expanding its academic capacity in emerging digital technologies. Offering education in Turkish and English, the faculty encompasses programmes in Computer Engineering, Software Engineering, Artificial Intelligence Engineering, Cyber Security Engineering, Data Analysis, Management Information Systems, and Information and Document Management. The faculty aims to develop expertise in artificial intelligence, informatics and related technological fields by integrating theoretical knowledge, practical skills and ethical considerations. Students can gain professional experience through internships at university research centres and external institutions. The faculty also promotes interdisciplinary research collaboration, with joint initiatives involving Engineering, Education, Medicine and Agriculture.

TRAINING

“From Idea to Patent” Training Strengthens Research and Innovation

Near East University continues to strengthen its research and innovation ecosystem through initiatives that encourage the protection and commercialization of scientific knowledge. The “**From Idea to Patent**” training, organized by the Near East Research Innovation and Technology Area (NERITA) within the activities of the University's Research Competence Development Unit, provided participants with information on intellectual property rights, patent applications, and technology transfer. The event attracted considerable interest from academics, researchers, and students. It aimed to raise awareness of the importance of protecting scientific ideas and transforming research outputs into practical applications and social benefit.

SEMINAR

Advancing Open Science and Digital Research Infrastructure

Near East University hosted the **seminar** “Open Science and Digital Infrastructures” as part of its New Horizons: Science and Innovation Meetings series, organized by the Near East University Center of Excellence and the Near East Research Innovation and Technology Area (NERITA). The event featured Mehmet Mirat Satoğlu, Director of TÜBİTAK ULAKBİM, who introduced national and international research infrastructures supporting scientific collaboration, open access, high-performance computing and research data management. The presentation highlighted digital research networks, supercomputing facilities and AI initiatives.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



SOCIAL INCLUSION

Public Health, Psychology and Art Education for Women Inmates

Near East University's Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM) organized a multidisciplinary **educational program** for 25 women inmates at the Central Prison in Haspolat under the slogan "Let's Think Together, Let's Learn Together." As part of the program, Prof. Dr. Özen Aştufrom the Faculty of Medicine delivered a presentation titled "Health Protective Measures in Closed Environments," focusing on basic public health awareness. Assist. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences shared practical insights on "Emotional Balance and Coping with Stress." In addition, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Fatma Miralay, Head of the Art and Crafts Teaching Department at the Atatürk Faculty of Education, conducted a two-week Art Therapy Workshop for Women inmates, offering participants a creative and transformative experience. The event also featured interactive question-and-answer sessions, encouraging active participation and dialogue.



STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Oral Health and Child Well-Being

Members of the Northern Cyprus Association of Dental Students (NCADS), together with fifth-year students from Near East University's Faculty of Dentistry, visited the Turkish Cypriot Child Protection Institution to **promote oral health** among children. The students provided age-appropriate education on daily toothbrushing, oral hygiene routines, regular dental check-ups, and nutrition. Interactive activities, including a true-or-false quiz and a food-matching game, classifying foods as "tooth-friendly" or "tooth-harming", helped children distinguish between foods that support or harm dental health. The team also read children's books written by its members, creating an enjoyable and supportive atmosphere. The initiative aimed to strengthen health awareness, encourage preventive care, reduce health inequalities, and support the psychosocial well-being of disadvantaged children. By combining health education with creative activities, the students encouraged children to develop healthy habits that can benefit them throughout their lives.

WORKSHOP



Monitoring Disability Rights

Legal regulations, public awareness and access to services for people with disabilities were examined at the Disability Rights Monitoring **Workshop**, held on 5 December 2025 at the Nicosia Solidarity and Education Center by Near East University (NEU) Social Research and Development Center, the NEU Disability Rights Monitoring Committee and the Nicosia Turkish Municipality. Representatives of disability organizations, academics and civil society joined sessions on education, health and rehabilitation, employment, accessibility, multiple discrimination and rights-based monitoring. Moderated by Prof. Dr. Fahriye Altınay and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dervişe Amca Toklu, the workshop ended with recommendations and stakeholder commitments to collaboration.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Personal Care for Disability Inclusion

On the occasion of **World Disability Day**, the Hair Care and Beauty Services Department of Near East University Vocational School visited the Lefkoşa 18+ Independent Living Home in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. During the visit, students met with young residents and carried out hair care and beauty practices aimed at supporting their self-confidence and well-being.

36
Scholarly Output

1,445
Citation Count

International Collaboration
16

14.77
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

5,992
Views Count

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Education for Migrants and Refugees

Near East University organized educational programs for **migrant and refugee communities** at the Nicosia Turkish Municipality Solidarity and Education Center on 22 December 2025, focusing on social and economic inclusion, health, and well-being. Academics from the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences delivered interactive training on CV preparation, employment opportunities, fundamental human rights, and access to public services, encouraging participants to share their experiences and discuss barriers to social participation. In a complementary program organized by the Faculty of Health Sciences, the Dean of Students Office, and the Sexual Health Services Unit, experts provided information on sexual health, family planning, sexually transmitted infections, and nutrition.



Inclusive Turkish Language Education

A five-month Turkish **language education program** was launched for 18 refugee and migrant students from Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, Syria, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, in cooperation with Near East University's Turkish Language Teaching Department, Turkish Preparatory School, Social Contribution Commission, and Demokrasit Secondary School of the Ministry of National Education. The program is academically coordinated by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Yeniasır, Prof. Dr. Burak Gkbulut, and Dr. Tülay Kaya Tekman. Turkish language lessons are delivered voluntarily by senior students of the Turkish Language Teaching Department.

RESEARCH

Perceptions of Sexual Harassment Among Female Athletes

This **study**, conducted by Deniz Erdağ, Mehmet Özeriç, and Bingül Harmancı, examines how female athletes in team sports in Northern Cyprus perceive sexual harassment. Surveying 215 athletes across four team sports, the researchers used validated scales on coach behavior, harassment reactions, sexism, and attitudes. Age had little effect, while sport branch and years of experience mattered. Handball players reported less coach misconduct, and longer-serving athletes showed weaker emotional reactions and were more likely to see harassment as trivial. The authors conclude that structural and cultural factors shape these perceptions.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Günsel Art Museum Opens in New Modern Home



The **Günsel Art Museum** has moved into a new, modern home within the Günsel Tower on the Near East University campus, continuing the mission it has pursued since 2019 as a modern and contemporary art institution. Spanning 1,400 square meters, the museum offers visitors a rich cultural experience. Its collection includes sculptures and printmaking works reflecting 4,000 years of Cypriot history, alongside pieces depicting ships from the Battle of Gallipoli. Contemporary works in painting, sculpture, ceramics, printmaking and video art are also on display, as is GÜNSEL, the first domestic automobile of Northern Cyprus. Monthly faculty exhibitions complete the experience.

Six Exhibitions Open Doors to Art and Collective Memory

Near East University's Faculty of Fine Arts and Design placed art at the heart of community life with six exhibitions opened in 2025 under the Cyprus Museum of Modern Arts. Shown in the university's museum and exhibition spaces on campus, including the Günsel Art Museum, the exhibitions were titled "Art, Memory and the Future in the Same Exhibition," "20 July Exhibition," "Near East University: Science and Art," "Words Were Not Enough, Colors Spoke," "Woman's Light, Art's Power" and "All the Colors of Art Are in This Exhibition." Together they explored collective memory, women's creativity and cultural diversity, bringing students, artists and local audiences into shared cultural spaces that preserve heritage and nurture a sense of belonging.

CULTURAL EDUCATION



Children Explore Cypriot Cultural Heritage

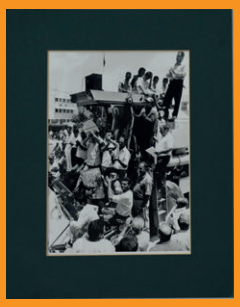
Pupils of the Cyprus Turkish Child Protection Agency discovered the value of cultural heritage during a 90-minute **interactive training session** led by Prof. Dr. Mustafa Yeniasır, Head of the Turkish Language Teaching Department, and Prof. Dr. Burak Gökbulut, Vice Head of the Social Sciences and Turkish Language Education Department. About 35 fourth and fifth graders were introduced to the concept and to the unique cultural elements of Cyprus through vivid examples and storytelling. Afterwards, students created original texts and drawings expressing their thoughts and emotions, which were to be used in a future academic study on how children perceive and internalize cultural heritage.

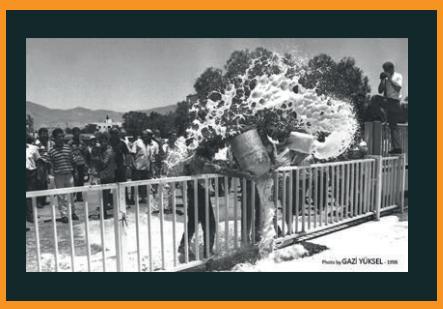
EXHIBITIONS

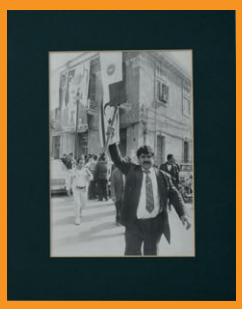
Four Decades of Cyprus Through Photography

Forty years of Cyprus's visual memory came together at Near East University through a **retrospective exhibition** opened on 12 May 2025 at the Faculty of Communication foyer. Drawn from the photographic archive of Lecturer Gazi Yüksel, the works document the island's changing streets, communities and everyday life, from news and sports photography to darkroom-printed black-and-white images and experimental digital pieces. Such archives are vital for protecting cultural heritage: they record places and traditions as they transform, keep them accessible to the public and pass them on to future generations. By opening this memory to students and the wider community, the exhibition nurtures belonging, strengthens shared identity and supports culturally rich, inclusive communities. Gazi Yüksel has been teaching "Basic Photography", "Press Photography", "Studio Photography", "Advertisement Photography" and "Image Processing" at the Faculty of Communication at Near East University since 1991 and is the Head of the Department at the Vocational School of Photography and Videography.









47
Scholarly Output

312
Citation Count

International Collaboration
30

1.58
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

1,291
Views Count

EVENT



Students Bring Cyprus's Traditional Dish "Gollifa" to the Community

Students from Near East University's Department of Gastronomy and Culinary Arts brought Cyprus's traditional New Year dish, **Gollifa**, to the public through a cultural and community event held at the Sharing Kitchen of Nicosia Turkish Municipality. Students prepared and shared the dish with local citizens and shopkeepers from Bandabuliya, Büyük Han, and Arasta. Made from roasted wheat, raisins, almonds, sesame, and pomegranate seeds, Gollifa was presented as part of a broader effort to preserve cultural heritage and strengthen social solidarity.

RESEARCH

AI for Cultural Heritage and Museum Learning

Researchers İslam Suiçmez, Fahriye Altınay, Gökmen Dağlı, Haijun Zeng, Rustam Shadiev, Didem İşlek, İpek Danju and Zehra Altınay examine how artificial intelligence (AI) can transform museums into more interactive, accessible and engaging spaces for cultural heritage and learning. The **study** explores how AI-supported applications can personalize visitor experiences, facilitate access to cultural heritage across different cultural backgrounds, and strengthen the preservation and transmission of cultural identity to future generations. Drawing on qualitative research involving 110 university students from Kazakhstan, Korea, China, Turkey, the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and India, the research investigates the role of AI in museum education and digital transformation. The findings highlight the potential of AI to support cultural heritage preservation and promote more experiential approaches to learning, contributing to sustainable cultural environments and the safeguarding of cultural heritage.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



STUDENT CLUB

Sustainability Student Club Turns Awareness into Action

Founded in 2025, the Near East University Sustainability **Student Club** promotes environmental awareness, social solidarity, healthy living, and responsible consumption through practical activities aligned with the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
Bringing together 117 students from different faculties, the club encourages interdisciplinary collaboration and community engagement. The club's academic mentor is Prof. Dr. Adile Öniz Özgören. Büşra Elbüken serves as president and İdil Cebeci as vice president. Hatice Gül Arıktaş is social media coordinator, Mertcan Sayan is social activities coordinator, Ege Erdoğan is academic activities coordinator, Umut Can Karataş is the student clubs' liaison, and Buket Atar serves as secretary-general.
The team shares responsibility for planning activities, organizing events, coordinating communication, and turning student ideas into projects. One of the club's first gatherings was an introductory event held under the slogan "17 Goals, 1 Future." Students discussed how the Sustainable Development Goals can be reflected in daily campus life and how they could contribute through the club. The event also introduced the club to students from different faculties and helped expand its interdisciplinary community.
The event "A Sustainable Step from Local to Global" focused on the value of local and sustainable production. At "In Balance with the Planet: A Guide to Healthy Living," participants explored the link between sustainable living and physical and mental well-being through yoga and breathing exercises led by Sibel Baydar.









BOOK CHAPTER

Managing Emerging Pollutants

Emerging pollutants (EPs) are a growing concern, arising from new medicines, industrial processes and related activities that threaten human health and the environment. Farhad Bolouri, Hüseyin Gökçekuş and Vahid Nourani review books, academic papers and authoritative reports to assess how developed countries have applied circular economy policies to manage these substances. Published as a chapter in a Springer book within the Advances in Water Security series, the study draws on international experiences to propose practical measures suited to Northern Cyprus. The authors stress that systematic data collection is essential for sound decisions and suggest that data sharing with Southern Cyprus could provide a more complete picture for the whole island. They also highlight the potential of reusing emerging pollutants in new products to reduce environmental harm.

SUSTAINABILITY TRAINING



Training Hotel Employees in Sustainable Practices

The Near East University Faculty of Tourism organized an **event** titled "Sustainability and Integration of Sustainable Development Goals in Hotel Businesses" at Concorde Tower Hotel to promote sustainability awareness and encourage the practical integration of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into hotel operations.
During the event, Prof. Dr. Nesrin M. Bahçelerli, Dean of the Faculty of Tourism, delivered a presentation to hotel employees, explaining how global sustainability commitments can be translated into everyday business practices. In her speech, she addressed energy efficiency, responsible resource use, environmental responsibility, and social sustainability through examples relevant to the tourism industry.
Prof. Dr. Bahçelerli emphasized that integrating sustainability principles across all levels of hotel staff can improve service quality, strengthen environmental and social responsibility, and support the long-term competitiveness of hospitality businesses. The event contributed to knowledge-sharing between academia and the tourism sector, demonstrating how sustainable operational practices can support responsible tourism development and advance the implementation of the SDGs.

72
Scholarly Output

606
Citation Count

International Collaboration
45

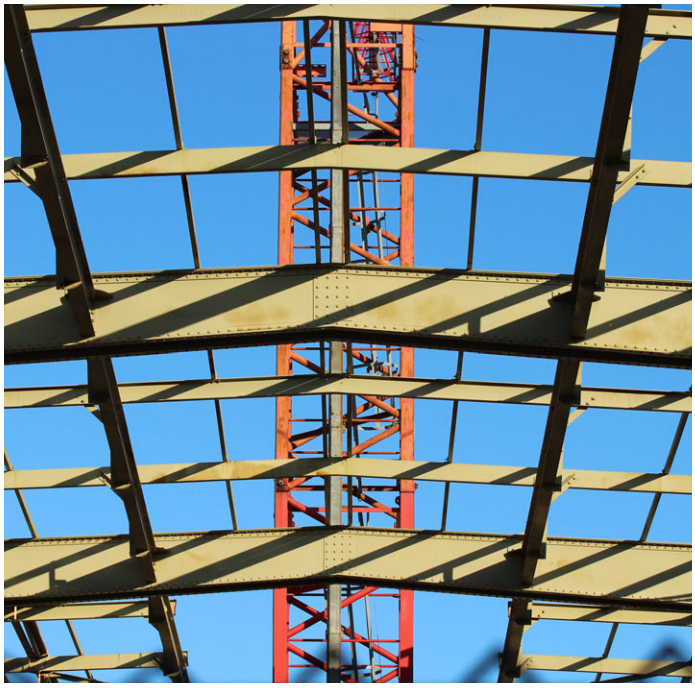
1.61
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

2,579
Views Count

RESEARCH

Construction and Demolition Waste Management in Jordan

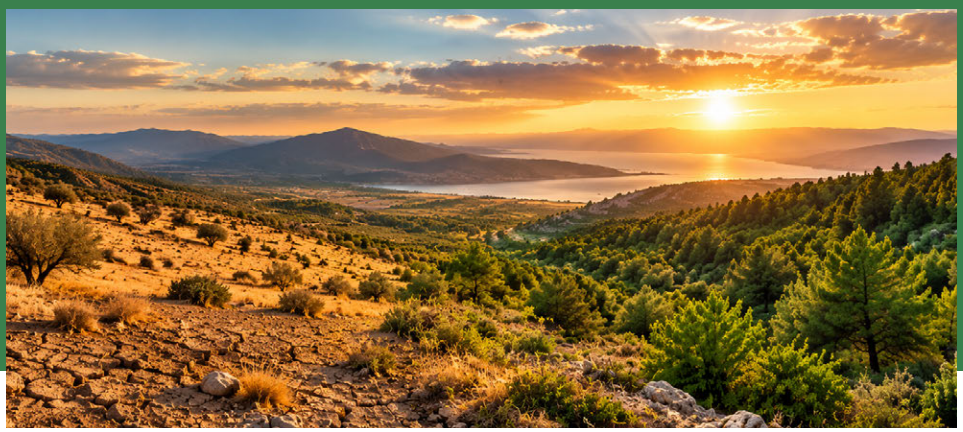
This **study**, published in Construction Innovation, was written by Ala'a Saleh Alshdiefat, Ahlam Ammar Sharif, Albara' Ibrahim Alharahsheh, Shaban Ismael Albrka, Nils O.E. Olsson, Mohammad Younes and Sofie Bang. Alharahsheh and Albrka are co-authors from Near East University. The authors surveyed engineers in the Mafraq Governorate to identify the causes of construction waste and the barriers to managing it better. Their findings point to a shortage of waste management infrastructure, including both facilities and regulations, as the most serious problem. Diverse site conditions, weak coordination among project parties and a lack of skilled labor also contribute. Among the barriers, poor cooperation between government agencies and inadequate planning ranked highest. The authors argue that improving practice requires a holistic approach, with government taking a leading role through regulation, landfill fees and recycling facilities.



Behavior and Sustainability Benefits of Modular Steel Buildings

A **study** published in the International Journal of Sustainable Engineering, examines the structural performance and sustainability benefits of modular steel buildings. Authored by Ahed Habib, Ausamah Al Houri, Bashar Alibrahim, and Maan Habib, the research explores how modular construction can improve building efficiency, reduce material waste, and support environmentally responsible practices. The study includes a bibliometric analysis of 894 publications and evaluates the contribution of modular steel buildings to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Ausamah Al Houri, co-author of the study and a faculty member at Near East University's Department of Civil Engineering, contributes to this international research on sustainable construction.

13 CLIMATE ACTION



SEMINAR

Polar Research Highlights Climate Change Impacts



Near East University hosted Prof. Dr. Burcu Özsoy, President of TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center (MAM) and a member of the Presidential Board of Local Government and Disaster Policies, for a scientific event entitled "**Poles and Climate Change**". Organized in collaboration with the Near East University Center of Excellence and the Near East Research Innovation and Technology Area (NERITA), the event attracted considerable interest. Held at the İrfan Günsel Congress Center, the program was moderated by Prof. Dr. Murat Özgören, President of the Center of Excellence. Prof. Dr. Özsoy, who has participated in 18 scientific research expeditions to the polar regions, shared her field experiences and presented insights into the effects of global climate change on polar ecosystems.

Melting Glaciers and Polar Research

Highlighting the alarming pace of glacial melting, Özsoy noted that approximately 40 percent of glaciers have melted. She emphasized that seasonal patterns are changing significantly, with increasingly severe summers and winters becoming almost nonexistent. The presentation also explored Türkiye's strategic objectives in polar research, including strengthening international scientific cooperation, improving research quality, expanding public engagement and ensuring the sustainability of national polar science initiatives. Drawing attention to Antarctica's unique international status, Özsoy emphasized that scientific research on the continent is conducted within a framework of peaceful cooperation. She underlined the importance of scientific capacity in strengthening countries' positions in international negotiations.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



Students Plant Seed Balls for Biodiversity

Near East University's Sustainability Student Club organized a **nature-focused activity** in which students, academics, and members of the Dağdoğan Hiking Academy prepared and distributed seed balls. Seeds including date palm, cherry, apricot, sour cherry, olive, carob, juniper, oak, and almond were mixed with natural fertilizer and soil before being planted in the Tepebaşı Yorgoz Başpınar area. Participants also received information about local vegetation and ecosystems. The activity combined environmental learning with practical conservation action and included a clean-up of plastic waste in the surrounding area.

WORKSHOP



Building a Resilient and Green Nicosia

The six-day "**Resilient and Green Nicosia Workshop**" brought together academics, local government representatives and professionals from North Cyprus, Türkiye and Azerbaijan to explore ways of strengthening Nicosia's green infrastructure and developing a vision for a resilient and sustainable capital city. Organized by the Faculty of Agriculture, the Nicosia Turkish Municipality (LTB), Ufuk Planlama and the Chamber of Landscape Architects, the workshop was held as part of the Urban Forest Life Workshop training programme.

The event brought together experts and students from urban planning, architecture, landscape architecture and forestry engineering, providing a platform for interdisciplinary exchange and collaboration.

The opening ceremony featured speeches by Dr. Nejla Kılınç (Founder and Project Coordinator of the Urban Forest Life Workshop), Prof. Dr. Özge Özden, Dean of the NEU Faculty of Agriculture, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Buket Asilsoy, Deputy Dean of the NEU Faculty of Agriculture and LTB Council Member, Ferdiye Sav, LTB Technical Works and Urban Design Committee Coordinator, and Mehmet Harmancı, Mayor of Nicosia Turkish Municipality. Through expert presentations and collaborative working groups, the workshop focused on strengthening the city's green infrastructure, enhancing climate resilience and developing a sustainable urban development vision. It also aimed to foster cooperation among academia, local authorities, professionals and civil society, contributing to the development of future urban planning strategies and environmental policies.

113
Scholarly Output

1,130
Citation Count

International Collaboration
73

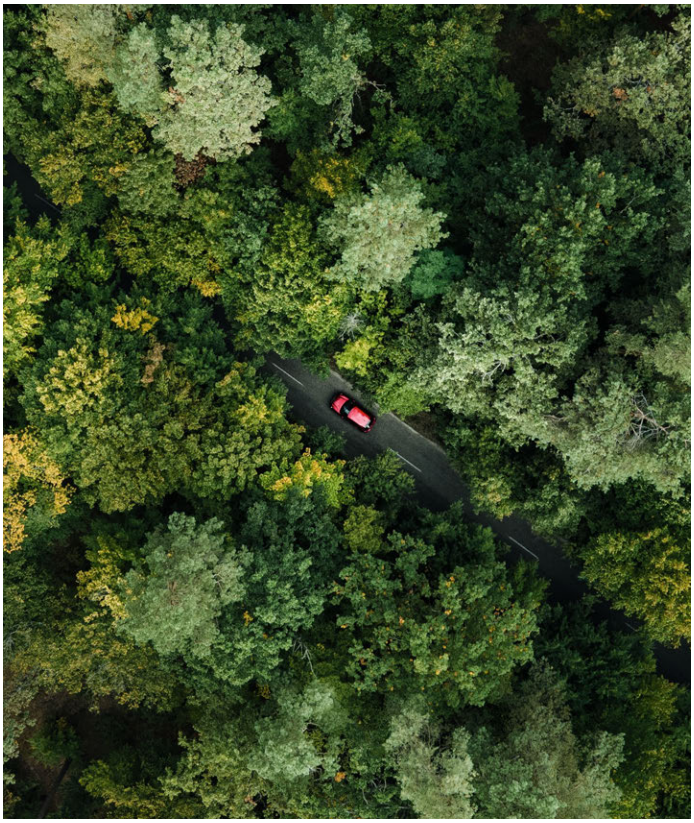
2.02
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

2,739
Views Count

RESEARCH

Achieving Carbon Neutrality Through Energy Efficiency

In their **study** published in Clean Technologies and Environmental Policy, Abraham Ayobamiji Awosusi, Huseyin Ozdeser, Mehdi Seraj, and Oluwatayomi Rereloluwa Adegboye investigate the relationship between energy efficiency and carbon emissions in nine energy transition economies between 1990 and 2021. Their findings indicate that coal and natural gas efficiency contribute to reducing carbon dioxide emissions, while economic growth, resource efficiency, and different dimensions of globalization are associated with increased emissions. The authors emphasize the importance of evidence-based policies and effective energy-efficiency initiatives to support the transition towards a low-carbon economy and advance long-term environmental sustainability.



Carbon Removal Technologies for Climate Neutrality

Near East University researchers Humphrey Adun and Dilber Uzun Özşahin, together with international co-authors Jeffrey Dankwa Ampah, Olusola Bamisile and Iain Staffell, conducted a **study** examining the sustainability implications of different carbon dioxide removal (CDR) technologies in achieving Europe's climate neutrality goals. Published in Sustainable Production and Consumption, the research uses integrated assessment modelling to evaluate technologies including bioenergy with carbon capture and storage, direct air capture, and enhanced weathering. The findings highlight the importance of a diverse CDR strategy for meeting climate targets.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



AWARD

Recycling Marine Waste into Renewable Solutions

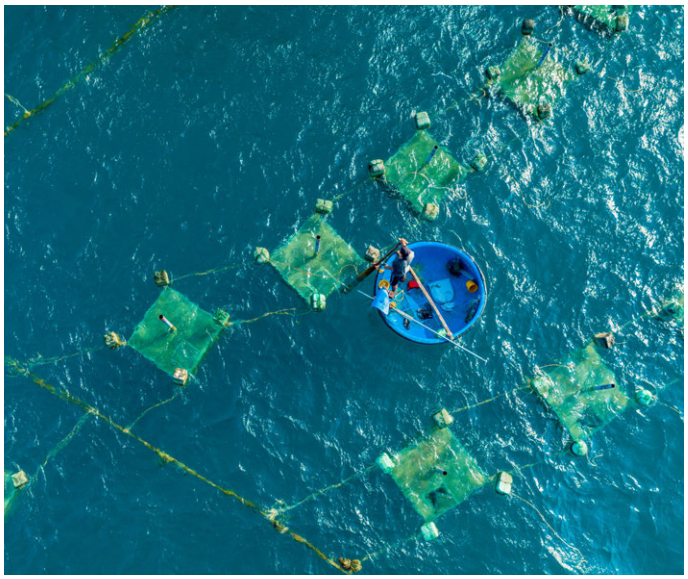


Near East University's **EcOceanX** team won the Best Presentation Award in the Environment and Energy category of the TEKNOFEST-Northern Cyprus Research Project Competition, one of the competition's prestige awards. The team of five students from the Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics, supervised by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selin Deliceırmak, is building a system that collects organic marine debris from coastal and nearshore waters and processes it into upcycled raw materials for industrial reuse. Their most distinctive innovation is a biodegradable antifouling coating made from recycled Posidonia oceanica leaves. Designed for ship hulls and maritime infrastructure, the coating aims to reduce biofouling, lower fuel consumption and eliminate toxic biocides.

Fierce Competition at TEKNOFEST

15,750 teams and 47,865 competitors applied to TEKNOFEST, which was held at the Old Ercan Airport between May 1-4. As a result of the eliminations, only 268 teams were able to reach the final stage. In TEKNOFEST, where 20 teams from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus made it to the finals, Near East University was the university with the most representation with 4 projects. Near East College competed with 1 project. Thus, approximately one-third of the 103 finalists representing Cyprus in TEKNOFEST were from Near East.

RESEARCH



Advancing the Sustainable Blue Economy in European Fisheries

In their **study** published in The Annals of Regional Science, Remy Jonkam Oben, Mehdi Seraj, and Şerife Zihni Eyüpoğlu examine the factors influencing blue economy development across 22 European Union countries between 2016 and 2021. Their research reveals that global warming and coastal eutrophication negatively affect fisheries production, while natural resources, aquaculture, and financial development contribute positively. The authors highlight the importance of evidence-based policymaking, sustainable fisheries management, and investment in environmentally friendly technologies. Their findings provide valuable insights into balancing economic growth with marine ecosystem protection, promoting sustainable fisheries production, and strengthening the long-term resilience of Europe's blue economy.

MARINE RESEARCH



Exploring Seagrass Biotechnological Potential

A TÜBİTAK-supported **research project** jointly conducted by Near East University and the University of Kyrenia is investigating the biodiversity and biotechnological potential of Mediterranean seagrass meadows in Northern Cyprus. Led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Selin Deliceırmak of Near East University, the project examines *Posidonia oceanica*, locally known as “fidja,” and the microorganisms living in association with these underwater plants. Using advanced molecular techniques, including amplicon sequencing and dual RNA sequencing, researchers will investigate genetic diversity, gene expression, and potential applications in biotechnology and drug development.
Seagrass meadows provide essential marine habitats and contribute to environmental sustainability. However, these ecosystems face growing threats from pollution, rising seawater temperatures, diseases, and invasive species. The project examines seagrass beds off the coast of Kyrenia, generating scientific data on their biodiversity, ecosystem health, and genetic resources. Near East University Rector Prof. Dr. Tamer Şanlıdağ highlighted the project's potential to advance blue biotechnology and support future drug development. Project leader Assoc. Prof. Dr. Deliceırmak also emphasized its relevance to climate change research and marine ecosystem conservation.

21
Scholarly Output

149
Citation Count

International Collaboration
14

1.27
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

556
Views Count

SYMPOSIUM

Experts Discuss Resilient Marine Engineering

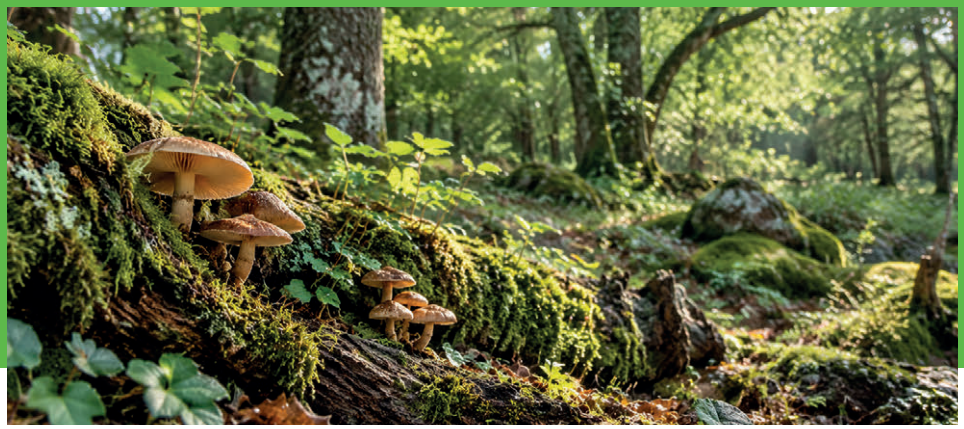
Coastal and port engineering advances took center stage at the "Marine Engineering: From Routine to Crisis" **symposium**, organized with the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Technology Transfer Office (NERITA). Experts from the U.S.-based firm Simpson Gumpertz & Heger and moderator Prof. Dr. Murat Özgören led the sessions. Addressing the factors to be considered in the design of basic structures in the field of marine engineering, Senior Engineer Allison C. DiGregorio spoke on the engineering techniques used in a wide range from piers to docks, from breakwaters to dry docks. Senior Engineer Dolunay Öniz shared the field observations she made on the southeastern sea structures affected by the earthquakes in Turkey in February 2023, and in her presentation shared the results of the examinations she conducted in the region with her team, and evaluated the performance of the ports, piers and filling areas in İskenderun and its surroundings against earthquakes.



RESEARCH

Sea Turtle Strandings and Rehabilitation in Northern Cyprus

A **study** on sea turtle strandings and rehabilitation in Northern Cyprus has been published in Zoology in the Middle East (2025). Written by Iona Shearer, Rianne Pelgrims, Tayfun Çanakçı, Pera Sinkovec, Damla Kıral, Oğuz Türkozan and Wayne J. Fuller, who contributed as a co-author from Near East University’s Faculty of Veterinary Medicine. The research analyzed 109 Green and Loggerhead turtle cases between 2017 and 2023. Buoyancy disorders and entanglement in fishing gear were the main causes of admission, with most strandings in the Kyrenia region. Only 19.3% of turtles were released back to the sea, highlighting the need for faster rescue, improved diagnostics and reduced marine pollution.



SCIENTIFIC AWARD

Theophrastus Prize Recognizes Prof. Başer's Botanical Research

Prof. Dr. K. Hüsnü Can Başer, Head of the Department of Pharmacognosy at Near East University's Faculty of Pharmacy, has received the **Theophrastus Prize** from theInternational Foundation pro Herbario Mediterraneo at a ceremony in Palermo, Italy, an international organization dedicated to botanical research. He received the award at a ceremony held in Palermo, Italy, in recognition of his contributions to the systematic classification and taxonomic study of Mediterranean flora. Named after the ancient Greek philosopher Theophrastus, widely known as the "Father of Botany," the award recognizes the importance of scientific research into plant diversity and the conservation of botanical heritage.



New Endemic Plant Species

His scientific contributions are also reflected in the naming of ***Pimpinella husnucan-baseri,*** a newly discovered endemic anise species identified in Türkiye and introduced to the scientific community. The species was named in his honour, marking the fifth time that a newly discovered plant species in Türkiye has been named after him. This recognition reflects his longstanding contributions to botanical research and the scientific study of regional plant diversity. Through his research, Prof. Dr. Başer has helped expand knowledge of the Mediterranean's rich flora, providing a scientific basis for understanding plant diversity and supporting biodiversity conservation efforts. The Theophrastus Prize adds to the international recognition of his academic work and highlights the contribution of Near East University's researchers to scientific research in botany and plant taxonomy.

SEMINAR



Exploring Cyprus's Aromatic Plants

The scientific, medical, cosmetic and economic potential of Cyprus's aromatic flora was highlighted at "**Aromatic Plants of Cyprus**," organized by the Department of Landscape Architecture. Prof. Dr. K. Hüsnü Can Başer, Head of Pharmacognosy at the Faculty of Pharmacy, presented research on the essential oils of endemic plants. He noted that the island hosts more than 1,610 native plant species, 108 of them endemic, making it an important center for pharmaceutical and aromatic plants. Başer underlined the need for conservation and sustainable use of these resources, which serve the pharmaceutical, cosmetics, and food industries. Essential oils obtained from these plants possess significant health benefits.

SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY



New Bacteriophage Genus Discovered

A completely new **bacteriophage**, named *Alasiavirus* after Alasia, the ancient name of Cyprus, was identified by researchers from Near East University and La Trobe University in Australia. Isolated from the pond on the campus, it belongs to a previously unidentified genus, and its full DNA sequence has been completed. The bacteriophage NEU2023, along with NEU2024, proved effective against *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, a bacterium that causes severe infections and resists multiple antibiotics, offering a promising alternative treatment for immunocompromised patients.

TREE-PLANTING INITIATIVE

Hand in Hand for a Green Future

Near East University collaborated with the military to organize the "**Hand in Hand for a Green Future**" tree-planting initiative in January 2025. A total of 3,000 saplings, including cypress, Turkish pine, Parkinsonia, orange, lemon, and mandarin trees, were planted, bringing the total number of trees at the site to 8,000. The initiative promotes environmental responsibility, supports the development of vegetation cover, and contributes to the protection of terrestrial ecosystems.

26
Scholarly Output

439
Citation Count

International Collaboration
22

4.66
Field-Weighted Citation Impact

2,265
Views Count

SEMINAR

Climate Change Impacts on Nature and Humanity

Near East University's Department of Landscape Architecture, Faculty of Agriculture, organized the "**Climate Change, Nature, and Humanity**" seminar at Near East University Hospital to examine the impacts of climate change on biodiversity, ecosystems, and human life. Prof. Dr. Salih Gücel, Vice Dean of the Faculty of Agriculture and an expert in ecology and environmental studies, delivered the presentation. He discussed the pressures of the climate crisis on natural life, species' adaptation to changing conditions, the relevance of paleoclimate data, and the effects of human activities on nature. The seminar also highlighted how rising temperatures, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation affect quality of life, emphasizing the importance of scientific knowledge in understanding climate change and its consequences.

STUDENT CONGRESS



Medical Students Explore Links Between Nature and Health

The 3rd International Medical Students Congress, "**Habitat Cyprus 2025**,"opened to strong participation at the Atatürk Culture and Congress Center, focusing on bridging the gap between nature and health.
Organized by the Faculty of Medicine and the Student Dean's Office, the student congress featured Prof. Dr. Murat Özgören on "Planet and Lease Agreement" and Prof. Dr. İlkay Salihoğlu on marine ecosystems and public health.
The second session included student presentations, with Dima Mestarihi discussing skin cancer rates in Northern Cyprus, Noushika Sahandifar examining the impact of environmental factors on stroke, and Mohammadsadegh Jafari exploring the effects of mold on child health.
Prof. Dr. AyşegüTaylan closed the sessions with a talk on "Increased Bed Bug Infestations in Turkey." The day concluded with poster and project presentations, where participants showcased their research.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Communication and Anger Management for Future Police Officers

Future police officers strengthened their communication skills, emotional control, and empathy through a “**Body Language and Anger Management**” training session organized by the Near East University Lifelong Education Center (YABEM) at the police school. Conducted by Assist. Prof. Dr. Tijen Zeybek, the session focused on stress management, anger regulation, body language awareness, and empathetic communication with citizens. Participants explored ways to build trust-based relationships with the public.





Supporting Evidence-Based Industrial Policy through University-Government Collaboration

In 2025, Near East Technology and GÜNSEL Engineering developed the Industry Department **Information System**, drawing on Near East University’s scientific expertise, for the Department of Industry under the Ministry of Economy and Energy. The initiative represents direct university-government collaboration aimed at strengthening the evidence base for industrial governance.

CONFERENCE

NEU Hosts International Student Diplomacy Conference

Near East University hosted Cyprus’s first comprehensive International **Model United Nations** (NEUMUN) Conference, organized by the Near East Institute at the Grand Library. Bringing together students from multiple universities, the conference provided a platform for discussing global challenges and developing diplomatic skills. Colin Stewart, the United Nations Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Cyprus, addressed participants through a video message. Three committees simulated the work of international bodies, examining global human trafficking, South Africa’s genocide case against Israel, and nuclear weapons proliferation.



SYMPOSIUM



Advancing Women's Rights

The Near East University Center for Gender Studies (TOCAM) organized the **symposium** "For All Women and Girls: Rights, Equality and Empowerment," bringing together representatives from diverse sectors to discuss gender equality, women's rights and institutional responsibility. The event provided a platform for dialogue among legislators, legal professionals, academics, civil society representatives and journalists. Participants included Deputy Speaker of the Parliament Fazilet Özdenefe, Member of Parliament İzlem Gürçağ Altuğra and Retired Chief Justice Narin Ferdi Şefik

RESEARCH

Electoral Violence and Political Power

A **study** by Light Iwhuechiokike Nyeche examines the relationship between electoral violence, public dissatisfaction, and the retention of political power in Nigeria. Focusing on the 2019 elections, the research draws on data from international and local election-monitoring organizations, the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data (ACLED) dataset, and Afrobarometer surveys. The findings suggest that widespread public dissatisfaction and distrust may drive incumbents to use electoral violence to retain power.

30
Scholarly Output

272
Citation Count

International Collaboration
13

2.38
Field Weighted Citation Impact

1,260
Views Count

SEMINAR SERIES

Global Security and Emerging Geopolitical Challenges

Throughout 2025, the Near East Institute continued its **Global Security Seminar Series**, bringing together international academics and experts to discuss contemporary challenges related to peace, security, state resilience and geopolitical change.
The series addressed issues including Arctic state identity and geopolitics, the future of transatlantic security, political fragmentation and state collapse in Libya, protection of critical energy infrastructure in Ukraine and Europe, and the emergence and dissolution of de facto states in the South Caucasus.
Speakers from universities, research centers and policy-oriented institutions contributed international and comparative perspectives on conflict, institutional vulnerability, political instability and regional security.
By providing an academic platform for informed discussion of complex security challenges, the seminar series supported wider understanding of peace, resilient institutions, conflict prevention, political stability and effective governance, while strengthening international academic exchange on contemporary global and regional security.

FORUM



Academic Contribution to Dialogue on Global Governance

In March 2025, Near East University contributed to the "**Stratcom Public Forum: A Fairer World is Possible**", held in Nicosia as part of an international series examining the future of global governance and the reform of international institutions.
The forum brought together government representatives, academics and media professionals to discuss challenges related to international justice, institutional effectiveness, multilateralism and the role of the United Nations in addressing contemporary global and regional issues. Near East University was represented by Vice Rector Assoc. Prof. Dr. Murat Tüzünkan, who participated as a panellist alongside academics and experts from other universities and institutions. Through participation in such platforms, the University contributes academic perspectives to wider public discussions on peace, fair governance, institutional reform and the capacity of international institutions to respond to complex global challenges.

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



ROUNDTABLE

Regional Resilience and Policy Development

Near East University Near East Institute organized a **roundtable** titled “From the Middle East to the Eastern Mediterranean: Intersecting Crises and Regional Implications,” bringing together academics, civil society representatives, government officials, experts, and international organizations. The opening speech was delivered by the Director of the Near East Institute, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mustafa Çıraklı. The meeting also brought together academics from Near East University, Eastern Mediterranean University, Cyprus International University, European University of Lefke, and Bahçeşehir Cyprus University. It was explicitly designed to strengthen university–civil society–government cooperation and provide direct input into regional policy-development processes. Participants identified interconnected problems and challenges affecting the Eastern Mediterranean, including energy security, climate risks and refugee movements.



COLLABORATION



Near East University Expands Academic Partnerships

In 2025, Near East University signed 31 new cooperation protocols. Five were concluded within Northern Cyprus, including agreements with **European University of Lefke** and **Cyprus International University**, while 16 were signed with institutions in Türkiye. Among the leading Turkish partners are **Ege University**, Hacettepe University, Istanbul University and **Yıldız Technical University**. Ten protocols were established with universities abroad, reflecting the university’s expanding global network. Notable international partners include Korea University in South Korea and the University of Greater Manchester in the United Kingdom, alongside institutions in Poland, Pakistan, Indonesia, Azerbaijan, Nigeria and India. The university also extended cooperation beyond academia through six protocols with non-university organisations. These include TÜBİTAK Marmara Research Center and Nicosia Turkish Municipality. The partnerships aim to enhance research capacity, scientific productivity, and educational opportunities while encouraging cooperation between institutions in Türkiye and Northern Cyprus.

RESEARCH COLLABORATION

Health Data Harmonization

Researchers from Near East University and the University of Kocaeli in Türkiye collaborated on the gathering, measurement, harmonization and analysis of **HIV-related data.** The work was documented in the report “International Collaboration in the Measurement and Analysis of HIV Data: Global, Türkiye, and Cyprus Perspectives". Researchers from the two institutions jointly contributed to the analytical design, selection of model parameters and interpretation of mathematical modelling outputs. The study integrated epidemiological and demographic datasets from internationally recognised sources including the World Health Organization (WHO), UNAIDS, the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC), national public-health authorities and demographic databases. Rather than analysing these datasets separately, the research team harmonised them within a shared mathematical modelling framework that enabled demographic, epidemiological and treatment-related data to be evaluated consistently across global, national (Türkiye) and regional (Northern Cyprus) contexts.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

Supporting Adolescents Through Health Education

Specialist doctors from Near East University Hospital volunteered for the "**Transition from Adolescence to Youth**" project, run with the Kyrenia Inner Wheel Club and the Ministry of National Education as part of the hospital's social responsibility work. The first training seminar, held at Sedat Simavi Vocational High School, helped teachers understand adolescents' needs and manage this critical period. Four other presentations covered physical and mental development, sexually transmitted diseases, HPV and cervical cancer, delivered by Dr. Neptün Fazilet Erdener, Prof. Dr. Kaya Süer, Clinical Psychologist Deniz Aykol Ünal and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Neşe Akcan Özlü.

750 Scholarly Output



SUSTAINABILITY AWARDS

Recognizing Excellence in Sustainability

A new tradition began with the inaugural **Sustainability Awards**, which recognized outstanding 2023 contributions to sustainability in research, education, social responsibility, innovation and cultural heritage. Eight categories reflected the many facets of sustainability, from literature and social equality to innovation, education, environmental protection, lifelong learning and cultural heritage. Winners included Mümtaz Ali for sustainability literature, Prof. Dr. Zehra Altınay and Prof. Dr. Fahriye Altınay for their earthquake-focused Psychosocial Support Project, Dr. Ferdiye Taner for a joint bacteriophage project with La Trobe University, and Prof. Dr. Hüseyin Gökçekuş for climate and water initiatives.



COMMUNITY WELL-BEING

NEU Strengthens Community Partnerships

Near East University has strengthened its community engagement through **cooperation protocols** with six civil society organizations: the Elderly Rights and Mental Health Association, SOS Children’s Village Association, Cancer Patients Aid Association, Kemal Saraçoğlu Foundation for Children with Leukemia and Cancer, Olive Tree Education and Aid Association (ZAYDER), and Cyprus Turkish Information and Research Foundation (KİTBAV). These partnerships aim to support the rights, well-being, education, and social development of older people, children, cancer patients, and wider community groups.
The collaborations encompass educational and learning support, inclusive education, healthcare and legal assistance, scientific research, human rights, gender equality, awareness campaigns, seminars, and social responsibility projects. By involving its academic units and students, the University seeks to connect academic expertise with community needs, strengthen social solidarity, and promote sustainable community development.

ABOUT US

Prof. Dr. Murat Tüzünkan
Vice Rector

Prof. Dr. Umut Aksoy
Vice Rector

Sustainability Office

Prof. Dr. Sevcan Kurtulmuş Yılmaz
Director
Prof. Dr. Fezile Özdamlı
Vice Director
Prof. Dr. Ayşe Arıkan Sarıoğlu
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayça Demet Atay
Assist. Prof. Dr. Oshan Uluşan

Editor-in-Chief: Ayça Demet Atay

Content Editor: Oshan Uluşan

Graphic Design: Yaprak Tekyıldız Mutluer

Contributors
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Sustainability:
A Matter of Responsibility, not a Choice

SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE NEAR EAST UNIVERSITY



Near East Boulevard ZIP: 99138, Nicosia, North Cyprus sustainability@neu.edu.tr

sustainability.neu.edu.tr