Dokuz Eylül University · SDG Progress Report Series 2025

SDG 1: No Poverty — Progress Report 2025

Dokuz Eylül University, İzmir, Türkiye · Published by the DEU Sustainability Office & Social Contribution Coordination Office, and Data Management Unit · Reporting period: 1 January – 31 December 2025 (with 2026 continuity updates)



Figure 1: Dokuz Eylül University Central Campus, the primary hub for university-wide student welfare, central dining halls, and academic administration.

1. Executive Summary

Strategic Focus: In calendar year 2025, Dokuz Eylül University significantly expanded its multifaceted social safety nets to protect students and local communities from socioeconomic vulnerability. The University delivered 25,256 free means-tested meals, employed 320 students in on-campus part-time positions, and became Türkiye's premier university partner in the national İŞKUR Youth Programme with an unprecedented 4,000 work-study quota. Simultaneously, DEU fostered regional economic development through DEPARK and the BAMBU Entrepreneurship Office, hosting 39 incubation firms, mentoring 213 local entrepreneurs, and facilitating 3.6 million TRY in TÜBİTAK BİGG equity financing. Ranked 4th nationally in YÖK's social responsibility assessment with 294 projects, DEU affirms that equitable access and community empowerment remain fundamental pillars of its research university identity.

This report forms an integral part of the Dokuz Eylül University SDG Progress Report Series 2025, detailing institutional performance, operational initiatives, research contributions, and civic partnerships dedicated to United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 1 (No Poverty). The report encompasses calendar year 2025 (with continuity benchmarks from 2026) and complements the University's comprehensive Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (GreenMetric Report DEUSR 26), the 2025 Administrative Activity Report (2025 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu), and the 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.

2. Institutional Governance, Policy Framework & Quality Management

Dokuz Eylül University approaches poverty alleviation not through fragmented charity, but as an institutional entitlement embedded in statutory university governance, quality assurance frameworks, and long-term strategic planning. Institutional actions are guided by three interlocking governance pillars:

- **Senate Education Policy:** Approved by the University Senate on 30 December 2025 (Decision No. 721/11), this policy formally guarantees equal educational access for economically disadvantaged students, enshrines barrier-free learning environments, and mandates continuous proactive academic retention mechanisms.
- **University Policy Statement on Poverty Reduction:** Issued by the DEU Sustainability Office in 2026, codifying the University's duty to provide means-tested subsidies, low-cost student accommodation, and targeted outreach to low-income populations across all ten urban and district campuses.
- **SKS Department Directives & Procedures:** Executed by the Health, Culture and Sports Department (SKS), including SKS Standard Operating Procedure SKS-01.İA-09 (Free Meal Scholarship Evaluation), the Directive on Part-Time Student Employment (Higher Education Law No. 2547, Art. 46), and the Student Dormitory Accommodation Directive.

To coordinate and institutionalize public-facing civic initiatives, the University established the Social Contribution Coordination Office (Toplumsal Katkı Koordinatörlüğü) in July 2024. Chaired by a Vice-Rector and comprising designated representatives from every academic and administrative unit, the Coordination Office plans, documents, and evaluates all community welfare and anti-poverty projects. In its 2025 Social Contribution Strategic Analysis and Activity Report (covering 1 October 2024 – 1 October 2025), the office recorded approximately 3,900 distinct civic activities spanning eight strategic domains.

Crucially, all anti-poverty and social contribution initiatives are integrated into the KALBİS Quality Information Management System. Unit plans, beneficiary indicators, and programmatic outputs undergo rigorous Plan–Do–Check–Act (PDCA) quality cycles, aligning institutional operations with the Turkish Higher Education Quality Council (YÖKAK) accreditation standards and the performance indicators of DEÜ's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan.

3. Summary Progress Metrics (2024 vs. 2025)

The table below presents verified performance indicators for SDG 1, establishing empirical continuity between 2024 and 2025 across student financial support, work-study allocations, incubation activities, and community welfare programs:

Indicator Area / Metric	2024 Result	2025 Result	Unit / Context	Source & Verification
Means-Tested Free Meals Served	18,535	25,256	meals served	SKS Department (Faaliyet Raporu Table 77)

Indicator Area / Metric	2024 Result	2025 Result	Unit / Context	Source & Verification
Unique Meal Scholarship Recipients	272	695	students supported	SKS Social Services Unit (Proc. SKS-01.İA-09)
Total Subsidized Campus Meals Served	1,291,831	867,929	meals served	SKS Dining Services (15 campus dining halls)
Part-Time Student Workers (Law 2547)	280	320	students employed	SKS Department (76,800 paid hours)
İŞKUR Youth Programme Work-Study	N/A (new)	1,750 (Spring) / 4,000 (25-26)	student places	DEÜ Haber (15 Oct & 3 Nov 2025) / İŞKUR
İŞKUR Work-Study Programme Applicants	N/A (new)	5,467	applicants (40 progs)	Urla 2nd Notary Public Kura Protocol
Low-Cost Student Dormitory Residents	1,004	1,062	students housed	SKS Housing Unit (Buca & Evka-1 Dorms)
Mediko Psychological Counseling (PDR)	1,265	654	clients supported	Mediko-Sosyal Health Center
Low-Income Student Completion Rate	70%	75%	graduation / retention	Student Affairs / Academic Advisory Tracking
Total Enrolled Student Population (FTE)	65,863	59,567	enrolled students	DEÜ 2025 Faaliyet Raporu (Table 61)
International Students Enrolled	5,798	4,347	students (99 nations)	International Office (Faaliyet Raporu Table 63)
Cohort from Low/Lower-Middle Income	~20%	~25%	share of int'l cohort	World Bank Country Classification FY2027
Incubation Start-ups Hosted (DEPARK)	25	39	active enterprises	DEPARK BAMBU & GreenMetric ED.11
New Start-ups Established in Year	17	18	new ventures	DEPARK Technopark Management
Entrepreneurs Receiving Free Mentoring	184	213	individuals trained	DEPARK BAMBU Acceleration Office
TÜBİTAK BİGG Equity / Grant Funding	2,700,000	3,600,000	TRY (4 ventures)	DEPARK Technology Transfer Office (DETTO)

Indicator Area / Metric	2024 Result	2025 Result	Unit / Context	Source & Verification
YÖK Social Responsibility Ranking	N/A	4th in Türkiye (294 projects)	national ranking	YÖK National Evaluation / DEÜ Haber
AVESİS SDG 1 Academic Records	52	65	publications & items	AVESİS Institutional Database (2025-2026)

4. Operational Student Support & Anti-Poverty Initiatives

4.1 Means-Tested Free Meal Scholarships & Subsidized Campus Dining

To eliminate nutritional insecurity as a barrier to academic persistence, Dokuz Eylül University administers an expansive meal scholarship program through the Department of Health, Culture and Sports (SKS). The allocation of free daily meals is governed by SKS Standard Operating Procedure SKS-01.İA-09. Applications are processed annually through the centralized student information system, where applicants are evaluated against a rigorously audited socioeconomic matrix factoring in monthly household income, parental employment status, family dependency ratio, physical disability, orphan status, and disaster impact (including students displaced by the devastating February 2023 earthquakes).

In 2025, the University served 25,256 completely free means-tested meals, representing a 36.3% increase over the 18,535 free meals provided in 2024 (DEÜ 2025 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu, Table 77). The number of unique scholarship recipients expanded to 695 students. In addition, the University provides substantial universal dining subsidies across its 15 campus dining halls: in 2025, a total of 867,929 meals were served to students at prices approximately 80% below external commercial rates. As highlighted in the DEU GreenMetric Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (SR-26), campus dining operations are prepared under strict hygiene and nutritional standards across four central production kitchens, ensuring that all students have guaranteed access to warm, balanced meals.



Figure 2: Historic Buca Faculty of Education Campus and student residence precinct, serving student meal scholarship operations and affordable dormitory facilities.

4.2 Part-Time Student Campus Employment (Higher Education Law No. 2547, Art. 46)

DEU maintains an institutionalized part-time student employment scheme pursuant to Article 46 of Law No. 2547. The program provides structured on-campus work opportunities tailored specifically to undergraduate and graduate students requiring financial assistance. Participating students are placed in university libraries, computer laboratories, administrative directorates, cultural centers, and scientific research institutes.

To safeguard academic progression, work hours are strictly capped at a maximum of 15 hours per week (up to 60 hours per month), scheduled around each student's official course timetable. In 2025, 320 students were employed under this statutory framework (an increase from 280 in 2024), completing 76,800 cumulative paid work hours. Wages are funded through institutional appropriations and student social service budget allocations, providing students with dignified economic self-sufficiency alongside marketable professional experience.

4.3 The National İŞKUR Youth Programme: Transformative Scale and Social Equity

The year 2025 marked a historic leap forward in student financial support when Dokuz Eylül University became the first Turkish university to sign a formal strategic partnership protocol with the Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) for the implementation of the national 'İŞKUR Youth Programme' (İŞKUR Gençlik Programı). The agreement was officially signed on 15 October 2025 by DEÜ Rector Prof. Dr. Bayram Yılmaz and İzmir İŞKUR Provincial Director Kadri Kabak, witnessed by the University's senior leadership and SKS Directorate.

Following an initial spring 2025 pilot that supported 1,750 students, DEU was awarded the single largest quota in Türkiye for the 2025–2026 academic year: 4,000 student places across 40 distinct operational programs. Dokuz Eylül University was one of only three universities nationwide entrusted with this

maximum 4,000-student ceiling, reflecting its unmatched administrative efficiency and commitment to youth employment.

To ensure absolute transparency and democratic access, a public lottery was held on 31 October 2025 in the Rectorate Bordo Salon before Saime Kırındı, Urla 2nd Notary Public and an alumna of DEÜ Faculty of Law, broadcast live to the public via DEUWebTV. A record 5,467 eligible students applied for the 4,000 available places. Commencing on 17 November 2025 and continuing through 30 June 2026, participating students complete work-study shifts (between 1 and 3 days per week, 7.5 hours per day) in campus sustainability, digital archiving, library services, social solidarity, and green campus operations. Crucially, İŞKUR provides a direct daily cash stipend of 1,083 TRY per working day. For a student working the maximum allocated days, this translates to over 13,000 TRY per month in direct personal income—a transformative sum that fully covers living expenses and insulates vulnerable youth from extreme poverty.



Figure 3: Open-space student social and cultural areas on campus, reflecting DEU's dynamic student community engaged in work-study and sustainability programmes.

4.4 Subsidized Student Dormitories & Low-Cost Accommodation

Metropolitan housing costs represent the single largest expenditure facing university students in İzmir. To provide affordable shelter, the University operates two dedicated student residences managed by SKS:

- **DEU Buca Student Dormitory:** Located adjacent to the Buca Faculty of Education, providing safe, affordable residence for female undergraduate students from outside İzmir.
- **DEU Evka-1 Boys' Dormitory:** Situated in Buca Evka-1 with dedicated ring shuttle service to Central Campus, providing housing for male undergraduate students.

In 2025, DEU dormitories accommodated 1,062 students (up from 1,004 in 2024). Annual accommodation fees range between 15,000 and 30,000 TRY, representing an 80% discount compared to prevailing private rental rates in the Buca district. Furthermore, under SKS social welfare provisions,

dormitory fees are partially or completely waived for students from verified low-income households, earthquake survivors, and orphaned youth.

4.5 Psychological Counseling, Retention Monitoring & Graduation Success

Economic poverty exerts severe psychological distress on students, frequently resulting in academic disengagement, chronic absenteeism, and course failure. To address this holistic vulnerability, DEU's Psychological Counseling and Guidance Unit (Mediko-Sosyal PDR) offers confidential, free-of-charge individual clinical counseling, crisis intervention, and academic coping workshops. In 2025, 654 students received direct one-on-one psychological counseling (following 1,265 clients supported in 2024).

In parallel, the University's Student Affairs and Academic Advisory System tracks early-warning indicators, including low semester credit completion (falling below 20 ECTS). When academic advisors identify students underperforming due to financial distress, they trigger an integrated intervention protocol connecting the student with Mediko counseling, SKS meal scholarships, and İŞKUR work-study opportunities. As a direct result of these integrated retention safety nets, the graduation and progression rate of students receiving means-tested financial aid reached 75% in 2025 (surpassing the 70% baseline in 2024), demonstrating that economic disadvantages are successfully mitigated throughout their degree lifecycle.

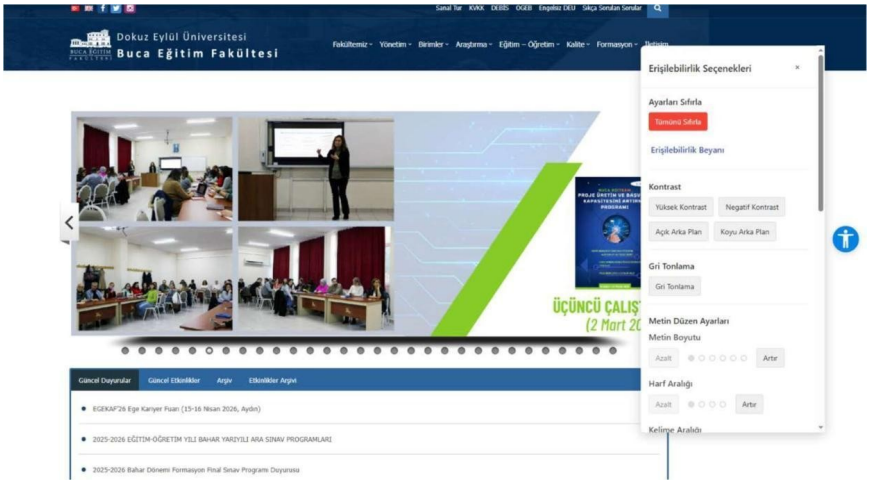

Figure 4: Dedicated barrier-free accessible transport fleets and student support services across DEU campuses, ensuring equitable physical and academic mobility.

4.6 Regional Vocational School Network: Decentralized Access across Outer Districts

A cornerstone of DEU's institutional strategy against regional socioeconomic inequality is its extensive network of vocational schools (Meslek Yüksekokulları - MYO) strategically located in the peripheral, non-metropolitan districts of İzmir province. While metropolitan campuses concentrate research and professional faculties, DEU's five district vocational schools provide localized, debt-free higher education tailored directly to regional agro-industrial and manufacturing economies:

- **Bergama Vocational School:** Offers specialized two-year associate degrees in Computer Programming, Construction Equipment Operation, and Occupational Health and Safety, serving youth from northern Aegean rural communities.

- **Efes Vocational School (Selçuk):** Focuses on Food Processing Technology, Aircraft Cabin Services, and Cultural Heritage/Tourism Management, directly supporting the southern agricultural and tourism basin.
- **Torbalı Vocational School:** Focuses on Industrial Glass and Ceramic Technologies, Mining, Logistics, and Welding Technologies, partnering directly with the Torbalı Organized Industrial Zone (OIZ).
- **Kiraz Vocational School:** Specializes in Animal Husbandry, Dairy Processing Technologies, and Veterinary Laboratory Services, empowering agricultural youth in the Küçük Menderes agricultural valley.
- **Seferihisar Necat Hepkon Faculty & MYO Units:** Provides professional associate and undergraduate programs in Sports Management, Physical Therapy, and Coastal Tourism.

By maintaining these accredited vocational programs in rural districts, DEU allows students from lower-income rural households to attain highly marketable post-secondary qualifications while continuing to live with their families, avoiding catastrophic urban housing and commuting expenses.



Figure 5: Kiraz Vocational School Campus, demonstrating DEU's commitment to decentralized, localized vocational education for rural and lower-income communities in the Aegean region.

5. Community Anti-Poverty Programmes: Start-Up Assistance & Financial Support

Sustainable poverty alleviation requires expanding productive economic opportunities and fostering resilient local enterprises. Dokuz Eylül University operationalizes this commitment through Dokuz Eylül Technology Development Zone (DEPARK) and the Dokuz Eylül Technology Transfer Office (DETTO), providing comprehensive entrepreneurial acceleration, physical incubation, and direct financial facilitation to early-stage ventures in the Aegean innovation ecosystem.

5.1 Free Entrepreneurship Training, Mentoring & Incubation at DEPARK

Operating across two major technopark sites—TGB-1 (Central Campus) and TGB-2 (15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus)—DEPARK is home to over 150 R&D companies, 2,000 active researchers, and generates over 1.25 billion TRY in annual R&D turnover (DEU GreenMetric Report SR 24-25 & SR 26). Through its specialized BAMBU Entrepreneurship and Pre-Incubation Office, DEPARK provides free incubation services, co-working spaces, prototyping laboratories, and legal-financial mentoring to aspiring local entrepreneurs, students, and community innovators.

In 2025, DEPARK hosted 39 active incubation firms (up from 25 in 2024), with 18 newly founded start-ups entering the ecosystem during the reporting period. A total of 213 local entrepreneurs and student founders completed free structured training programs, including the BAMBU+ Acceleration Program (launched 18 November 2025), which delivered intensive coaching in business model canvas design, cash-flow management, and intellectual property rights.



Figure 6: 15 Temmuz Health and Art Campus, home to DEPARK Health Technopark (TGB-2), hosting high-tech biotechnology incubators, clinical research labs, and startup acceleration hubs.

5.2 Direct & Indirect Financial Assistance to Local Start-ups

Recognizing that early-stage capital scarcity is the primary cause of startup failure among economically disadvantaged founders, DEPARK provides substantial non-cash subsidies and direct grant facilitation:

- **Incubation Rental Subsidies:** Early-stage ventures accepted into DEPARK incubation facilities receive between 50% and 75% rental fee discounts on office and laboratory leases compared to commercial technopark rates, significantly lowering overhead costs during the precarious proof-of-concept phase.
- **BİGGSİNERJİ Free Co-Working Scheme:** Through the BİGGSİNERJİ initiative, qualified pre-incubation teams receive 1 full year of completely free shared office space, high-speed fiber internet, meeting

rooms, and cloud infrastructure, representing an audited non-cash institutional subsidy of 171,039.60 TRY per venture.

- **Direct TÜBİTAK BİGG Equity Capital Facilitation:** Acting as an accredited Implementing Agency (Uygulayıcı Kuruluş) for the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) 1812 BİGG Investment-Based Entrepreneurship Support Programme, DEPARK provided intensive mentoring to 15 venture teams in 2025. Four ventures successfully secured direct TÜBİTAK BİGG equity/grant funding of 900,000 TRY each, unlocking a total of 3,600,000 TRY in early-stage risk capital (first disbursement 5 August 2025), up from 2,700,000 TRY across 3 ventures in 2024.

5.3 Spotlight on Sustainable and Social Enterprises

DEPARK actively prioritizes ventures that address environmental sustainability, community resilience, and healthcare equity:

- **SmartOceanics Marine Technologies A.Ş.:** Founded on 15 September 2025, this start-up develops autonomous marine robotics and artificial intelligence algorithms for ocean pollution monitoring, coastal protection, and sustainable maritime resource management.
- **Biop Biotechnology A.Ş.:** An innovative bio-diagnostic venture developing rapid, low-cost point-of-care clinical diagnostic test kits, making advanced medical screening affordable for regional public health clinics and underserved populations.
- **ECOMINIMIZE Project:** An EU Erasmus+ funded partnership (€60,000 project budget) coordinated through DEPARK and the Faculty of Business, providing free open-access toolkits and training for local micro-enterprises to minimize material waste and energy costs.

6. Support for Students from Low- and Lower-Middle-Income Countries

Dokuz Eylül University maintains an open, internationalized academic community. In the 2025–2026 academic year, the University hosted 4,347 enrolled international students representing 99 nationalities (DEÜ 2025 Yılı İdare Faaliyet Raporu, Tables 63–65). Demonstrating its commitment to global equity and solidarity, DEU actively recruits and supports students from the world's most vulnerable and economically distressed nations:

- **Subsidized Public Higher Education Tuition:** In strict compliance with Turkish Higher Education Council regulations, foreign student tuition fees at Dokuz Eylül University are heavily subsidized by the Turkish state. Annual tuition fees are kept at minimal baseline rates, enabling talented students from developing nations to access accredited European higher education at a fraction of global tuition costs.
- **Türkiye Scholarships (YTB) Cohort:** DEU hosts hundreds of international students funded through the Türkiye Scholarships (Türkiye Bursları) program, administered by the Presidency for Turks Abroad and Related Communities (YTB). Türkiye Scholars receive 100% full tuition waivers, monthly living stipends, free state accommodation, free general health insurance, and round-trip international travel.
- **Support for Conflict-Affected and Displaced Students:** Approximately 25% of DEU's international student population originates from countries classified by the World Bank (FY2027) as low-income

or lower-middle-income economies, including crisis-affected nations such as Syria (115 students), Afghanistan (57), Yemen (25), Sudan (20), Somalia (11), Ethiopia (10), and South Sudan (8). For these vulnerable students, DEU provides emergency SKS meal support, free medical care at DEU Research and Application Hospital, and free intensive Turkish language preparation at the DEU Language Center (DEDAM / TÖMER).

7. Partnerships and Strategic Collaboration

Poverty alleviation demands cross-sectoral synergy between academia, regional government, judicial authorities, and national employment agencies. In 2025, DEU consolidated three landmark institutional partnerships:

- **İzmir Governorship Protocol on Family Protection & Strengthening:** On 20 March 2025, Dokuz Eylül University signed a landmark cooperation protocol with the Governorship of İzmir to protect vulnerable family structures and eliminate intergenerational poverty, formally launched on 15 April 2025 at Sabancı Cultural Palace by İzmir Governor Dr. Süleyman Elban and DEU Rector Prof. Dr. Bayram Yılmaz. The protocol, executed in alignment with the national '2025 Year of the Family' declaration, mobilizes DEU's academic experts in sociology, psychology, education, and medicine across five strategic axes: community education, family counseling, child poverty mitigation, scientific policy modeling, and the formal establishment of a specialized DEU Family Institute (Aile Enstitüsü).
- **Turkish Employment Agency (İŞKUR) Strategic Partnership:** Formalized on 15 October 2025 with the İzmir Provincial Directorate of İŞKUR, this partnership established DEU as the leading university work-study hub in Türkiye, securing 4,000 paid student positions with a 1,083 TRY daily stipend.
- **İzmir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office Probation Services Protocol:** Established on 27 March 2025 between DEU and the İzmir Chief Public Prosecutor's Office, this protocol provides educational, vocational, and psychological rehabilitation for individuals serving probation sentences, facilitating socioeconomic reintegration and preventing cycle-of-poverty criminal recidivism.



Figure 7: DEU Sabancı Cultural Palace in Konak, venue of the high-level launch of the İzmir Governorship and DEU Cooperation Protocol on the Protection and Strengthening of the Family.

8. Teaching, Learning and Sustainability Literacy

Education is the ultimate structural antidote to intergenerational poverty. Dokuz Eylül University integrates the study of poverty alleviation, social welfare policy, and economic inclusion across all levels of study:

- **Specialized Academic Courses:** The Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences (Dokuzçeşmeler Campus) offers dedicated undergraduate and postgraduate courses in Social Policy, Poverty and Income Inequality, Labor Economics, Welfare Economics, and Regional Economic Development.
- **Public Health and Clinical Equity:** The Faculty of Medicine and Institute of Health Sciences deliver specialized curricula in Social Epidemiology, Community Health, and Healthcare Access for Vulnerable Populations, training future doctors to address the social determinants of health.
- **GreenMetric Curriculum Mapping:** As documented in the DEU Sustainability Report 2025–2026 (GreenMetric Report SR-26, Indicator ED.1 & ED.3), the University offers a total of 2,289 sustainability-related courses across 531 undergraduate and graduate programs. This extensive curricular integration ensures that graduates across engineering, business, law, education, and health sciences possess deep competencies in social equity and sustainable development.



Figure 8: Dokuzçeşmeler Campus, home to the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, the primary academic center for teaching and research in poverty economics and social policy.

9. Research & Scholarly Output on SDG 1

DEU faculty and researchers continuously monitor, analyze, and publish on poverty dynamics, social transfers, and economic vulnerability. Verified through the AVESİS Academic Data Management System, DEU researchers produced 65 academic outputs directly tagged to SDG 1 during the 2025–2026 reporting period:

Scholarly Output Type	Count (2025-2026)	Thematic Scope & High-Impact Examples
Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles	34	Research published in WOS/Scopus journals on rural poverty, minimum wage impacts, social welfare transfers, and labor precariat.
Funded Research Projects	2	Multidisciplinary projects funded by TÜBİTAK and regional development agencies addressing urban poverty and disaster resilience.
Organized Symposia & Conferences	2	Academic symposia examining social equity, regional development, and educational inclusion.
International Conference Papers	9	Presentations at international congresses, including the International Congress on the Role of Universities in Social Inclusion (Linz, May 2025).
Postgraduate Dissertations & Theses	4	Master's and PhD theses in social policy and development economics examining poverty thresholds and female labor force participation.
Specialized Academic Courses	13	Advanced curriculum modules specifically mapping to poverty eradication frameworks.

A prominent institutional research highlight in 2025 was the ANTİKDEM project, an interdisciplinary scientific initiative combining architecture, geophysics, and economics to develop disaster-resilient preservation models for vulnerable historic settlements. By safeguarding fragile built environments and

supporting local heritage-based artisanal economies, the project provides practical mechanisms to shield low-income historic communities from catastrophic post-disaster destitution.

10. Social Responsibility & Civic Contribution

Dokuz Eylül University's civic engagement achieved historic national recognition in 2025. According to the official evaluation conducted by the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) covering 15,395 social responsibility projects across all Turkish state and foundation universities, Dokuz Eylül University ranked 4th in Türkiye in social responsibility performance (DEÜ Haber, 1 July 2026).

YÖK's rigorous methodology evaluated only structured projects with dedicated budgets, measurable objectives, documented social outputs, and a minimum operational duration of two months. DEU executed 294 fully compliant social responsibility projects in 2025, marking an extraordinary 79.3% increase over its 2024 performance (164 projects). As highlighted by DEÜ Rector Prof. Dr. Bayram Yılmaz, these projects directly served vulnerable populations, providing free community health screenings, mobile dental clinics, educational tutoring for disadvantaged children, and digital literacy workshops for rural elders.

Furthermore, student-led volunteerism is deeply embedded in campus life. As recorded in the DEU GreenMetric Report (SR 24-25, pp. 131–132), the DEU Volunteer Student Society continuously operates the KIVILCIM Project, delivering material and academic support to financially disadvantaged families, children with special needs, and disabled individuals throughout İzmir. Student societies also organized the 23 Nisan National Village School Festival, bringing educational games, science kits, and library books to remote rural schools.

11. UI GreenMetric & Campus Sustainability Integration

While the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings framework focuses primarily on campus environmental sustainability, Dokuz Eylül University tightly integrates ecological management with socioeconomic equity across its official submissions (GreenMetric Reports SR 24-25 and SR 26):

- **SKS Facility Integration (SR-26, pp. 46):** GreenMetric reports document the comprehensive operational footprint of facilities managed by the Department of Health, Culture and Sports (SKS). SKS coordinates campus cafeterias, student residences, and student health centers, ensuring that low-income students reside and study in energy-efficient, environmentally healthy spaces.
- **Dining Hall Organic Waste & Resource Conservation:** DEU campus kitchens process over 22.5 tons of organic waste annually through industrial composting machines installed across four central preparation kitchens (SR-26, pp. 66–67). Furthermore, safe food leftovers are sorted daily and delivered to animal care shelters or community support schemes. The installation of touchless filtered water stations across campuses has eliminated the financial burden of single-use bottled water for budget-conscious students.
- **Technopark Economic Stimulus (ED.11):** GreenMetric Indicator ED.11 (SR 24-25, pp. 132–133) provides verified data on DEPARK's innovation footprint, demonstrating how 18 newly established sustainable start-ups and 150+ tenant R&D companies generate over 1.25 billion TRY in regional economic revenue, creating high-skill employment and expanding local purchasing power.

12. Continuous Improvement & Strategic Horizons (2026–2030)

In alignment with Dokuz Eylül University's 2026–2030 Strategic Plan (Stratejik Plan 2026–2030), the University has defined three key strategic milestones to reinforce its anti-poverty safety nets over the upcoming planning cycle:

- **Automated Socioeconomic Early-Warning System:** Enhance the KALBİS quality portal and Student Information System (DEBİS) to automatically track students at risk of financial attrition, enabling instantaneous intervention before students experience academic termination.
- **Full Quota Utilization & Work-Study Expansion:** Sustain DEU's national leadership in the İŞKUR Youth Programme, aiming for 100% quota utilization of the 4,000 allocated places and expanding paid campus apprenticeships in green transition and digital archiving.
- **Longitudinal Graduate Career & Income Tracking:** In collaboration with the Alumni Relations Office and Career Planning Center, establish a 5-year post-graduation tracking system to measure the employment rate and income mobility of students who received meal scholarships and work-study support.

13. Institutional Contact & Document Control

This document represents an official submission component for the Times Higher Education (THE) Sustainability Impact Ratings 2027. Inquiries regarding data governance, verification audits, or institutional partnerships should be directed to:

- **Institutional Unit:** Dokuz Eylül University Sustainability Office
- **Official Address:** DEU Rectorate Central Campus, Cumhuriyet Bulvarı No: 144, 35210 Alsancak, Konak, İzmir, Türkiye
- **Official Portals:** https://greencampus.deu.edu.tr · https://sks.deu.edu.tr · https://haber.deu.edu.tr
- **Contact Email:** surdurulebilirlik@deu.edu.tr · toplumsalkatki@deu.edu.tr
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