

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



NUMBER OF
PUBLICATIONS & THESES

43



NUMBER OF
PROJECTS

15



NUMBER OF
EVENTS

114



NUMBER OF
COURSES OFFERED

106



NUMBER OF
COLLABORATIONS

103



NUMBER OF
AWARDS

32

SDG 4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

Targets and Indicators

4.1 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes

4.2 By 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education

4.3 By 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university

4.4 By 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship

4.5 By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations

4.6 By 2030, ensure that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

4.a Build and upgrade education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all



4.b By 2020, substantially expand globally the number of scholarships available to developing countries, in particular least developed countries, small island developing States and African countries, for enrolment in higher education, including vocational training and information and communications technology, technical, engineering and scientific programmes, in developed countries and other developing countries

4.c By 2030, substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States

Courses, Theses, Publications

Courses

Operating directly under the Rectorate, TED University's Basic Sciences Unit embodies the institution's philosophy of delivering high-quality, inclusive, and interdisciplinary education accessible to all students, regardless of their major field of study. The Unit coordinates a range of foundational liberal-education courses, spanning mathematics, biology, statistics, history, literature, philosophy, and psychology, that are open to every undergraduate student across faculties. These courses aim to cultivate analytical reasoning, scientific literacy, and critical reflection, enabling learners to connect disciplinary knowledge with broader social and ethical contexts. By ensuring that every student engages with both scientific inquiry and humanities, the Unit strengthens TED University's holistic approach to education, fostering intellectual versatility, civic awareness, and the capacity for lifelong learning. In this way, the Basic Sciences Unit serves as a cornerstone of TEDU's mission to democratize access to transformative learning experiences and sustain the values of quality education throughout academic and professional life. Below is a short list of the courses that were

taught in the university during the 2024 academic year, all of which directly addressed quality education.

TEDU 101 – First Year Experience at TEDU:

This course supports recent entrants to the university by facilitating their transition into higher-education life, integrating the institution's values, vision and academic culture. Through modules on goal-setting, time-management, academic integrity, digital literacy, and effective communication, students are equipped not only to navigate the first year successfully but also to develop skills that underpin ongoing lifelong learning. By fostering self-awareness, reflective habit-formation and responsible participation in campus life, the course aligns with TED University's broader strategy to empower learners with competencies that reach beyond the classroom and into professional and civic life. In doing so, it reflects the commitment to quality education that cultivates confident, adaptable and socially engaged graduates, contributing to the mission of creating inclusive, high-impact educational pathways for all.

Evidence: <https://core.tedu.edu.tr/en/tedu-101-first-year-experience-tedu>

Dersin Adı	First Year Experience at TEDU
Dersin Kodu	TEDU 101
Dersin Amacı	To facilitate students' adaptation to university life, support their academic and personal development, and help them develop a sense of belonging to TEDU culture and values.
Öğrenme Çıktıları	→ Recognises the fundamental principles of TEDU culture and values. → Understands TEDU rules, regulations and academic procedures. → Develops basic academic skills. → Sets personal goals. → Communicates effectively with the TEDU community.
AKTS	1

TEDU 102 – Service Learning: This course immerses undergraduate students in community-engaged service learning by blending theory, practice and civic action. Through collaborations with NGOs, fieldwork in local contexts and project management experiences, students learn to assess community needs, design and evaluate initiatives, and engage ethically and reflectively with diverse populations. Modules emphasize leadership, social responsibility, equity, human rights, and sustainable



change, thereby equipping students not only with practical skills but also with the mindset needed for active citizenship and lifelong learning. By institutionalizing this course across disciplines and inviting students to apply their academic learning to real-world challenges, TED University reaffirms its commitment to broadening access to meaningful educational pathways and fostering inclusive, reflective learners.

Dersin Adı	Service Learning
Dersin Kodu	TEDU 102
Dersin Amacı	This course will help students develop a critical perspective and ethical approach in working with people in different communities and community-based organizations. The objectives of the course are to understand community engagement and working in context; collect, analyze information from the community and develop community engagement projects that would bring mutually beneficial partnerships. The course also aims to support students' leadership and effective communication skills and raise their awareness regarding sustainable development goals.
Öğrenme Çıktıları	→ Identify issues, needs, and resources of the community. → Demonstrate the ability for ethical community engagement and building mutually-beneficial partnerships. → Apply community-based project management skills such as taking initiative, following directions, leading, and solving problems. → Recognize the value of service and social responsibility for a sustainable future. → Use collaboration and leadership skills such as listening effectively, and resolving conflicts. → Reflect on their self and the level of their engagement with others.
AKTS	1

Evidence: <https://core.tedu.edu.tr/en/tedu-102-service-learning>

TEDU 109 – Digital Competence: This course prepares undergraduate students for the demands of the digital era by developing essential skills such as algorithmic thinking, Python programming, digital content creation, and productive collaboration using contemporary tools. By guiding learners to understand information-systems fundamentals, produce digital artifacts, and apply problem-solving logic in academic and professional contexts, the course empowers them with transferable competencies critical for today's evolving workforce. As universities embrace their social role beyond traditional teaching, this course positions TED University to deliver inclusive education that aligns with institutional priorities of digital literacy, lifelong adaptability, and broad access to high-quality learning experiences, a strategic contribution to the mission of quality education for all.

Evidence: <https://core.tedu.edu.tr/en/tedu109-digital-competence>

TEDU 120 – Career Planning: This course equips undergraduate students with the competencies necessary to navigate lifelong career development. Through modules on self-assessment, goal setting, career awareness, and decision-making, students explore how their values, interests, and skills align with different career paths.

Dersin Adı	Digital Competence
Dersin Kodu	TEDU 109
Dersin Amacı	The general objective of this course is enabling learners to use digital skills effectively in order to enhance their academic and professional capacities. For this purpose, the course introduces the fundamental concepts of information systems and guides the learner to make sense of the digital ecosystem by exploring the relationships between those components. In addition, the course is designed to extend the reach of the productive capabilities of the learner by presenting the tools and methods for content creation, collaboration, and task management by means of digital platforms. Furthermore, the course is aimed at providing the learners with fundamental programming skills in order to prompt them to contemplate the possible implementations of coding skills in their preferred field of expertise.
Öğrenme Çıktıları	→ Demonstrate the utilization of algorithmic thinking for problem-solving → Create digital content practically and effectively → Use digital tools to enhance personal as well as professional productivity → Write and understand code in Python programming language addressing problems that do not require complex business logic or data manipulation → Recognize the fundamental components of information systems and their relationships → Comply with the principles of information security and digital ethics → Navigate through digital resources to access valid and useful information
AKTS	5

The course integrates reflective exercises, mentoring, and CV preparation workshops to strengthen employability and professional identity formation. By empowering students to take ownership of their learning and career trajectories, the course contributes to the development of lifelong adaptability, agency, and transferable skills essential for meaningful participation in the 21st-century workforce. It aligns with the university's mission to foster employability and lifelong learning, directly supporting the global vision of quality education that prepares individuals for productive, fulfilling, and responsible professional lives.

TEDU 400 – Student Development Seminars: Provided by the Center for Teaching & Learning, TED University's TEDÜ400 series of student development seminars is a mandatory, credit-bearing course designed to foster academic, personal, and professional growth throughout a student's undergraduate experience. The program invites students to participate in seminars, conferences, and workshops delivered by faculty, researchers, authors, and practitioners from Turkey and abroad. Students are required to complete a minimum of ten sessions, at least two or three each year, prior to graduation. Available freely to all undergraduate students, the program emphasizes mentorship, exposure to cutting-edge scholarship, and peer-networking



opportunities. By moving beyond discipline-specific instruction to include personal development, reflective practice, and community interaction, TEDÜ400 strengthens students' capacity for continuous learning, self-directed growth, and adaptability in evolving professional and civic environments, embodying TED University's commitment to inclusive, high-quality education and fulfilling the mission of lifelong learning.



Evidence: <https://ctl.tedu.edu.tr/en/tedu400-student-development-seminars>

COM 250 – Effective Communication Techniques: This course develops undergraduates' core communication competencies by focusing on verbal and non-verbal messages, active listening, conflict and stress management, time-management and teamwork. In conjunction with its business-communication dimension, the curriculum addresses career-related skills such as CV and cover-letter preparation, job-search strategies, and interview techniques. By integrating workplace readiness and interpersonal communication, COM 250 strengthens students' transferable skills and professional agency, key elements of lifelong learning and employability. The course aligns with TED University's strategic aim to empower students with adaptable, reflective capacities for life beyond graduation, thereby contributing to inclusive and high-quality education.

Evidence: <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en/node/21722>

COM 350 – Media and Society: This course explores the dynamic relationships between media systems, cultural practices, and societal change, guiding students to

understand how media influences public discourse, identity formation, and democratic engagement. Through critical analysis of media texts, platforms, and policies, learners examine issues such as representation, digital inequality, media regulation, and participatory media practices. By developing both analytical and applied skills, such as media production, collaborative storytelling, and community engagement projects, students are prepared to become informed and responsible participants in digital and civic spheres. The course aligns with TED University's strategic objective of cultivating adaptable, reflective learners capable of navigating complex media environments and contributing meaningfully to society—thereby supporting inclusive, high-quality education and lifelong learning trajectories.

Evidence: <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/com-350>

COM 360 – Media Literacy and Digital Culture: This advanced course empowers students to navigate the complexities of contemporary media landscapes by developing critical digital competencies and reflective media awareness. Through a curriculum spanning algorithmic influence, information ethics, digital content creation, and collaborative media practices, learners engage with both theoretical frameworks and applied media projects. The course emphasizes active participation, digital citizenship, and responsible communication in networked societies, skills essential for the twenty-first-century professional and civic environment. By fostering digital literacy, analytical reasoning, and inclusive media practices, COM 360 directly supports TED University's commitment to lifelong learning, equipping graduates with adaptable, relevant capabilities for evolving workplaces and global communication contexts.

Evidence: <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/com-360>

HUM 120 – Introduction to Humanities: This course invites undergraduate students to engage with key questions of human existence, cultural diversity, and ethical reflection through interdisciplinary



perspectives. Covering topics from philosophy and art to literature and social institutions, HUM 120 encourages learners to develop critical thinking, reflective dialogue, and an appreciation for multiple world-views. Through writing, discussion, and collaborative inquiry, the course fosters the foundational skills of empathy, cultural literacy, and lifelong intellectual curiosity. By positioning humanities education as a dynamic and accessible part of the university curriculum, TED University reinforces its commitment to inclusive, broad-based education, preparing students not only for professional pathways but also for active, engaged citizenship and continuous learning throughout life.

Evidence: <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/hum-120>

LIT 110 – Introduction to Literature: This course engages undergraduate students in the study of literary texts from diverse cultural and historical contexts, guiding them to sharpen analytical reading, interpretive reasoning, and expressive writing skills. By exploring fiction, poetry, drama, and non-Western literatures, learners develop insight into human experiences, cultural identities, and ethical dilemmas. Assignments emphasize collaborative discussion, critical reflection, and creative response, thereby cultivating communication, empathy, and sustained intellectual inquiry. In embedding these competencies within the curriculum, TED University contributes to an inclusive, holistic educational approach that values both professional preparation and lifelong intellectual exploration.

Publications

TED University's research portfolio demonstrates a consistent commitment to strengthening educational quality, equity, and innovation through evidence-based inquiry. Across its diverse Scopus-indexed publications, the university's scholars have examined how social, institutional, and pedagogical factors shape learning opportunities and educational outcomes. Their work addresses issues such as

inclusive education, teacher professional growth, digital literacy, and sustainable pedagogical design, combining theoretical depth with practical relevance. A significant strand of this scholarship focuses on reducing structural inequalities in schooling, developing culturally responsive teaching frameworks, and promoting equitable access to quality education for marginalized learners. Another major line of research explores teacher learning and professional capacity building, with studies on mentoring, classroom innovation, and reflective practice offering transformative models for early-career educators. The university's researchers also engage with emerging fields such as artificial intelligence in education, quality assurance, sustainability reporting, and the ethical use of data in learning environments, helping bridge the gap between digital transformation and human-centered pedagogy. Collectively, these scholarly contributions reaffirm TED University's position as a research-driven institution that advances educational justice, lifelong learning, and the continuous improvement of teaching and learning practices, embodying the spirit of Quality Education as a cornerstone of sustainable development.

In its mission to link research, practice, and policy, TED University's faculty publication record further strengthens its alignment with SDG 4: Quality Education. A notable example of this is the University's dual contribution to the Routledge volume *English Literacy Educators Working with Refugee Families* (2024), which examines the intersections of language education, migration, and social inclusion. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Özlem Erden Başaran authored the chapter titled "Role of Non-Governmental Organizations Supporting Inclusive Education Reform", offering a critical analysis of how NGOs collaborate with schools, governments, and communities to promote inclusive educational practices, equitable resource distribution, and capacity building in marginalized regions. Complementing this, Dr. Merih Uğurel Kamlıoğlu served as co-editor (alongside Dr.



Clarena Larrotta) of the same volume and contributed several chapters, including “Impact of Immigration Policy on Adult Literacy Teaching,” “Best Practices Model: Teaching Refugee Adults and Families,” and “Intercultural Communicative Competence for Refugee Learners.” Together, these scholarly contributions showcase TED University’s active engagement in global discourses on refugee education, literacy development, and social inclusion, while advancing the institution’s mission to integrate academic research with policy relevance and community practice. By contributing to international educational research and knowledge exchange, TEDU’s faculty demonstrate how higher education can serve as a catalyst for lifelong learning and educational equity across both national and transnational contexts.

Evidence:

<https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en/node/22147>

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Events - Activities

In alignment with its founding mission of democratizing access to knowledge, TED University actively promotes lifelong learning through a broad range of publicly available educational resources. The institution recognizes that equitable access to information and continuous learning are fundamental components of social development and sustainable education. As part of its "city university" vision, TEDU provides the public with open and inclusive access to its academic resources,



professional expertise, and digital learning platforms. These initiatives ensure that learning transcends the boundaries of formal higher education, enabling individuals from all backgrounds to engage in intellectual, professional, and personal growth. Through its library services, online archives, media engagement, and public lectures, TED University transforms academic knowledge into a public good, advancing SDG 4.3 by fostering accessible, high quality and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

TED University's Ayşe Ilıcak Library: the library embodies this commitment to open and inclusive learning. Functioning as a research and public library, it serves not only TED University students and staff but also members of the Turkish Education Association and the public. This “city university” model promotes social engagement and intellectual inclusivity by providing open access to educational materials, reading spaces, and digital databases. The library stands as a vital hub for knowledge exchange, encouraging citizens from diverse social and educational backgrounds to engage in continuous personal and professional learning.



Evidence:

<https://library.tedu.edu.tr/en/external-user-library-membership-form>

Media Podcasts: Complementing this physical accessibility, TED University strategically uses media and digital platforms to share academic expertise with the wider community. Through radio programs, televised interviews, podcasts, and freely accessible panel discussions, the University translates scholarly insights into learning resources available to everyone. A notable

example of this outreach is the Bi’Konuşma: Piyasa series, where Prof. Dr. Ayça Tekin-Koru and Prof. Dr. Levent Akdeniz, Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Administrative Sciences, discussed Mario Draghi’s report on Europe’s competitiveness, exploring its implications for Türkiye and the European economy (See Image 1). By translating complex economic findings into accessible dialogue, the program enhanced public understanding of global economic dynamics and civic literacy. Similarly, the Department of Political Science and International Relations hosted the public panel “US Elections and Turkish Foreign Policy,” streamed on YouTube, which examined democratic processes and international relations in an accessible format for students, scholars, and citizens.



Image 1. Bi’Konuşma: Piyasa series by Prof. Dr. Ayça Tekin-Koru and Prof. Dr. Levent Akdeniz

Evidence:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d09WC4kiC24>

Gestalt Therapy by Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Voltan Acar: TED University’s faculty members have also made significant contributions to national psychological and educational literacy through media appearances. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Voltan Acar discussed Gestalt therapy and its contemporary applications on Açık Radyo’s Açık Bilinç program (See Image 2).

Evidence: <https://gpc.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/our-faculty-member-department-guidance-and-psychological-counseling-prof-dr>



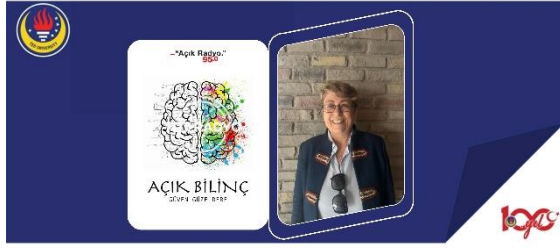


Image 2. Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Voltan Acar on Açık Radyo's Açık Bilinç program

Healthy Boundary Setting in Child Development by Dr. Begüm Serim Yıldız:

Dr. Begüm Serim Yıldız appeared on TRT TÜRK's Aile Programı to discuss healthy boundary setting in child development (See Image 3). These open-access broadcasts make expert psychological knowledge freely available to the public, enhancing mental health awareness and advancing lifelong learning in well-being and counseling.

Evidence: <https://gpc.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/dr-begum-serim-yildiz-explained-importance-boundaries-children-trt-turk>

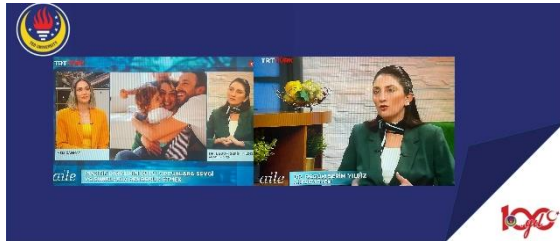


Image 3. Dr. Begüm Serim-Yıldız discussing healthy boundary setting in child development

TEDU's official YouTube Channel: Finally, TED University's official YouTube Channel serves as an expansive digital learning archive. Freely accessible to the public, the channel hosts lectures, interviews, and panel discussions with experts from diverse fields. Topics include Career Opportunities in Civil Society, Succeeding in the New World of Work, The Future of the Architecture Profession, and Freelance Career Pathways in Economics. By maintaining an open, multilingual, and interdisciplinary video library, TEDU ensures that academic

discourse, professional insights, and cultural dialogue remain accessible to all learners, embodying the essence of SDG 4.3 by promoting inclusive and lifelong access to knowledge. TED University advances lifelong learning not only through its formal academic offerings but also through a vibrant ecosystem of public events, exhibitions, and open lectures designed to engage learners across all stages of life. These events transform the university into a civic learning hub, where education, dialogue, and social innovation intersect. By hosting accessible, interdisciplinary, and participatory events, TEDU sustains a culture of open intellectual engagement and continuous learning aligned with SDG 4.3.

Career and Preference Day: A cornerstone of this engagement is the annual Career and Preference Days, which bridges the gap between higher education and the world of work (See Image 4). Through exhibitions, counseling sessions, and open lectures by industry professionals, the event provides hundreds of high-school students and families with direct exposure to university life and future career paths. More than a recruitment initiative, it serves as an early introduction to lifelong career learning, helping prospective students cultivate realistic expectations about their studies and professional futures.



Image 4. Career Day Event



A Day at TEDU: **Complementing to career and preference day**, the outreach program “TEDÜ’de 1 Gün” (A Day at TEDU) offers high-school students a first-hand experience of university life, designed to reduce barriers to higher education and promote curiosity-driven learning. In its latest edition, the program hosted over 600 students from 20 different secondary schools across Ankara, including both public and private institutions. Participants attended sample lectures from various faculties, toured laboratories, design studios, and learning spaces, and engaged in interactive workshops led by university mentors. Sessions on communication skills, sustainability, and problem solving were designed to reflect TEDU’s student-centered teaching philosophy. The initiative also provided university students with the opportunity to serve as peer mentors, creating a two-way learning process that strengthened intergenerational dialogue. By demystifying university life and encouraging students from diverse backgrounds to envision higher education as an achievable goal.

Third Ankara Undergraduate Literature Conference: Cultural and academic literacy form another key pillar of TED University’s public engagement. The Third Ankara Undergraduate Literature Conference illustrates how TEDU fosters scholarly dialogue as a form of lifelong learning. By offering undergraduate students from multiple universities the opportunity to publicly present their research, the conference democratizes access to academic exchange and strengthens communication skills that extend well beyond graduation. Similarly, the Sustainability Conference exemplifies TEDU’s commitment to integrating environmental literacy and sustainability into lifelong education. Each year, the conference gathers researchers, NGOs, students, and policymakers to explore the intersection of education, climate, and social responsibility, transforming sustainability from a disciplinary topic into an ongoing civic practice.

National Classroom Teaching Student Congress (USOOK 2024): Another significant public event in TED University’s lifelong learning portfolio is the III. National Classroom Teaching Student Congress (USOOK 2024), organized jointly by TED University and Başkent University, in hybrid format with both in-person and online participation (See Image 5).



Image 5. National Classroom Teaching Student Congress (USOOK 2024), organized jointly by TED University and Başkent University

The congress invited contributions from classroom teachers, teacher candidates, academics, and even primary-school students collaborating with their teachers, showcasing pedagogical research and best practices. It featured panels, symposia, and workshops on the theme “Empowering children and youth as researchers: overcoming barriers to participation.” Revenue generated from the event was allocated to provide stationery support to a primary school located in an earthquake-affected region, aligning academic service with community solidarity. As an open-access gathering welcoming multi-level educational stakeholders, USOOK 2024 exemplifies TEDU’s commitment to inclusive educational discourse, providing a platform for knowledge exchange, capacity-building, and community outreach. By bringing together students, practitioners, and scholars in a publicly accessible event, the congress reinforces SDG 4.3’s objective of expanding lifelong learning opportunities and amplifies TEDU’s role as a civic institution of educational innovation.

Evidence:

<https://ege.tedu.edu.tr/en/node/29163>



7th Counseling Psychology Students' Day and the "Surviving Chaos" Symposium:

Likewise, events such as the 7th Counseling Psychology Students' Day and the "Surviving Chaos" Symposium promote mental-health awareness and counseling literacy for both students and the public, reinforcing the principle that psychological well-being is an essential dimension of lifelong learning (See Image 6).



Image 6. 7th Counseling Psychology Students' Day and the "Surviving Chaos" Symposium

The symposium, held in collaboration with leading practitioners, focused on coping strategies in times of uncertainty, emotional regulation, and self-care methods for both counselors-in-training and the wider public. Interactive workshops, panel discussions, and reflective group sessions created a unique platform for dialogue between professionals and students, fostering experiential learning and mutual support.

Evidence: <https://gpc.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/7th-guidance-and-psychological-counseling-students-day-event-theme-survival>

Science Academy Machine Learning Summer School 2024: Digital innovation and sustainability literacy also occupy a central place in TEDU's lifelong learning agenda. The Science Academy Machine Learning Summer School 2024, co-organized with the Science Academy and Middle East Technical University, brought together over 250 students, researchers, and professionals for lectures, coding workshops, and ethical debates on artificial intelligence and algorithmic transparency. All learning materials were made freely available online, ensuring that the program's educational

benefits extended far beyond its four-day duration. In parallel, the Coderspace Software and Technology School provided intensive week-long training on software development, UX/UI design, and digital entrepreneurship. Beyond technical skills, these programs cultivated creativity, collaboration, and ethical awareness, competencies essential for lifelong learning in the digital era.

Huawei Cloud Day: TED University further strengthens its role as a hub of technological engagement through industry-academia events such as Huawei Cloud Day – TED University (See Image 7).



Image 7. Huawei Cloud Day at TED University

Held on 16 December 2024 at TED University's Multipurpose Hall, this event brought together technology professionals, academics, students, and developers for a full-day program centered on cloud technologies, artificial intelligence, mobile innovation, and digital transformation. Participants attended expert-led keynote presentations, panel discussions, and networking sessions that bridged practical industry insight with academic knowledge. By offering access to sectoral experts and fostering dialogue on emerging tech trends,



Huawei Cloud Day enabled professional learning and knowledge exchange beyond the university campus.

Evidence:

<https://developer.huaweicloud.com/intl/en-us/activity/5b12a77c66584edab1d3d0f62be4bf1e>

Entrepreneurship and Leadership Summit:

Finally, the Entrepreneurship and Leadership Summit hosted by TED University was designed as a dynamic public forum to inspire and empower young leaders (See Image 8). Organized in collaboration with Junior Chamber International Ankara, YİBDER, and Hacettepe University, the event brought together high school and university students from across Ankara in a full-day program featuring keynote panels on “Climate Leadership & Artificial Intelligence” and “Entrepreneurial Stories.” In addition to institutional presentations by the TEDU Entrepreneurship Office and İstasyon TEDU, the summit included workshops led by Ankara City Council Youth Center, interactive sessions on impact-focused innovation, and networking opportunities for participants. By situating this event within the fabric of civic engagement and professional development, TEDU aimed to expand students’ visions of leadership, foster their entrepreneurial mindsets, and build bridges between academic insight and real-world application.

Evidence:

<https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en/node/29676>



Image 8. the Entrepreneurship and Leadership Summit hosted by TED University

CorporateD 24: Equally significant, CorporateD 24 has emerged as one of TED University’s flagship platforms for dialogue between academia, the private sector, and civil society (See Image 9).



Image 9. CorporateD 24 organized by the Department of Business Administration

Organized by the Department of Business Administration in collaboration with student societies, the event brings together corporate representatives, startup founders, and university students to explore the intersections of leadership, creativity, and innovation in the modern workplace. The 2024 edition featured keynote panels on digital transformation, sustainable management, and the future of work, focusing on how ethical leadership and adaptability shape resilient organizations.

Evidence:

<https://society.tedu.edu.tr/gundemde-neler-var/corporated-24>

Collaborations, Projects, Awards

TED University fosters vocational learning and lifelong professional growth through a diverse range of hands-on, discipline-specific events and certificate programs that blend theoretical knowledge with practical application. Each initiative extends the university’s pedagogical expertise to educators, learners, and community members across Türkiye, strengthening skills for work, inclusion, and sustainable development in alignment with SDG 4.3.

Mathematics Festival 2024: TED University’s commitment to vocational



learning begins with events that merge research with practical teaching innovation. The Mathematics Education Day, organized by the Faculty of Education, convenes teachers, researchers, and pre-service educators to share innovative classroom strategies and problem-based teaching models. The event serves simultaneously as a professional development platform for in-service teachers and as experiential learning for future educators. Similarly, the Mathematics Festival 2024 represents TEDU's creative contribution to science communication (See Image 10).



Image 10. Mathematics Festival 2024

Faculty and students collaborated to design interactive booths and math games that made abstract concepts tangible and enjoyable for all ages. These initiatives position mathematics not merely as an academic field but as a cultural and social practice that enhances curiosity, collaboration, and public engagement with science.

Evidence:

<https://eme.tedu.edu.tr/sites/default/files/2024-07/web.jpg>

Adventures of Little Explorers Science Festival: TED University also nurtures scientific curiosity and early STEM literacy through inclusive, child-centered outreach. The Adventures of Little Explorers Science Festival, organized annually by the Department of Early Childhood Education, introduces young children from multiple preschools across Ankara to basic scientific reasoning and experimentation. Through playful inquiry and group-based exploration, the festival builds early skills in observation, collaboration, and creativity, core components of lifelong learning and critical thinking.

Evidence:

<https://sem.tedu.edu.tr/course/disiplinler-arasi-yaklasimla-ogrenme-stem-egitimi>

Special Education Material Festival: Within TED University's outreach and inclusion portfolio, the Special Education Material Festival, coordinated by Dr. Tünay Özçelik, exemplifies participatory and equity-driven vocational training (See Image 11).



Image 11. Special Education Material Festival

The event brought together middle-school students with special educational needs and TEDU teacher candidates enrolled in the Special Education and Inclusion course to co-design, test, and refine instructional materials. By engaging learners as co-evaluators and material designers, the festival created a reciprocal learning environment that merged empathy with applied pedagogy. This collaboration not only produced innovative, accessible educational tools but also reinforced inclusive education and strengthened special-education pedagogy through sustainable design practices.

Evidence:

<https://educ.tedu.edu.tr/en/node/28312>

Continuing Education Center (SEM): TED University's Continuing Education Center (SEM) further strengthens its vocational training ecosystem by offering teacher-education and professional development programs that meet international quality standards. The Pre-school English Education Instructor Certificate Program equips early childhood educators with specialized skills in English-language pedagogy, emphasizing interactive play, age-appropriate instruction, and scaffolded learning. Building on this



foundation, the Global Learning and Teaching Certificate Program trains teachers and teacher candidates across Türkiye in inquiry-based learning, intercultural understanding, and student agency. Certified by the International Baccalaureate Educator Certificate (IBEC) framework, TED University is authorized to deliver professional preparation for the IB Primary Years Programme (PYP). These initiatives collectively position TEDU as a national hub for teacher capacity-building, ensuring that professional learning remains continuous, research-informed, and globally benchmarked.

Evidence:

<https://sem.tedu.edu.tr/course/okul-oncesi-donemde-ingilizce-egitimi-egitici-sertifika-programi>

Beyond pedagogical training, TEDU-SEM extends its lifelong learning vision to diverse professional fields through specialized vocational programs. These include the Public Procurement Legislation Training, which builds advanced competencies in legal and administrative frameworks for procurement professionals; the ESG and Sustainability Workshop, which enhances participants' literacy in corporate sustainability, ethical governance, and environmental responsibility; the Accelerated Quality Assurance Training for Higher Education Institutions, designed to strengthen institutional monitoring, evaluation, and accreditation processes; and the Türkiye Sustainability Reporting Standards (TSRS) and Principles of Sustainability Reporting, which provides up-to-date technical guidance for professionals on national and international sustainability reporting norms.

Evidence:

<https://sem.tedu.edu.tr/course/kamu-ihale-mevzuati-egitimi>

Together, these festivals, certificate programs, and professional development projects demonstrate TED University's leadership in connecting vocational learning

with sustainable development. By providing inclusive, high-quality, and practice-oriented learning environments, TEDU empowers educators and learners to engage in lifelong skill formation and knowledge sharing.

TEDU 102 Service Learning Course:

Another key pillar of TED University's educational outreach is the TEDU 102 Service Learning Course, which transforms undergraduate education into a platform for civic engagement and community capacity-building. Within this course, students design and implement social responsibility projects that directly address local educational and social needs, applying academic learning to real-world contexts.

In 2024, student teams carried out a wide array of initiatives, including "Donation of Books and Medicine Cabinet Supplies: A More Effective School Environment for Every Child," "Recognize Your Rights, Protect Your Freedom" (a civic education project for the general public), and "Career Journey Meeting with Mentors" (a mentoring event held for students at Keçiören Ünlü Sınav Anatolian High School). Other student-led initiatives included "Digital Literacy Presentation for Middle School Students," "Breaking the Taboos of English" (for primary school learners), "Technology Addiction in High School Age," and "The Unifying Power of Traditional Games," which used play as a bridge for social cohesion (See Image 12, 13, 14).





Image 12. Donation of Books and Medicine Cabinet Supplies: A More Effective School Environment for Every Child



Image 13. “Recognize Your Rights, Protect Your Freedom”, which is a civic education project for the general public

Projects such as “Oyuncak Kütüphanesi Preschool & Games and Toys Festival” and “Count Cubes with Numbers” supported early numeracy, creative learning, and inclusion for preschool and primary school students. Particularly notable was “Embracing Our Future: Social Adaptation of Immigrant Children,” which promoted empathy, intercultural dialogue, and social integration for young refugee learners.



Image 14. Oyuncak Kütüphanesi Preschool & Games and Toys Festival

Collectively, these initiatives reached hundreds of children, families, and educators across Ankara, demonstrating how higher education can serve as an engine for community empowerment and lifelong learning. By embedding service learning into the core curriculum, TED University institutionalizes civic engagement as a pedagogical model, ensuring that every student experiences education not only as personal development but also as social contribution.

Campus

TED University recognizes that lifelong learning extends beyond the boundaries of campus life, and that universities bear a social responsibility to empower communities and educators as continuous learners. Within this framework, TEDU has institutionalized a series of long-term outreach and teacher-development programs that bridge the gap between higher education, local schools, and community needs.

A flagship example of this approach is the TED Ambassadors Project, implemented by the Faculty of Education in collaboration with the TED Schools network. Each year, senior teacher-education students are assigned to TED schools across Türkiye to conduct classroom observations, co-teaching sessions, and extracurricular learning activities (See Image 15).





Image 15. TED Alumni Ambassadors Project

In 2024 alone, more than 160 students participated in three-day school immersions across 16 cities. This initiative embodies the university's dual mission of improving teacher readiness and promoting community-based learning. By placing student-teachers directly into real classrooms, TEDU ensures that future educators engage in authentic professional reflection, while schools benefit from innovative teaching resources and new pedagogical perspectives.

Evidence:

<https://alumni.tedu.edu.tr/en/alumni-ambassador>

TED University also plays a central role in Türkiye's post-pandemic educational recovery through its Project for the Remediation and Strengthening of Learning Losses in Primary Education. Coordinated by the Department of Elementary Education, the initiative provides remedial literacy and numeracy instruction to over 300 children who experienced academic setbacks during school closures and offers workshops for teachers and parents on differentiated instruction and emotional support, ensuring that learning recovery remains inclusive and sustainable.

Erasmus+ OPTIMIST Project, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ufuk Balaman: TED University also invests heavily in the professional development of practicing and pre-service teachers through national and international collaborations. The Erasmus+ OPTIMIST Project, led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ufuk Balaman, develops digital task-based learning tools to enhance English-language instruction in middle schools across Türkiye, Austria, and Italy (See Image 16). Complementing this, the Mathematics Coaching Project supports early-career mathematics teachers in designing and implementing higher-order cognitive tasks.

Both projects exemplify how TEDU's research directly informs professional learning, transforming theory into practice and nurturing a global culture of teacher lifelong development (See Image 16).



Image 16. Erasmus+ School Education Project by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ufuk Balaman

Evidence: <https://educ.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/new-erasmus-school-education-project-assoc-prof-dr-ufuk-balaman>

The Rengarenk Yarınlar Project: Locally, the University maintains consistent engagement with rural and under-resourced schools through creative outreach programs. The Rengarenk Yarınlar Project mobilizes TEDU students from various faculties to organize art-based learning activities and psychosocial workshops for children in primary schools (See Image 17). The most recent implementation took place at Kuzguncuk Primary School, a public school in Samsun, where students led painting, storytelling, and creative expression sessions aimed at promoting emotional resilience and social inclusion among children.





Image 17. Rengarenk Yarınlar Project

Evidence: <https://avesis.tedu.edu.tr/etkinlik-organizasyonu/316bf9d4-4cfb-49ca-b8dc-4af3b7eeaf4/rengarenk-yarinlar-kuzuluk-ilkokulu-etkinlik-organizasyonu>

We Have a Voice: In collaboration with Ankara Metropolitan Municipality's Women's Counseling Center, TED University completed the "Sesimiz Var" (We Have a Voice) psychoeducational group project, supervised by Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Voltan Acar from the Department of Guidance and Psychological Counseling (See Image 18).



Image 18. “Sesimiz Var” (We Have a Voice) psychoeducational group project, supervised by Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Voltan Acar

The nine-week program targeted women who experience self-silencing, offering interactive sessions on trustful communication, emotional awareness, boundary-setting, and assertiveness. By providing open, community-based therapeutic education, TEDU extends psychological literacy and emotional resilience beyond campus, contributing to SDG 4 through mental-health

awareness and lifelong learning for underserved populations.

Evidence: <https://gpc.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/psychosocial-group-study-titled-our-voice-collaboration-ankara-metropolitan>

Schoolwide Differentiated Instruction Methods Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adile Gülşah Saranlı: by As part of its ongoing commitment to advancing teacher professional development, TED University's Department of Elementary Education – Early Childhood Education Program implemented large-scale in-service training programs led by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Adile Gülşah Saranlı. The first program, “Schoolwide Differentiated Instruction Methods,” was delivered for all preschool teachers at TED Ankara College Kindergarten, focusing on inclusive strategies that address children’s diverse readiness levels, learning profiles, and interests. Building upon this, Dr. Saranlı led a national training titled “How Can We Help All Our Children Achieve Success through Enrichment and Support Methods in Education?” reaching over 600 preschool and subject teachers from approximately 43 TED Colleges across Türkiye. These programs empower educators to design differentiated, enriched learning experiences and sustain reflective, evidence-based pedagogy.

Where Will Mathematics Benefit Us Seminar Series: TED University further amplifies its school-based professional development through the TED Colleges Seminar Series – Mathematics Education. Faculty members from the Department of Mathematics Education delivered seminars for preschool, primary, middle, and high school mathematics teachers across the TED Schools network. Topics included “Where Will Mathematics Benefit Us?” by Dr. Elif Medetoğulları, “Mathematical Problem Solving” by Assoc. Prof. Zerrin Toker, and “Mathematical Reasoning” by Assoc. Prof. Elçin Emre Akdoğan. By offering targeted professional learning directly within the school ecosystem, this series reinforces



effective mathematics instruction and strengthens institutional outreach.

The Importance of Outdoor Education in Early Childhood Seminar: TED University also promotes equitable access to lifelong learning by extending training opportunities to educators in socioeconomically disadvantaged regions. As part of this, Dr. Fatma Yalçın delivered a seminar titled “The Importance of Outdoor Education in Early Childhood” at Mamak Neşeli Çocuklar Kindergarten as part of the Erasmus+ “Discover, Imagine, and Create with Nature” project. Mamak, a district of Ankara with comparatively lower socioeconomic indicators, represents a community where early educational interventions and teacher empowerment have particularly strong impact. The seminar emphasized creativity, curiosity, and ecological awareness among young children.

Minik Dilekler Ağacı Project: A flagship illustration of TEDU’s community-centered model is the Minik Dilekler Ağacı Project, a long-running social responsibility initiative combining education, creativity, and community engagement (See Image 19).



Image 19. Minik Dilekler Ağacı Project Organized by TEDU students and faculty, the project delivers psychosocial workshops, learning materials, and art activities to children in rural areas affected by socio-economic hardship, particularly in Gaziantep and Kahramanmaraş. Beyond distributing educational and material support, the project’s workshops use art and storytelling

as therapeutic tools, empowering children to express emotions and build confidence.

Evidence: <https://www.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/tiny-wishes-tree-project>

Scientific Research Project on Mathematics Education Inequalities: The Scientific Research Project on Mathematics Education Inequalities, led by faculty from TED University’s Department of Elementary Education, explores how socio-cultural hierarchies, institutional belief systems, and classroom-level pedagogical routines contribute to unequal access to mathematics learning opportunities. By combining ethnographic classroom observations with large-scale data on teaching practices, the project identifies key mechanisms through which implicit biases, tracking systems, and curricular rigidity can reproduce inequities in achievement. Beyond diagnosis, the study provides a transformative framework for fostering equity-oriented teaching, advocating for flexible curriculum design, culturally responsive pedagogy, and the active inclusion of underrepresented student groups in mathematics learning. The project’s outcomes have been shared with national policy stakeholders and integrated into TEDU’s teacher education programs, reinforcing the University’s mission to link evidence-based research with sustainable educational reform.

Evidence:

<https://avesis.tedu.edu.tr/proje/49ae22d4-f821-400e-b8ab-3d140e84d94b/matematik-egitiminde-esitsizliklerin-olusumu-matematik-ogrenme-firsatlarini-duzenleyen-dusunce-sistemleri-ve-pedagogik-uygulamalarin-kulturel-analizi>

Project for the Professional Growth of Young Mathematics Teachers: The Project for the Professional Growth of Young Mathematics Teachers (TÜBİTAK 1001), coordinated by Prof. Dr. Erdiñ Çakıroğlu and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zerrin Toker in collaboration with partners from five universities, focuses on strengthening the pedagogical and analytical competencies of teachers in their



first five years of professional practice (See Image 20).



Image 20. The Project for the Professional Growth of Young Mathematics Teachers (TÜBİTAK 1001) by Prof. Dr. Erdiñ Çakıroğlu and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Zerrin Toker

Through a structured mentorship model, participants receive ongoing guidance from experienced educators as they design, implement, and assess higher-order mathematical tasks that promote reasoning and conceptual understanding. The project also integrates a digital professional learning platform, enabling teachers to access real-time feedback, share classroom evidence, and build a national community of reflective practitioners. By aligning professional growth with research-based innovation, the initiative directly advances SDG 4.3 (lifelong learning for educators) and SDG 4.4 (skills for work and life), positioning TED University as a driving force in cultivating teacher excellence and educational equity across Türkiye's mathematics education landscape.

Evidence: <https://educ.tedu.edu.tr/en/whats-happening-tedu/project-aimed-development-young-mathematics-teachers-earned-support-tubitak>

Technical Assistance for Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training through Establishment of Sectoral Centres of Excellence: Finally, through expert involvement in the EU–MoNE co-funded project “Technical Assistance for Improving the Quality of Vocational Education and Training through Establishment of Sectoral Centres of Excellence”, completed in December 2024, Dr. Olcay Yılmaz contributed to the development of national

vocational education quality frameworks. By supporting teacher training modules, quality assurance processes, and competency-based curricula, TEDU reinforces SDG 4.3 and 4.4, promoting equitable access to quality vocational education and lifelong skills for employment, decent work, and entrepreneurship.

Campus-Policy

TED University's 2023–2027 Strategic Plan enshrines lifelong learning and inclusive access as foundational pillars of institutional growth. The plan outlines "Educational Excellence & Access" as a key strategic area, committing TEDU to expand its role as a civic university that provides educational services beyond its immediate student body. It emphasizes the principle that education should not be confined to enrolled students but must also serve the broader community through open resources, public participation, and community-oriented programs.

Within the plan, TEDU commits to strengthening external engagement and inclusive outreach by integrating its educational mission into local ecosystems and underserved regions. This includes formalizing policies that grant community members, professionals, and educators access to university knowledge hubs (e.g. library services, public lectures, learning workshops) in alignment with the “city university” model. Furthermore, the strategic goals call for reinforcing institutional capacity for service learning, public participation, and quality assurance mechanisms that support lifelong learner inclusion.

To operationalize this vision, the plan allocates measurable performance indicators tied to outreach, public engagement, and educational access are incorporated into TEDU's monitoring and evaluation system. For example, target metrics include the number of public events, community partnerships, and outreach participants engaged per year. These institutional commitments ensure that lifelong learning is



not an ad-hoc gesture but a monitored, strategic priority.

Together, these strategic commitments provide a robust policy backbone for TEDU's lifelong learning access efforts. They signal that access and inclusion are core to institutional identity, not peripheral programs. In this light, TED University is positioned to transform its research, teaching, and community engagement into a unified framework that continuously advances accessibility, quality, and equity in education.

