CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY
Logic - Wisdom - Equality - Tradition

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS • ANNUAL REPORT

Opportunity creates resilience.

SDG 1 / NO POVERTY



An annual account of financial access, women's enterprise, local production and recovery.

Cappadocia University | Reporting Period: 2025



Local livelihoods, educational access and economic resilience in our communities.

2025 • CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY • ENGLISH EDITION

THE 2025 STORY

Expanding access to economic opportunity

Our 2025 activities connected student financial support, paid work and community-based enterprise with the development of sustainable livelihoods.

During 2025, we strengthened access to education and economic participation through scholarships, social assistance and paid work opportunities for students. Beyond our campuses, we supported women entrepreneurs in earthquake-affected Hatay, connected small-scale producers with consumers in Cappadocia and contributed research to regional recovery planning.

Our work brought together several dimensions of economic inclusion. Student support helped address the financial demands of higher education; enterprise training developed the skills needed to reach customers; producer markets opened opportunities for local commerce; and regional partnerships linked academic expertise with the recovery of communities and livelihoods.

2025 at a glance

145
STUDENT EMPLOYMENT
2024–2025 academic year

20
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS
ELEVATE first cohort, Oct 2025

24 MAY
MARKET OPENING
Cappadocia–Uçhisar, 2025

Our areas of action

Access and inclusion	Community enterprise	Recovery and policy
Scholarship and social assistance rules; student employment	Women's digital entrepreneurship; local product visibility and direct markets	Research-led tourism master plans with municipalities and regional partners

INSTITUTIONAL APPROACH

Education, research and regional development

Our applied education model connects learning with practical opportunities for students, enterprises and communities.

Our University was established as Cappadocia Vocational College in 2005 and gained university status in 2017. We have retained a strong emphasis on practice-oriented learning through our academic departments, research centres and Continuing Education Centre. Our location in Cappadocia also enables us to work closely with rural producers, local authorities and businesses.

The 2023–2028 Strategic Plan connects education, research, community contribution and sustainability within a shared institutional direction. We pursue this commitment through financial support for students, opportunities for professional development and partnerships addressing the economic priorities of our region.

FINANCIAL ACCESS

Scholarships and social assistance

Our scholarships and social assistance arrangements support access to higher education and continued participation in university life.

We administer tuition scholarships and social assistance under our Scholarships and Social Assistance Directive (YNG-008, Revision 03, August 2024). The directive establishes the Scholarships and Assistance Commission and sets out a range of entrance, regional, sibling, preference, family-circumstance and achievement-related scholarships. It also provides a separate framework for students seeking support on grounds of financial need.

Needs-based student support

Under Article 5(6), students experiencing financial difficulty because of their family income may apply for a Needs-Based Scholarship (İhtiyaç Bursu). Article 6 establishes the procedure for financial and social assistance. Students submit an application with supporting documents on their economic circumstances; Student Affairs forwards the relevant records to the Scholarships and Assistance Commission, which assesses applications and determines support in accordance with the directive.

Financial and social assistance is awarded for one academic year. Students who continue to meet the eligibility criteria may apply again in subsequent years. Article 7 also allows needs-based, academic achievement and vocational-orientation scholarships to be combined with other eligible tuition scholarships, subject to an overall limit of 100 per cent of tuition fees.

Scholarship and assistance categories

Category	Purpose or qualifying characteristic
Entrance scholarship	Non-repayable tuition support associated with placement into scholarship-designated places
Regional, sibling and preference	Eligibility linked respectively to region, enrolled siblings or preference order; conditions are defined in the directive
Children of martyrs and veterans	Tuition assistance under specific family eligibility rules
Needs-based scholarship	Requested by students whose family income circumstances meet assistance criteria
Academic and sporting achievement	Recognition of academic results or sporting achievement under defined conditions
Financial and social assistance	Individual application and Commission assessment under Article 6

These arrangements serve students enrolled in associate and undergraduate programmes. The directive also specifies the conditions, duration and administrative responsibilities attached to each form of support.

FINANCIAL ACCESS

Tuition scholarships

Our entrance scholarship arrangements reduce tuition costs for students across different levels of support.

The 2024–2025 tuition-fee records cover 2,580 enrolled students. Among them, 366 held full ÖSYM scholarships, 988 received 50 per cent scholarships and 664 received 25 per cent scholarships; 562 students paid full tuition. The three scholarship categories comprised 2,018 students.

Alongside entrance scholarships, our needs-based bursary and social-assistance provisions respond to students' individual financial circumstances and support continued participation in higher education.

PAID STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES

Paid employment for students

Part-time employment provides students with income and experience of professional working environments during their studies.

We offer part-time paid employment in University units including the Health, Culture and Sports Department and the Library. Our Part-Time Student Employment Procedures and Principles Directive (YNG.045) regulates applications, selection and working conditions, with a maximum of 15 working hours per week. Students' economic circumstances are among the factors considered in the selection process.

In the 2024–2025 academic year, 145 students worked part-time within our University, compared with 108 in 2023–2024. This represents an increase of 37 student participants, or 34.3 per cent, over the preceding academic year.

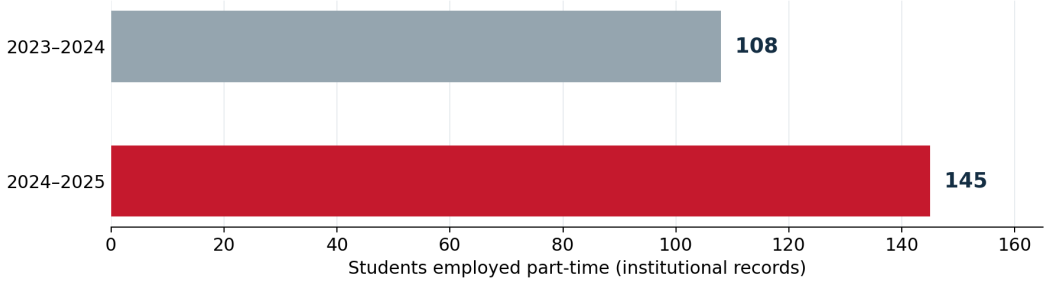


Figure 1. Paid part-time student employment in the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 academic years. The number of participating students increased from 108 to 145, corresponding to an increase of 34.3 per cent. Source: 2024–2025 institutional return.

By combining paid work with study, participating students can contribute to their day-to-day education and living expenses while developing communication, teamwork and workplace skills. The programme forms an important part of our broader student support and employability provision.

WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

ELEVATE: women's entrepreneurship in Hatay

Our international partnership supports women entrepreneurs rebuilding businesses and livelihoods following the 2023 earthquakes.

With support from the British Council, we participate in ELEVATE — Empower Women Entrepreneurs in Türkiye Post-2023 Earthquake Through Digital Capacity Building and Adopting Digital Solutions to Support Business Growth and Rebuild. The project brings us together with the University of Wolverhampton, Hatay Mustafa Kemal University, Tech West Midlands, CARE International Türkiye and local implementation partners.

The first ELEVATE training cohort began in Hatay on 7 October 2025 with 20 women entrepreneurs. Its planned nine-month programme combines digital literacy, e-commerce, social media management, digital marketing, online sales and foundational financial skills. These areas of training respond to the challenges faced by women seeking to restore business activity, reach customers and expand their market presence after the earthquakes.



Figure 2. Women entrepreneurs and project partners participating in ELEVATE activities in 2025. The first training cohort began in Hatay on 7 October 2025 with 20 women participants and a programme focused on digital enterprise skills.

Digital skills for business development

Training area	Relevance to economic participation
Digital communication and marketing	Presenting products and services to potential customers
E-commerce and online sales	Understanding routes to market beyond local footfall
Financial and digital literacy	Managing business decisions, online tools and safer digital practices
Networks and peer exchange	Connecting entrepreneurs with trainers and local institutional partners

WOMEN'S ENTERPRISE

Community engagement and project partnerships

In 2025, our ELEVATE partnership connected practical training with institutional and community cooperation in Hatay.

On 31 October 2025, we hosted an ELEVATE project presentation at our Mustafapaşa campus. The gathering introduced the project's international and regional partners and highlighted the importance of digital skills for women-led enterprises in post-earthquake recovery. Alongside the training launched earlier in October, the event strengthened visibility and cooperation around the programme.



Figure 3. ELEVATE project presentation at Cappadocia University's Mustafapaşa campus on 31 October 2025. The gathering introduced the partnership and its programme for strengthening women's digital entrepreneurship in Hatay.

ELEVATE brings women's economic participation into the centre of regional recovery. Through access to training, digital tools and professional networks, the initiative helps entrepreneurs develop the capabilities required to sustain and expand their businesses. The project also connects our contribution to poverty reduction with gender equality and decent work.

RURAL LIVELIHOODS

Cappadocia–Uçhisar Slow Food Earth Market

The Earth Market connects small-scale producers with consumers and supports locally rooted economic activity.

In cooperation with the Ahiler Development Agency and the Ministry of Industry and Technology, we developed the Cappadocia–Uçhisar Slow Food Earth Market through the Social Development Support Programme (SOGEP). Following the project protocol signed on 11 February 2025, the market opened in Uçhisar on 24 May 2025 as part of the international Slow Food Earth Markets network.

The market brings regional food products and local producers into direct contact with consumers. Its approach supports small-scale enterprise, the visibility of women producers and the continuation of locally rooted skills and production traditions. Regular market activity also creates opportunities for producers to exchange experience and strengthen relationships with customers.



Figure 4. Producers and visitors at the Cappadocia–Uçhisar Slow Food Earth Market in 2025. Opened on 24 May, the market provides a public setting for presenting regional products and building direct relationships between producers and consumers.

Direct producer–consumer relationships

Programme feature	Practical value for participants
Direct producer–consumer interaction	Product presentation, customer feedback and a channel for local sales
Emphasis on small-scale and women producers	Visibility for producers who may face limited market access
Learning and cooperative exchange	Knowledge of markets, production standards and customer relationships

PRODUCER LEARNING

Producer networks and practical learning

We support the exchange of production and marketing knowledge among regional producers and partner markets.

On 17 April 2025, a 40-person delegation comprising predominantly women producers and representatives of our University visited the Slow Food Earth Market in Tarsus. The visit enabled

participants to observe how an established producers' market operates, including approaches to producer organisation, regional product presentation and customer relationships. The experience informed exchanges within our developing Cappadocia–Uçhisar producer network.



Figure 5. Producer engagement and local food activities associated with our Slow Food network in 2025. The programme combined direct market participation with opportunities to exchange practical knowledge on small-scale production and sales.

Sustainable production workshops

The Earth Market's 2025 public programme included activities on pesticide-free agriculture and natural crop protection on 19 July, plastic-free farming and composting on 30 August, and regenerative agriculture on 8 November. These themes connected environmental stewardship with the practical needs of rural producers and the continuity of local food production.

Through workshops and exchanges, producers explored approaches to soil health, farm inputs, composting and more sustainable cultivation practices. This work complemented the Earth Market's emphasis on regional food heritage and direct relationships between small producers and consumers.

LOCAL PRODUCTION

Anadoludakiler and local production

Our research and public programmes promote the knowledge, products and skills of regional producers.

The Anadoludakiler research project (KÜN.2024-BAGP-050), led by Associate Professor Halil Burak Sakal, examines traditional production knowledge and the cultural and economic value of local products. By connecting academic research with producers and public institutions, we contribute to the visibility of regional crafts, food traditions and small-scale enterprise.

On 27 May 2025, we hosted the Anadoludakiler Cappadocia Market at our Ürgüp Factory Campus as part of Turkish Cuisine Week. The market featured regional foods, traditional crafts and presentations by producers. It gave participating producers an opportunity to introduce their work to visitors and strengthen connections across the local production community.



Figure 6. Anadoludakiler Cappadocia Market at the Ürgüp Factory Campus on 27 May 2025. The event brought together local producers, regional products and visitors as part of Turkish Cuisine Week.

Our Anadoludakiler activities connect the preservation of traditional knowledge with contemporary regional enterprise. Public market events, research and cooperation with local stakeholders help make the skills of small producers more visible within Cappadocia's economy.

POST-DISASTER RECOVERY

Hatay Tourism Master Plan and regional recovery

Our research contributes to long-term economic recovery and sustainable tourism planning in earthquake-affected regions.

We prepared the Hatay Tourism Master Plan 2025–2030 with public stakeholders to support sustainable recovery following the earthquakes of February 2023. The project began on 27 February 2025, was presented to the leadership of Hatay Metropolitan Municipality on 3 March 2025 and continued through 1 October 2025. Its focus included the region's cultural and natural assets, tourism opportunities and priorities for rebuilding a resilient visitor economy.

The master plan brought research-based analysis into the planning process for Hatay's tourism sector. Through consultation with public authorities and regional stakeholders, we helped shape a framework for the development of local services, employment-related opportunities and the long-term economic vitality of communities affected by the disaster.



Figure 7. Institutional consultation associated with the Hatay Tourism Master Plan 2025–2030. The project began on 27 February 2025 and was presented to Hatay Metropolitan Municipality on 3 March 2025 as part of the region's sustainable recovery planning.

Kahramanmaraş Tourism Master Plan

Our regional planning work also included the Kahramanmaraş Tourism Master Plan (KÜN.BAGP-2024-037). In July 2025, Kahramanmaraş Metropolitan Municipality hosted a search conference and workshop with contributions from academics, public institutions, civil society and tourism-sector representatives. The discussions brought local knowledge and professional expertise together to inform development priorities and future opportunities for the region's visitor economy.

COMMUNITY SKILLS

Skills development in local communities

Community-facing education offers practical skills for participating in the regional economy.

Our Continuing Education Centre provides professional and community education across a broad range of subjects. During the 2024–2025 academic year it offered 157 classes, comprising 1,512 teaching hours and 3,035 recorded participations. Within this programme, we delivered training relevant to the needs of local residents and small enterprises.

On 28 January 2025, we provided a free eight-hour course in Guest Relations and Sales and Marketing in Tourism for the Soğanlı community. The dated training register records 45 participants, including 24 women and 21 men. The course addressed customer relations and marketing skills relevant to local tourism services and small businesses.



Figure 8. Participants in community-facing training associated with our professional learning programmes. The free Guest Relations and Sales and Marketing in Tourism course took place on 28 January 2025 in Soğanlı, with 45 participants recorded in the dated training register.

Public conversations on sustainable livelihoods

Through our Cappadocia Sustainability Talks, we also opened discussions on food communities, agroecology, small-scale farming and the Slow Food movement to wider audiences. These conversations brought together researchers, practitioners and community perspectives on the knowledge, biodiversity and producer relationships that sustain rural livelihoods.

RESULTS & INTERPRETATION

2025 activities and contributions

Our work during the year combined student support, entrepreneurial learning, local production and regional partnerships.

Activity	2025 result	Community contribution
Scholarships and social assistance	YNG-008 needs-based and social-assistance procedures in force	Financial support framework for students facing economic difficulty
Tuition scholarships	2,018 students in ÖSYM scholarship categories within the 2,580-student record	Full and partial tuition support for access to higher education
Part-time student employment	145 students in 2024–2025, up from 108	Paid student participation and practical work experience
ELEVATE	First cohort of 20 women began on 7 October 2025	Digital business training for women entrepreneurs in Hatay
Slow Food Earth Market	Cappadocia–Uçhisar market opened 24 May 2025	Direct producer–consumer exchange and support for local production
Anadoludakiler	Cappadocia Market held 27 May 2025	Public visibility for regional producers and traditional products
Regional planning	Hatay master plan and Kahramanmaraş stakeholder activities	Research-led support for sustainable regional recovery

Economic inclusion across our activities

Student scholarships and social assistance create routes into higher education, while part-time employment offers paid experience during study. ELEVATE strengthens the digital capabilities of women entrepreneurs affected by the earthquakes. Producer markets and learning activities support local enterprise in Cappadocia, while tourism master-plan projects connect academic research with the priorities of regional recovery.

Together, these initiatives reflect an approach to poverty reduction centred on access, opportunity and the resilience of local livelihoods. We work with students, producers, entrepreneurs, public institutions and international partners to address economic challenges through education, practical skills and community cooperation.

CONTINUING COMMITMENTS

Extending opportunity through partnership

We will continue to connect financial accessibility, entrepreneurial training and local development with our University's education and community mission.

Areas for continued action

Area	Continuing priority
Student financial access	Maintain tuition scholarships, needs-based assistance and clear application procedures
Student employment	Support part-time opportunities that combine income with professional experience
Women's entrepreneurship	Continue ELEVATE training and partnerships in earthquake-affected communities
Local food and producers	Support the Slow Food Earth Market and regional producer networks
Regional development	Build on tourism master-plan cooperation and community-centred research

Relations with other Sustainable Development Goals

Our work on SDG 1 is closely related to SDG 2 through local food systems, SDG 4 through access to education and community learning, SDG 5 through women's entrepreneurship, SDG 8 through skills and economic opportunity, SDG 10 through social inclusion, SDG 11 through regional recovery planning, SDG 12 through responsible production and SDG 17 through our implementation partnerships.

We remain committed to supporting students facing economic obstacles, strengthening opportunities for women-led enterprises and local producers, and contributing our research and educational capabilities to the sustainable development of communities in Cappadocia and beyond.