CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY
Logic - Wisdom - Equality - Tradition

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS / ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

Living heritage. Shared places.

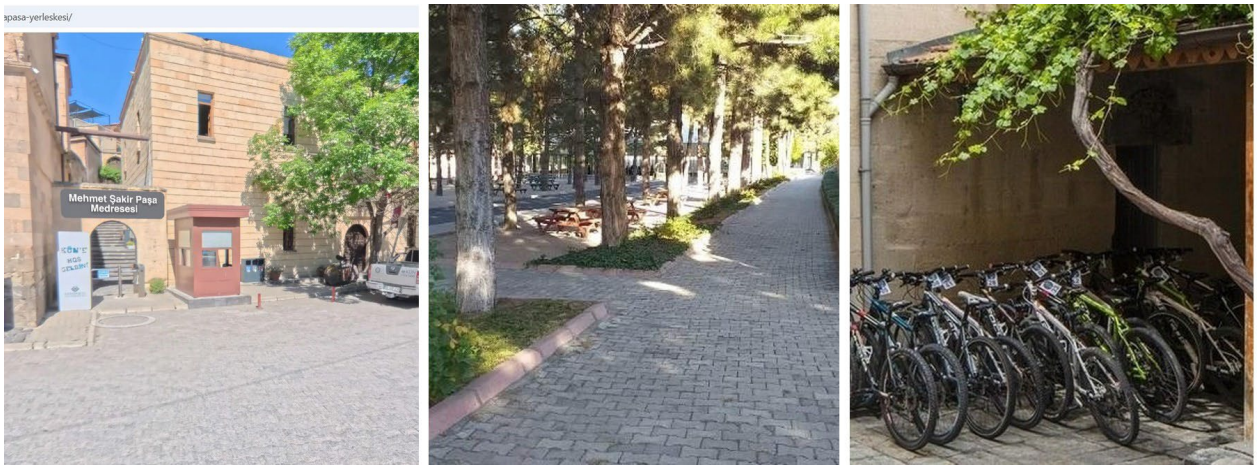
SDG 11 / SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Places matter because people belong to them.

An evidence-led account of heritage stewardship, public cultural access, inclusive mobility and place-based planning at Cappadocia University.

Reporting Period: 2025



Mustafapaşa heritage environments, pedestrian campus space and sustainable mobility: three dimensions of our place-based approach.

CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY • ENGLISH EDITION • 2025

THE 2025 STORY

A university embedded in its region

A campus can be more than a collection of buildings: it can be a partner in protecting places, serving communities and shaping the future of settlements.

Cappadocia University operates within a landscape recognised for its distinctive geological formations, historic settlements, mixed cultural traditions and living rural economies. Our distributed campus model connects teaching and research to the everyday life of Mustafapaşa, Ürgüp and surrounding communities. We see sustainable cities and communities as a question of responsible development: conserving cultural assets, making knowledge accessible, improving movement and public space, and contributing expertise to local decisions.

During 2025, our work spanned adaptive reuse at the former Ürgüp wine factory, a new partnership for a public library and cultural centre, free public exhibitions, a year-round performing-arts programme, research into intangible heritage, accessible libraries and outdoor spaces, shared campus transport, accommodation services and sustainable planning with municipalities. These are distinct activities rather than one aggregate outcome, but together they demonstrate a practical, place-based approach to sustainable community development.

16 **PERFORMANCES** 2025 cultural programme	**7** **FREE SHUTTLES** 2025 transport inventory	**90** **BICYCLES** Free to staff and students
174 **STUDENT PLACES** Published residence capacity	**2,296** **OPEN RECORDS** Institutional repository stock	**TRY 11.02m** **ARTS & HERITAGE** Reported expenditure lines

How to read our impact

We report what was undertaken, opened, maintained or formally agreed during 2025. Where a source describes capacity rather than actual attendance, an announced project rather than a completed facility, or an institutional accounting category rather than an individual restoration contract, we preserve that distinction. Figures are accompanied by their scope, institutional owner and source reference.

COMMUNITY ACCESS	RESILIENT PLACES
Free exhibitions, public performances, open academic publications, walkable campus spaces and publicly accessible heritage information.	Adaptive reuse, heritage research, sustainable transport, accommodation provision and planning partnerships that support local development.

INSTITUTIONAL PROFILE

Cappadocia as a living campus

Our University is rooted in a region where conservation, tourism, education and community life share the same physical and cultural landscape.

Cappadocia University emerged from an educational initiative founded in 2005 and acquired university status in 2017. Its academic community is spread across facilities in Mustafapaşa, Ürgüp, Uçhisar and İstanbul. The region's historic villages and adaptive reuse opportunities shape how academic facilities are developed, while the University's distinctive Latest Knowledge First approach (SOBE) supports active, practice-oriented learning connected to contemporary social needs.

Mustafapaşa, historically known as Sinasos, occupies a particular place in this story. The village preserves an architectural and cultural fabric shaped by long-standing interactions between communities. It was recognised as the World Tourism Organization's Best Tourism Village in 2021. Rather than separating campus life from the settlement, the University has adapted existing buildings and maintains teaching and administrative spaces within the historic village setting.



Figure 1. Mustafapaşa's historic architecture and village-linked public realm are integral to the University's distributed campus environment.

What makes our approach distinctive

Place-based principle	Institutional practice
Conservation before replacement	Prioritising the continued use and adaptation of existing built fabric where appropriate.
Culture as public benefit	Opening heritage settings and exhibition spaces through publicly accessible programmes.
Everyday accessibility	Coordinating walking infrastructure, cycling, shuttles and opportunities to access campus facilities.
Knowledge for local decision-making	Developing master plans, research projects and collaborations with municipalities and public bodies.

ADAPTIVE REUSE & HERITAGE

From industrial memory to civic possibility

The Ürgüp Factory Campus demonstrates how previously developed land can become a platform for education, creativity and public life.

The University's Ürgüp Factory Campus occupies the former Tekel wine-production complex, an industrial site established in the 1940s and later left unused for approximately 15 years. Its redevelopment for higher education has retained a connection to the site's industrial memory while returning established buildings and outdoor areas to active use. The 29,430 m² former factory parcel and its historic buildings illustrate a brownfield approach: making new social and educational functions possible on land that was already developed.

A milestone was reached on 9 July 2025 when Cappadocia University and the Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Culture and Tourism signed the Library and Cultural Centre Joint Use and Cooperation Protocol. The agreement envisages adapting the historic building, rock-cut cellar and adjoining structures for a public library and multipurpose cultural centre. Its 2025 achievement was the formal establishment of cooperation and a defined adaptive-reuse programme; the future public facilities are presented as a project in development.

1944
INDUSTRIAL LEGACY
Former wine factory

29,430 m²
ESTABLISHED SITE
Previously developed parcel

9 July
2025 PROTOCOL
Culture & Tourism Ministry

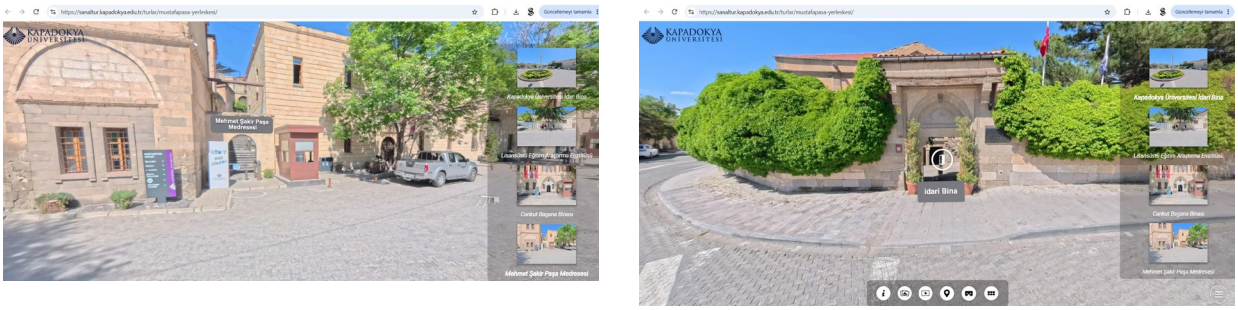


Figure 2. Historic campus building and public-facing heritage documentation in Mustafapaşa.

A public-cultural future for an established site

The planned public library is intended to support reading, independent research, cultural programmes and intergenerational learning. Associated multi-purpose venues are envisaged for performances, exhibitions, talks and educational activity. This approach links built-heritage conservation with inclusive access to cultural infrastructure rather than treating preservation and community use as separate objectives.

2025: DOCUMENTED ACTION

Continuation of educational and cultural use at the former factory; signed cooperation protocol; public festival events in the historic spaces.

NEXT-STAGE DEVELOPMENT

Conversion of historic structures into a publicly accessible library and cultural centre under the July 2025 cooperation framework.

ARTS, PUBLIC ACCESS & CREATIVE LIFE

Culture in the spaces we share

Public heritage access was most tangible when people could enter historic spaces, encounter works of art and participate in live cultural experiences.

During the Nevşehir Culture Route Festival, 2–10 August 2025, the University's Ürgüp Factory Campus hosted exhibitions of digital art, miniature art and traditional craft. The official programme explicitly listed "From Sketch to Pixel" (Eskizden Piksele) in the historic rock-cut Mahzen as a free event; the Living Heritage Traditional Doll Exhibition was also publicly advertised without an admission charge. These events provided free access to culturally significant University spaces.

The exhibition programme brought contemporary digital practice into dialogue with traditional miniature techniques and artefacts. Festival programmes, gallery encounters and cultural workshops helped turn a former industrial location into an accessible setting for interpretation and social participation.



Figure 3. University-hosted cultural festival activity at the Factory Campus, August 2025.

A year-round programme, not a single event

The Directorate of Health, Culture and Sports and the University's events calendar record 16 individual theatre, concert, recital and staged music occasions during 2025. The programme included improvisational theatre, the public performance of Deli Bayramı, concerts, the Âşık musical tradition and participatory music events. Recorded performance occasions should not be interpreted as a count of distinct individuals attending.



Figure 4. Distribution of 16 individual performing-arts occasions recorded in 2025: 5 theater performances, 6 concerts & recitals, 3 participatory music events, and 2 DJ/staged music performances.

Programme component	2025 examples
Public exhibitions	Digital art, traditional dolls and miniature art during the August Culture Route Festival.
Stage and music	Five theatre occasions and six concerts or traditional musical recitals.
Participatory culture	Three music/participatory evenings and two DJ or staged music programmes.

INTANGIBLE HERITAGE & COLLECTIVE MEMORY

Carrying living heritage forward

The cultural continuity of a region depends as much on people, language and practices as it does on monuments.

In 2025, the Cappadocia Studies Research and Application Centre (KAM), University research teams and cultural partners combined heritage fieldwork with public interpretation. Research into the memory of the Turkish–Greek population exchange examined remembered places, displacement and identity in and around Mustafapaşa. Cultural programmes connected this inquiry with regional food knowledge, storytelling, oral literature and the music of traditional performers.

The Fifth Âşık Art Symposium

On 17–18 July 2025, the University hosted the fifth Âşık Art Symposium in Mustafapaşa, with a thematic focus on Europe, including the Balkans, Hungary and Northern Europe. Its five sessions and 14 presentations connected Turkish oral-poetry and musical traditions with cross-border cultural transmission, migration and contemporary interpretation. The symposium provided a setting for researchers and practitioners to exchange knowledge concerning a living form of intangible cultural heritage.

Traditional music and regional food culture

The 2025 Besteli Mevlîd programme in Bulgaria extended cultural dialogue beyond Cappadocia. At home, the Slow Food Earth Market and associated training brought producer knowledge, local gastronomy, biodiversity and responsible food systems into public community learning. These different strands share a concern with documenting, interpreting and handing on inherited practices.

RESEARCH & MEMORY	CULTURAL TRANSMISSION
Population-exchange research, interviews and heritage interpretation undertaken through KAM and University partners.	Âşık musical storytelling, Besteli Mevlîd and food heritage presented through symposia, live practice and community activities.

LIBRARIES, LEARNING & CULTURAL RESOURCES

Heritage knowledge in the public domain

Libraries and freely accessible research are cultural infrastructure: they allow knowledge about places, history and society to circulate beyond enrolment.

The Cappadocia University Institutional Academic Archive (KÜNASİS) offered a cumulative collection of 2,705 records in the 2024–2025 reporting period, of which 2,296 were classified as open access. This represents 84.9% of recorded items. Members of the public can consult eligible open publications online without enrolment, while the use of physical University libraries by external visitors follows published authorisation arrangements.

2,705	2,296	84.9%
ARCHIVE RECORDS	**OPEN-ACCESS**	**OPEN SHARE**
Cumulative repository stock	Available public digital records	Of classified records

Through its Library and Documentation Directorate and University Press, our University supports digital research access, the preservation and circulation of publications, and institutional open-science practices. The 2025 public-access model comprises automatic online access to open resources, and application-based access to physical libraries.

Public heritage information beyond the campus

The University's heritage pages, architectural descriptions, public event listings and virtual information resources help visitors understand historic sites even where ordinary access to some working buildings is regulated. Digital heritage information complements, but does not replace, the event-specific opportunities for free physical access described in this report.

INSTITUTIONAL CULTURAL INVESTMENT

Investing in the places and collections that endure

Recorded expenditure provides a financial dimension to our work on the built environment and access to cultural and scholarly collections.

The University's 2024–2025 official financial records identify TRY 11,024,656.65 in expenditure categories used for arts and heritage reporting. The total comprises TRY 7,611,710.59 for building, facility and structural repairs and TRY 3,412,946.06 for library documentation and fixed-asset acquisitions. These are recorded institutional account totals; the building-repair category is broader than conservation work on individual protected monuments.



Figure 5. Composition of recorded 2025 arts- and heritage-related expenditure lines showing 7.61 million TRY for building repairs and 3.41 million TRY for library acquisitions.

Financial category	Recorded outlay (TRY)
Building, facility and structural repairs	7,611,710.59
Library documentation and acquisitions	3,412,946.06
Combined account categories	11,024,656.65

The accompanying accounting figures demonstrate continuing institutional resources applied to maintaining built facilities and growing collections. They should be read alongside, rather than substituted for, the direct evidence of cultural programmes, conservation-oriented planning and public access documented elsewhere in this report.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY & DAILY ACCESS

Movement with lower impact

Lower-emission travel becomes more practical when collective transport, cycling and walking are organised as everyday services.

The Cappadocia Air (KÜN Hava) programme promotes sustainable commuting and pedestrian-first campus circulation. The University's 2025 inventory records seven shuttle vehicles used for free shared services, with an average capacity of 23 passengers, and 90 bicycles available without charge to students and staff. Bicycle parking, managed vehicle access and pedestrian routes complement these provisions.

7	90	23
SHUTTLES	**BICYCLES**	**SEATS**
Free shared campus service	Free lending provision	Average shuttle capacity



Figure 6. University bicycle provision and associated lower-emission mobility measures.

Operational monitoring of emissions

The same transport records identify an inventory of 140 daily private cars and six motorcycles, together with parking provision covering 1,331 m². The University monitors monthly vehicle petrol and diesel consumption through its natural-resource tracking system. These records document transport provision and energy-use monitoring.

For historic village settings, walking is also a means of respecting the scale of settlement streets. The University gives priority to pedestrians in relevant campus areas through designated routes, tactile guidance, ramps and access management.

Digital access can reduce the need for travel

University-supported remote and hybrid teaching, academic advising and meetings used Microsoft Teams and ALMS Perculus. The Open and Distance Learning Directive provided the institutional framework for appropriate remote participation, connecting locations without requiring all students and employees to undertake journeys for every consultation or meeting.

INCLUSIVE SPACES & ACCOMMODATION

Places for learning, working and belonging

A sustainable campus environment depends on the ability of students, employees and visitors to access facilities safely and participate in community life.

The University's dispersed campus model integrates landscaped courtyards, paths, public-facing venues and shared outdoor spaces with the pedestrian environment of Mustafapaşa. Outdoor areas at the Ürgüp Factory Campus also provided places for public cultural gatherings in 2025. The provision of ramps and tactile walking surfaces forms part of our broader work through the Accessible KÜN Unit and campus infrastructure services.

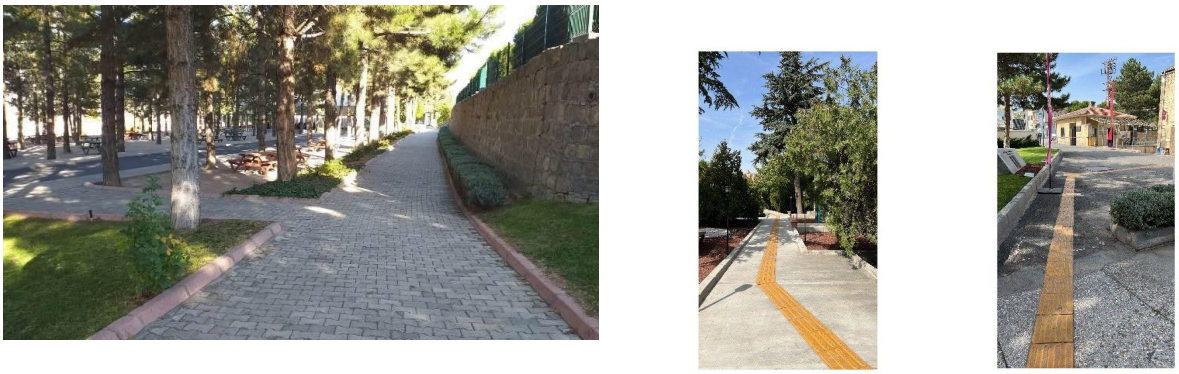


Figure 6. Tree-lined campus walking routes and tactile guidance infrastructure.

Student housing and employee welfare

The 2025 institutional records identify female and male student residences with a capacity of 174 places, within walking distance of Mustafapaşa teaching facilities. Housing is administered under the Guesthouse Directive (revised August 2025), with documented application, priority, fee and payment arrangements. Priority considerations include disability and other defined circumstances. These provisions describe accommodation availability and eligibility, rather than a verified count of students housed at a particular point in time.

The University also recorded six staff residences as part of its accommodation infrastructure. Human Resources procedures address associated welfare arrangements, including dining provision for eligible employees living in University accommodation. Together, student and staff facilities contribute to practical access to education and employment across distributed campus locations.

174	6	2025
STUDENT PLACES	**STAFF RESIDENCES**	**ACCESS POLICY**
Published residence capacity	Institutional accommodation	Guesthouse rules revised

MUNICIPAL PARTNERSHIPS & REGIONAL PLANNING

Research that cities can use

Our contribution extends beyond the boundaries of University premises through research, shared planning and public-sector collaboration.

In March 2025, Cappadocia University presented the Hatay Tourism Master Plan (2025–2030) to Hatay Metropolitan Municipality. Developed in a post-earthquake context, the plan integrates cultural and natural heritage, tourism recovery, local economic opportunities and resilience-oriented development. The University's research-project records show work continuing through 2025, with a completed planning output.

In April 2025, the Tourism Economy and Roadmap 2030 Search Conference with Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality provided a participatory forum for regional development priorities. The University's related Gaziantep Tourism Master Plan project connected stakeholder consultation with destination governance and longer-term planning.

Our research and advisory functions also supported dialogue concerning Nevşehir and Cappadocia's historic settlement development. In November 2025, institutional engagement with Ankara City Council addressed participatory governance and future academic cooperation. These activities positioned our university as a knowledge partner in the design of places that are more inclusive, culturally aware and resilient.

2025 milestone	Public partner / context	Practical planning contribution
3 March	Hatay Metropolitan Municipality	Tourism master plan for recovery, resilient development and heritage assets.
11 April	Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality	Participatory tourism-economy search conference and planning dialogue.
9 July	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Historic Factory Campus conversion partnership for public cultural infrastructure.
28 November	Ankara City Council	Dialogue on participatory local governance and prospective cooperation.

RESPONSIBLE CONSTRUCTION & BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT

Building carefully in a culturally sensitive region

The 2025 estate combined adaptive reuse of existing places with targeted investment in new educational facilities.

The University's sustainability framework emphasises environmentally considerate building practices: alignment with the local natural and cultural setting, efficient energy use, sensitive material choices and water management. The Cappadocia Air, Bio, Earth, Fire and Water programmes complement the Environmental Management System, alongside the 2023–2028 Strategic Plan.

In 2025, a new teaching building for the Faculty of Computer and Information Technologies was completed at Mustafapaşa. The institutional record identifies four classrooms and five computer laboratories, with use beginning in the 2025–2026 autumn semester.

The former Ürgüp wine factory remains our clearest case of responsible redevelopment on previously used land. In Mustafapaşa, continued adaptation of existing village buildings likewise responds to the architectural sensitivities of a settlement with nationally and internationally recognised cultural significance.

ADAPTIVE REUSE

Previously developed factory land and historic village buildings provide functioning settings for education, research and community culture.

NEW CAPACITY

A new academic facility was completed during 2025 with four classrooms and five computing laboratories, within the institutional sustainability framework.

2025 RESEARCH & KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

Research, ideas and public scholarship

A sustainable-community agenda draws on fields spanning destination management, heritage, urban planning, responsible tourism and social innovation.

The University's 2025 research portfolio included applied planning outputs for public institutions, scholarly work on sustainable destination management and cultural heritage, and programmes devoted to documenting intangible cultural knowledge. The examples below are deliberately distinguished by publication type: a municipal master plan is an applied research output, while a book chapter is a scholarly publication. They are not combined into one unverifiable publication count.

Selected 2025 output	Type / contribution
Hatay Tourism Master Plan (2025–2030)	University-led applied planning report addressing tourism, heritage, resilience and post-earthquake recovery.
Gaziantep Tourism Master Plan	Applied destination and municipal planning project with stakeholder engagement.
D. Çetinoğlu & S. Meydan Uygur, "Basic Concepts and Organisation in Sustainable Destination Management and Marketing"	2025 scholarly book chapter on sustainable destination governance (Turkish-language original).
M. Bahar (co-author), "Applicability of GSTC Destination Criteria: The Case of Çıralı"	2025 scholarly book chapter evaluating sustainability criteria for a tourism destination.
M. Bahar (co-author), "Zero-Waste Management and Practices in Hotels"	2025 scholarly book chapter on responsible operations in tourism accommodation.
Fifth Âşık Art Symposium, European theme	2025 scientific-cultural meeting on oral heritage transmission and international cultural exchange.

The scholarly vocabulary of sustainable destinations, cultural heritage conservation, adaptive reuse, community participation, accessible public space, inclusive urban planning and climate-resilient development appears throughout this report in direct connection with University work. Research classification frameworks can help readers discover relevant outputs, but the evidence here is the substance of documented activities and publications.

SELECTED ANNUAL MILESTONES

2025, from commitments to public benefit

A chronology of work across research, public culture, institutional planning and community access.

Date	Documented development	Community significance
March	Hatay Tourism Master Plan presented	Heritage-informed, recovery-oriented public planning.
April	Gaziantep municipal planning conference	Stakeholder participation in long-term development.
May	Heritage talks and archaeology programming	Public encounters with regional history and scholarship.
July	Cultural centre protocol and Âşık Symposium	Adaptive reuse commitment and intangible-heritage transmission.
August	Culture Route Festival exhibitions	Free cultural access at the historic Factory Campus.
September	Besteli Mevlîd programmes in Bulgaria	Cross-border transmission of musical heritage.
October	Culture, viticulture and gastronomy social-innovation event	Conversation across heritage and local livelihoods.
November	Local governance dialogue and continuing campus services	Regional partnership and community infrastructure.

Communities and spaces are interconnected

These activities show how university engagement moves between scales: historic buildings, public programmes, neighbourhood journeys, regional tourism strategies and cross-border cultural traditions. Work in one domain contributes to another: a reused industrial building can host a free exhibition; local heritage research can support better planning; and a university transport service can help people participate in activities across a distributed campus.

OUTCOMES & INTERPRETATION

What the 2025 evidence demonstrates

The meaningful results are complementary rather than interchangeable.

Dimension	Documented result	Contribution to sustainable communities
Accessible culture	Free festival exhibitions in historic premises; 16 performing-arts occasions	Wider participation in cultural life and public use of heritage venues.
Heritage stewardship	Former factory adaptive reuse; formal cultural-centre agreement; KAM heritage research	Conservation, interpretation and continuing use of historic assets.
Public knowledge	2,296 open-access records; visitor routes to physical libraries	Access to research, cultural resources and lifelong learning.
Mobility	7 free shuttles; 90 free bicycles; pedestrian-priority campus measures	Practical shared and lower-impact transport alternatives.
Accommodation	174 published student residence places; six staff residences	Access to education and employment in the university's regional setting.
Planning partnerships	Hatay and Gaziantep master plans; local authority dialogue	Evidence-informed municipal and regional development.
Institutional investment	TRY 11.02m in reported facilities-repair and collection-acquisition lines	Documented financial support for built assets and learning resources.

The reported measures have different denominators and degrees of specificity. For example, a cultural performance is an event occasion, a bicycle is an available asset, repository records are cumulative stock, accommodation places are capacity and repair expenditure is an accounting category. They are therefore presented separately rather than added together into one beneficiary count or an artificial impact score.

Cross-cutting contribution to the SDGs

The direct contribution of this work is to SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities through cultural and natural heritage stewardship, access to shared cultural spaces, sustainable mobility, community facilities and local planning. Linked contributions include SDG 4 (public learning and accessible research), SDG 8 (regional livelihoods and destination development), SDG 10 (inclusive services and accessibility), SDG 12 (responsible reuse and resource-conscious tourism) and SDG 13 (lower-carbon travel and resilience-focused planning).

LOOKING AHEAD

Stewardship beyond a reporting cycle

Our University's 2025 record establishes a basis for continued, measurable collaboration with the communities of Cappadocia.

We intend to deepen the connection between heritage conservation and public use, support the next stages of the Factory Campus cultural-centre partnership, and improve consistent documentation of cultural participation and visitor access. Heritage programmes will continue to connect community memory, living traditions and public scholarship.

For mobility and accessibility, strengthening service-use records and the monitoring of commuter choices would help complement existing inventories of buses, bicycles and campus infrastructure. For accommodation and public facilities, publishing accessible guidance and maintaining clear criteria for eligibility and use will continue to matter.

Our planning and research relationships with municipalities show how university expertise can contribute to sustainable destinations, resilient settlements and local economic opportunity. We will retain the distinction between programmes delivered, assets made available, partnerships agreed and longer-term outcomes achieved as these collaborations develop.

OUR INSTITUTIONAL DIRECTION	HOW PROGRESS BECOMES VISIBLE
Protect and reuse valuable places; provide accessible culture and knowledge; support sustainable movement and inclusive facilities.	Clear dates, defined populations, authentic photographs, consistent indicators and accessible links to public evidence.