CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY
Logic-Wisdom-Equality-Tradition

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS / ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT

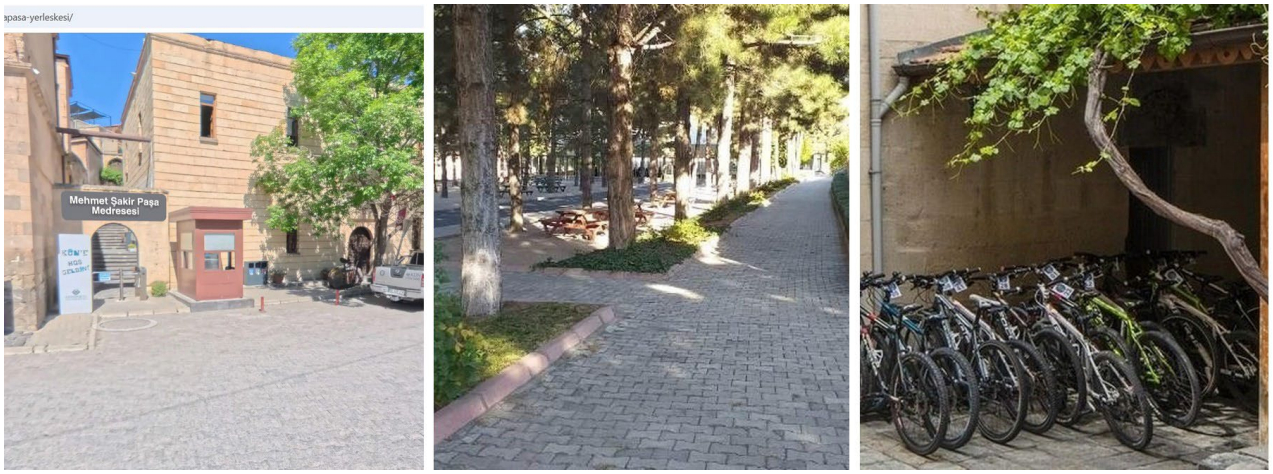
Institutions that listen. Knowledge that serves.

SDG 16 / PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Participation, integrity and public dialogue.

Reporting Period: 2025



Cappadocia University's historic Mustafapaşa campus and its relationship with the community.

2025 • CAPPADOCIA UNIVERSITY • ENGLISH EDITION

INSTITUTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

A university committed to accountable public purpose

Strong institutions are built through ethical practice, inclusive representation, evidence-informed decisions and the public value of research.

Cappadocia University's educational identity is rooted in a distinctive cultural landscape and a mission to prepare graduates who can engage responsibly with the challenges of society. Originating in vocational education in 2005 and established as a university in 2017, our University connects teaching, research and community contribution across campuses in Cappadocia and İstanbul. Its latest-knowledge-first educational approach, SOBE, encourages inquiry, evidence-led thinking and purposeful engagement with contemporary questions.

In 2025, our institutional approach to peaceful, just and inclusive societies combined formal governance arrangements with participation in practice. Students elected representatives; university bodies maintained channels for feedback and scrutiny; research and publication ethics were governed through established committees; and academic units exchanged expertise with municipalities, public agencies and civil-society partners.

These institutional relationships matter because accountability is not a single policy statement. It is reflected in the ability to raise concerns, contribute to decisions, access dependable information and connect public policy with independent academic knowledge. Our annual account therefore brings together procedures, documented participation, 2025 programmes and identifiable public outputs.

Our framework of institutional responsibility

INSTITUTIONAL DIMENSION	PRACTICAL ROUTE TO ACCOUNTABILITY
Representative participation	Student Council, class representation and structured feedback
Independent scrutiny and integrity	Research ethics review, specialist committees and publicly accessible rules
External accountability	Stakeholder identification, quality advisory structures and public reporting
Public-interest expertise	Research and consultations with local and national public institutions

2025 / YEAR IN PERSPECTIVE

Participation, integrity and public dialogue

A selection of actions recorded during 2025—each supported by identifiable university or public sources.

29 NOV	4 SESSIONS	2025
Student Council assembly scheduled	International relations forum	Stakeholder-led public planning

MARCH	Public-sector expertise	Hatay tourism master plan
MAY	Dialogue and diplomacy	Four-session international relations forum
AUGUST	Reporting and coordination	Sustainability commission directive
OCT–NOV	Representation	2025 class elections and Council assembly

Figure 1. Selected institutional milestones during the 2025 reporting year.

The year brought student democratic processes and public dialogue into the same institutional story. A published timetable governed the election of class representatives and the Student Council assembly. Academic convenings addressed diplomacy, geopolitics and international affairs. Researchers supported local and regional planning through consultation and commissioned public-interest studies.

Alongside these dated activities, the University maintained longer-standing institutional safeguards: published rules for research integrity, complaint and support mechanisms in equality-related matters, the responsibilities of the Sustainability Office and Commission, and access to publicly available institutional documents. These arrangements support SDG 16 through accountable decision-making and public access to information.

UNIVERSITY GOVERNANCE

From representation to a responsive institution

Student participation, institutional review and public partnership are complementary channels of university governance.



Figure 2. Governance pathways; the illustration summarises documented institutional arrangements rather than a claim that all bodies are directly elected.

A documented structure for participation

The University's published Student Council arrangements establish representation across departments, programmes and graduate units, with representatives elected by students in the relevant academic unit. Representatives identify student needs, communicate decisions, participate in academic meetings when student-related issues are considered and connect students with management structures. The University also publishes its committees and governing bodies, including quality, ethics, scientific research, sustainability and academic support structures.

Student participation is complemented by the Quality Commission and by advisory arrangements engaging expertise from local government, academia, industry and other external institutions.

STUDENT PARTICIPATION

A public process for student voice

Published election dates and defined procedures make representation visible and accessible to students.



Figure 3. Published 2025 class representative application, voting and Student Council assembly schedule.

The University announced the 2025–2026 class representative election process with a clear sequence: applications between 21 October and 3 November 2025, elections between 11 and 22 November, and a Student Council General Assembly scheduled for 29 November 2025. The announcement outlined eligibility requirements and the conditions for renewed elections in classes already represented.

A timetable accessible to the student body allows candidates and voters to understand the process before it begins. In combination with the Student Council Directive, these procedures provide channels for students to bring academic, social and welfare matters to the attention of relevant academic and administrative bodies. Our University regards this representative infrastructure as an element of responsive governance and institutional trust.

TRANSPARENCY AND QUALITY

Public rules. Open institutional information.

The ability to examine an institution's governing procedures is an essential part of public accountability.

Published procedures and an auditable quality framework

Cappadocia University makes administrative regulations, directives and the membership of key committees accessible through its institutional website. Its quality-assurance framework links internal review, student feedback, stakeholder input, documented procedures and improvement actions. The 2025 Institutional Self-Evaluation Report records arrangements for student representation on academic and quality-related bodies and a continuing emphasis on participation in decision-making.

In August 2025, the University revised its Sustainability Commission Directive (YNG.043), establishing responsibilities for data collection, policy proposals, inter-unit coordination and public sustainability reporting. The Sustainability Office Directive (YNG.050) complements this role by charging the Office with publishing annual sustainability reports and helping form cooperation with internal and external partners. The 2024–2025 Annual Sustainability Activities Report was made publicly available in 2025.

Information access and responsible disclosure

The University's public channels include regulations and directives, institutional quality information, research and open-access publications, and information for students and external users.

INTEGRITY AND FAIR PROCESS

Research integrity and ethical oversight

Formal review processes support professional responsibility, objective assessment and ethical conduct.

An established ethical-review structure

The University's Scientific Research and Publication Ethics Board operates under a written directive (YNG.016) and is tasked with safeguarding ethical principles in research, publications, teaching and university service. The framework includes evidence-based consideration of potential breaches, confidentiality and procedures for referring matters requiring further action. Specialist ethics structures support review of research involving human participants and social-science methods.

Such procedures strengthen institutional integrity through defined responsibilities and recourse to review. Our institutional documentation also makes research-ethics rules and relevant board information publicly available. Separately, the University reported the national guidance on ethical use of generative artificial intelligence in scientific research in February 2025, helping communicate new standards for honesty, transparency and responsibility in academic work.

Rights, responsibility and freedom of enquiry

Published student rights guidance includes equal treatment, access to information, academic freedom and freedom of expression. Its academic-rights provisions sit alongside institutional scientific ethics safeguards. These are the foundations for an environment of research and teaching integrity.

SAFEGUARDS AND INCLUSION

Making fair treatment an operational commitment

Formal protections and access routes help community members participate on equal terms.

Equality, confidentiality and a route to support

Our Gender Equality Policy (KÜN.PB.013), published in May 2024 and in force during 2025, commits the University to countering discriminatory treatment and gender-based harassment. It also states that University-organised events are open without discrimination on grounds including ethnicity, nationality, religion, disability status, immigration status, age and gender. The Gender Equality Commission's 2024–2025 report documents a sexual-harassment information and support guide and the establishment of a confidential contact route for students requiring assistance.

The Accessible KÜN Unit provides another route to inclusion: its 2024–2025 activity report recorded 25 students receiving follow-up for disability-related or chronic-health needs, including classroom and examination adjustments, access to campus facilities and coordination with academic departments. The report also documents completed Braille lift markings and accessible toilets at specified campuses, alongside improvements still under way. This is a figure for the Unit's combined support caseload, not a count restricted solely to formally registered students with disabilities.

25	2025
Students within Unit follow-up	Accessibility and support procedures

PUBLIC DECISION-MAKING

Research brought into public policy

University expertise can strengthen local government when evidence and local stakeholder priorities are brought together.

Hatay: research for post-earthquake recovery

In March 2025, Cappadocia University presented the Hatay Tourism Master Plan (2025–2030) to Hatay Metropolitan Municipality. The institutional research output, made available through the University's public repository in July 2025, addresses reconstruction, the protection of cultural and natural assets, employment opportunities and strategies for inclusive local development. It emphasises stronger local participation in tourism activity and more equitable distribution of the resulting benefits.

The work illustrates a form of university–government engagement that places regional evidence, community needs and economic planning within a single policy conversation. In the context of post-earthquake Hatay, sustainable urban recovery requires the perspectives of public institutions and residents to inform coherent choices about livelihoods and place.

Gaziantep: collaborative economic planning

A participatory tourism-economy search conference convened with Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality on 11 April 2025 contributed to developing a roadmap for the visitor economy. Such consultations connect municipal decision-makers with academic researchers, businesses and other local stakeholders. The relevant 2025 project record situates this work within research on place-based strategy and destination development.

GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY

A stronger interface between evidence and decisions

Public-interest advice extends from individual reports to long-term collaborative institutional relationships.

2025 EXAMPLE	PUBLIC INSTITUTION / PURPOSE	EVIDENCED OUTPUT
Hatay Tourism Master Plan	Hatay Metropolitan Municipality / recovery and sustainable development	March public presentation; 2025–2030 plan
Gaziantep Tourism Roadmap	Gaziantep Metropolitan Municipality / consultative economic development	April stakeholder search conference
Regional tourism studies	Public and regional authorities / place-based planning	2025 research and consultations
Mustafapaşa cooperation	Mustafapaşa Municipality / local environmental management	30 April 2025 protocol for zero-waste cooperation

The University's research centres provide an institutional channel for policy-focused work beyond a single academic discipline. Published strategic and internal-review material describes collaboration on regional tourism, local development, cultural heritage, environmental management and the sustainable use of public assets. These activities are relevant to accountable and inclusive decision-making where researchers provide options rather than claiming authority over public decisions.

On 30 April 2025, the University and Mustafapaşa Municipality signed a cooperation protocol relating to the University's zero-waste management system. The agreement sets out defined responsibilities for technical

cooperation, knowledge exchange and prospective public awareness activities. It provides an additional example of a formal, dated interface between institutional expertise and local administration.

DIALOGUE AND CIVIC EDUCATION

Opening space for international dialogue

Evidence-led public discussion supports critical understanding of conflict, diplomacy and institutional responsibility.

An interdisciplinary forum for international affairs

On 2 May 2025, Cappadocia University and Nevşehir Hacı Bektaş Veli University jointly organised the Cappadocia International Relations Meeting at the Mustafapaşa campus. The four-session programme, delivered by academic contributors, considered geopolitics, diplomacy, regional competition and international questions. By convening speakers and students in a university environment, the programme created space for structured learning and informed exchange.

The University's Political Research Society and academic programmes in Political Science and International Relations participated in the event. The project demonstrates the educational role of universities in providing a forum for discussion of complex issues affecting peace, global cooperation and the interpretation of public policy.

4	02 MAY
Thematic sessions	2025 institutional forum

2025 RESEARCH AND FORUMS

Knowledge exchange across differences



Figure 4. "A Common Horizon for Humanity and the Planet" research and dialogue initiative.

Current international issues as a shared research subject

The University's "Current International Issues" initiative, developed with the Ankara Centre for Crisis and Policy Studies (ANKASAM), provides a thematic setting for discussion of developments in international relations. The programme's areas of concern include armed conflict, changing security conditions, migration, geopolitics and the responsibilities of governments and international organisations. The 2024–2025 annual

sustainability report identifies this cooperation alongside a series of talks on contemporary Turkish foreign policy, developments in the South Caucasus and Türkiye–Pakistan relations.

The "A Common Horizon for Humanity and the Planet" initiative also provided a setting for interdisciplinary reflection on challenges that extend beyond national borders. These programmes are presented as academic inquiry and public dialogue rather than as evidence of an institutional political position or a demonstrated resolution of conflict.

RIGHTS AND PUBLIC LEARNING

Civic responsibility begins with accessible knowledge

Human rights and democratic awareness

Civic engagement was reflected in the University's 2024–2025 academic-year programme, including a Human Rights and Democracy Week bracelet workshop held on 11 December 2024, activities of the Political Research Society and a seminar marking Democracy and National Unity Day on 15 July 2025. These formats bring discussions of rights, public responsibility, memory and democratic institutions into the student and community learning environment.

The University also organised the "Is Gender Equality Possible?" seminar on 16 April 2025 through its Psychological Counselling and Guidance Unit. The institution's activity record identifies 100 student participants. The event addressed gender roles, discrimination and the conditions necessary for a more equitable society. Activities of this kind complement formal governance safeguards through education rather than replacing the institutional responsibility to implement them.

Connecting rights with everyday inclusion

The student rights and responsibilities guidance, the Gender Equality Policy and Accessible KÜN procedures make explicit the importance of fairness, access to knowledge, participation and support for those who face barriers. Public awareness programmes contribute to this environment by making abstract rights understandable in the context of students' everyday experiences.

ACADEMIC RESEARCH

Researching institutions, political change and public life

Selected 2025 outputs address political processes, public discourse, social justice and government–community relationships.

2025 RESEARCH / PUBLICATION	RELEVANCE TO SDG 16
C. Ulusoy, "Sun Yat-sen as a Modernist Nationalist and His Political Legacy" (2025)	Historical political institutions and nation-building
C. Ulusoy, "Young China" and "Young Chinese" (2025)	Political formation and intellectual change
Y. Gökçaplan, "Deprem Haberlerinde Dil, Değer ve Söylem" (2025)	Public communication, representation and discourse
S. Ünal, "Sosyal Belediyecilik Uygulamaları: Selçuklu Belediyesi Örneği" (2025 thesis)	Social municipalism and equitable public services
"Türk Dış Politikasında Güncel Konular" (2025 project output)	Policy analysis of contemporary international issues

This selection illustrates the breadth of the University's work touching institutions and collective decision-making. The studies are drawn from a combination of peer-reviewed journal publications, graduate research and research-project outputs.

OPEN KNOWLEDGE AND THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Access to research and institutional evidence

Accessible knowledge supports scrutiny, participation and a more informed relationship between universities and society.

2,296	2,705
Open-access archive items	Cumulative archive records

The University's 2024–2025 Open Science and Library Commission report recorded 2,705 cumulative institutional repository records, including 2,296 classified as open access and 409 embargoed or closed. This represents approximately 84.9% of the reported repository stock available through open-access classification. The figures are cumulative collection totals recorded during the 2024–2025 reporting period.

Public access to scholarly material supports the capacity of students, researchers, civil society and other interested readers to engage with information without the need to be formally enrolled at the University. Our institutional website also provides access to published regulations, university news, policies, research centres and information intended for both internal and external stakeholders.

Information as a continuing public resource

The 2025 publication of the Annual Sustainability Activities Report makes the University's contributions to all 17 Sustainable Development Goals accessible as a coherent public account. In an institutional context, accessible knowledge is an important mechanism for accountability: activities can be dated, examined, revisited and linked to stated responsibilities.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Building public value through consultation

An accountable institution develops relationships with people and organisations affected by its decisions.

The University's publicly available Stakeholder List (KSP.LS.002) identifies internal and external partners and categorises their roles, expectations and relative priority for institutional engagement. Quality and strategic planning arrangements connect this mapping of interested parties with internal review, stakeholder feedback and institutional improvement. The University's public Quality Advisory Board also includes participants from academia, public administration and relevant professional sectors.

During 2025, this approach intersected with actual project activity: regional tourism-planning research involved municipal partners and specialist stakeholders; the Mustafapaşa zero-waste protocol formalised practical cooperation; and the Sustainability Commission's revised directive reinforced inter-unit coordination, data review and public accountability for sustainable development initiatives.

AREA OF ENGAGEMENT	DOCUMENTED BASIS	2025 APPLICATION
Student participation	Student Council Directive	Representative election timetable
Public consultation	Stakeholder list / quality advisory system	Public-sector research collaborations
Ethical safeguards	Research ethics directive; equality policy	Reviewed procedures and support information
Reporting	Sustainability Office and Commission directives	Annual sustainability publication

INSTITUTIONAL IMPACT

What the 2025 evidence demonstrates

The year's records reveal a connected system of representation, institutional integrity and public-purpose research.

Representation became visible

Published 2025 election arrangements gave students a transparent timetable for representative processes and an identified channel for institutional input.

Institutional safeguards remained operational

Ethical oversight, equality safeguards, student rights and formal feedback routes provided procedures for fair treatment and evidence-based review.

Academic knowledge reached public institutions

The Hatay and Gaziantep policy-planning work connected academic analysis with local development needs and government consultations.

Dialogue and civic learning continued

International relations meetings, rights-related events and research publications provided opportunities to engage critically with institutions and social challenges.

Information was made publicly available

Open-access research, policies, reports and institutional governance information supported transparency and independent understanding.

These examples represent different dimensions of institutional contribution rather than a single numerical impact score. They do not establish that every governance or public-accountability challenge was resolved in 2025. They do establish identifiable programmes, rules, channels and public outputs through which the University can continue strengthening institutional effectiveness and public participation.

BEYOND A SINGLE GOAL

SDG 16 in the wider sustainability agenda

CONNECTED GOAL	CONTRIBUTION IN OUR 2025 PRACTICE
SDG 4 — Quality Education	Civic learning, research ethics and student rights education
SDG 5 — Gender Equality	Anti-discrimination policy, harassment reporting and awareness
SDG 10 — Reduced Inequalities	Accessible KÜN provisions and inclusive participation
SDG 11 — Sustainable Cities and Communities	Municipal master plans and participatory local development
SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals	Collaboration with universities, municipalities and specialist institutions

For Cappadocia University, institutional integrity is not detached from the rest of sustainability. It shapes how policies are set, how diverse voices are heard, how research is made available and how partnerships are conducted. The combination of institutional structures and public-facing work in 2025 contributed directly to SDG 16 through accountable processes, research on political and institutional life, student representation and engagement with public authorities. The same activities supported SDGs 4, 5, 10, 11 and 17 through education, equality, inclusion, community planning and partnerships.

Continuity and review

Our University will continue to use published rules, quality processes, representative mechanisms, academic ethics, evidence-based public projects and publicly available reporting as the foundations of institutional improvement.