

# SHARING INFORMATION OF PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER 2015 ISTANBUL BİLGİ UNIVERSITY



## I. LETTER OF RENEWED COMMITMENT

### MESSAGE FROM THE RECTOR



Istanbul Bilgi University, since its initial foundation back in 1996, has been eager to establish a coherent system for references and accreditation. We

have started with a very close collaboration with the University of Portsmouth in the UK, in order to be able to offer a thoroughly prepared and staunch curriculum to offer to our students as a nascent university. For years, our external examiners have been surveying and finalising our examinations and teaching results. That has contributed immensely to establish a sound and measureable education system in BİLGİ. It has also allowed us to have a very international approach to the formation of our students.

Our tradition to frame institutionally the education and research we carry out has been reinforced and deepened over the years by an important number of initiatives. Together with the growth of our university, with the opening of new faculties, schools and vocational schools, our endeavour to sustain highest standards has lead us to devote more time and efforts to establish a sound system of accreditation, references, checks and balances.

We are in a very important and delicate point of our development as a university and as a social actor, through the implementation of a very ambitious strategic plan and an even more ambitious accreditation process through WASC (Western Association of Schools and Colleges).

BİLGİ's first and foremost aim was to open up the university to its neighbourhood, to the

society. Through an impressive number of initiatives, we have created a staunch tradition of social responsibility over the years.

The PRME Principles for Responsible Management Education system has found almost naturally its place among our activities and among our principles. The progress report is eloquent in itself to show the true commitment of our faculty and department towards establishing an educative and formative system to allow students and stakeholders to comprehend the future society. To ask relevant questions about how to render our future sustainable, how to establish a perennial empathy, how to analyse and transform the society. PRME basic and founding principles as advancing corporate sustainability and social responsibility, together with incorporating universal values into curricula and research, are in that sense essential for this endeavour.

I would like to congratulate all the faculty and people who have been and are being instrumental in establishing the principles for responsible management education. I hope that in coming years, this excellent endeavour will give more and more visible results, creating a virtuous cycle, whereby the PRME will continue to provide a global network for academic institutions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Durman', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Dr. Mehmet Durman

Rector

## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



As the Dean of the Business Faculty of Istanbul Bilgi University, we are very pleased to renew our commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education (PRME). Our progress report is an outcome of the last two years of dedicated effort of planning and implementing various projects for developing the responsible leaders of tomorrow. "Social responsibility, ethical decision making, equality, diversity, sustainability and environmental consciousness" have always been the important aspects of our undergraduate and graduate programs. Our goal is to develop educational activities on issues such as sustainability, environment, human rights, labor standards, corporate citizenship, and anti-corruption to help our students understand the needs of both the local and global society that they are part of. The PRME framework perfectly fits our goals and inspires us in our efforts to reach our targets. Following the PRME principals helps us further strengthen our leadership role in the dissemination of these values in our educational sphere, the business world and the entire society.

This report summarizes our collective effort to integrate the PRME values into our curriculum. As you can see in our report, our departments conduct various research projects in areas of corporate social responsibility, ethics, corporate governance, sustainability, organic farming, gender, and labor rights issues. Besides, as socially responsible individuals, our students are actively engaged in social projects that involve the direct partnership of the local community. Together with the academics and administrative personnel, they take a leading part in the collaboration between Istanbul Bilgi University and its surrounding community.

As a part of this initiative, our students and faculty members are well aware of their responsibilities towards making the world a better place. The PRME principles will certainly shed a light to our way and increase our motivation to work for a more responsive and caring future in collaboration with our faculty, students and alumni.



Prof. Dr. İpek Özkal Sanver  
Dean

## II. Major Achievements Regarding the Principles

**Principle 1 - Purpose:** We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Istanbul Bilgi University, a Turkish academic institution dedicated to the education of responsible business leaders, differentiates itself by offering high quality education and engaging in socially responsible endeavors for the benefit of all its stakeholders. The University, a member of the United Nations Global Compact Academic Network, participates in the global initiative of responsible management education by integrating PRME into the curriculum, teaching, research activities and partnerships of the Faculty of Business. Through the incorporation of topics such as business ethics, social responsibility, sustainability, environment, human rights, gender studies, labor standards, corporate citizenship and anti-corruption into the curricula and research, the Departments of Business Administration and Economics become role models to the business environment and educate the responsible leaders of tomorrow. The PRME framework inspires our faculty's efforts to further strengthen its role as a leader in the dissemination of these values within the educational sphere and the business world.

With the aim of integrating PRME values into the curriculum of the faculty, from first year till graduation, most of the courses attempt to incorporate UN PRME principles and make students ready for the opportunities and challenges of the World. The faculty aims to contribute to knowledge production by

conducting various research projects in PRME related areas.

**Principle 2 - Values:** We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

The topics of social responsibility, business ethics, environment, sustainability organic farming and gender studies have been integrated into the curriculum of the undergraduate courses of the Departments of Business Administration and Economics.

### Undergraduate Course Offerings

The Faculty of Business has two departments; Business Administration and Economics. The Department of Business Administration offers six degree programs:

- Business Administration
- Business Informatics
- International Finance
- International Trade and Business
- Marketing
- BİLGİ - University of Liverpool Business Administration Dual Degree program

The Department of Economics offers six degree programs:

- Business-Economics
- Business-Economics (BİLGİ-University of Liverpool / Dual Degree)
- Economics
- Economics and Finance (Honors)
- Economics and Management (Honors)
- Political Economy and Social Philosophy

In its programs, the faculty offers courses related to business ethics, corporate governance, corporate social responsibility, sustainability, environment and ecology. The listing of the courses is as follows:

**Courses offered by the Department of Business Administration**

**BUS 179 – Experiencing Business in Society I**

This course aims to integrate experiential learning practices with issues of business and society with the expectation that such techniques can create a positive experience, enhancing learning potential. The course covers economics, environment, globalization, culture and values, communication, consumption and life-styles, corporate social responsibility and ethics topics.

**BUS 271 and BUS 272– One World Youth Project Courses**

Through the One World Youth Project ( OWYP) program, students from different university campuses volunteer to prepare local youth to be global citizens in an increasingly interconnected world. After undergoing a six-week online course to gain knowledge and expertise in the global education topics, students become facilitators in local secondary schools on topics such as global interconnectedness, cross-cultural dialogue and addressing global issues on the local level, as well as how to teach these topics in a classroom. The course includes a series of filmed interviews with professors and experts from each of these fields. The goal of the program is to prepare youth for the interconnected 21st century, where they are called upon to respectfully interact with people from diverse backgrounds, and to address the world’s biggest challenges, including global warming, global hunger, HIV/AIDS, and poverty. The students teach in secondary classrooms for nine weeks.

**ONE WORLD YOUTH PROJECT**



The OWYP curriculum guides students through two semesters of innovative project-based learning experiences and reflections focusing on cross-cultural exchange and global exploration. In both semesters nine weeks of teaching at a secondary school and three weeks of sharing information with a partner classroom abroad and partner project workers in different countries take place. During each week, the workload is one hour. Bilgi students participating in the project actively facilitated discussions and activities in two different secondary schools of İstanbul in six classrooms working with 12-year old children. During September 2013 – January 2014 thirteen Bilgi students, during January 2014 January – June 2014 eleven Bilgi students, during July 2014– January 2015 twelve Bilgi students, January 2015– June 2015 June three Bilgi students participated to the OWYP. Throughout the year, Project Ambassadors (Bilgi students) connect with their counterparts abroad using phone, youtube, yammer or chatfe. Which method they use during a lesson depends on the individual lesson plan.

The Department of Business Administration participates in the One World Youth Project (OWYP) whose goal is to build a just world through the actions of empowered, discerning and empathetic global citizens. This project engages university students as global leaders in their local communities. After extensive trainings, BİLGİ students became mentors for students aged 10-12 years at two different secondary schools in İstanbul. At the moment, they are facilitating a year-long

global competence curriculum in these schools and connect with classrooms abroad for cultural exchange. In this fashion, younger students become equipped with tools such as cross-cultural communication, necessary to thrive in the 21st century world. These young people form long-lasting bonds transcending cultural lines through facilitated dialogues on diversity, empathy and cross-cultural understanding. These bonds help university students manage the one-year program in coordination with their counterparts around the world, learning transferable skills in project management and coordination. One member of our faculty, **Asst. Prof. Dr. Yonca Demir**, is the university champion of the project assisting with the advising of university students, acting as a liaison between the university and OWYP, providing necessary information and developing the program. Two business students are Project Manager Fellows managing BİLGİ-OWYP team, maintaining relationships with partner secondary schools, acting as the liaison between BİLGİ team and the OWYP staff, publicizing the program and celebrating all PA and classroom successes. Seven BİLGİ students (three of them are majoring in the programs of the Department of Business Administration) are Project Ambassadors providing a fun educational experience to secondary school students by rigorously using the OWYP lesson plans, facilitating the connection with their partner classrooms, being a positive role model and maintaining a professional and reliable relationship with the classroom educator.

This project gives a chance to BİLGİ students to develop skills necessary to become responsible leaders in their communities and a chance to secondary school students to communicate with and understand other cultures.

### **BUS 311 - Introduction to Marketing**

In this course, the societal marketing approach emphasizing the responsibilities of the companies towards their customers, the environment and larger society is discussed. Sustainable marketing and examples of ethical versus deceptive marketing practices of the companies are also presented to the students.

### **BUS 434 - Corporate Governance**

Corporate social responsibility is discussed as a special topic. Course content is enriched with movies like “The Corporation” and “Enron”.

### **BUS 495- Projects in Social Entrepreneurship**

Interested students working with faculty members in this course are able to work in groups on a real-life issue that addresses a societal need. The live projects help students as a group to get involved with the problems of their immediate community or other organizations. The projects have to be ‘live’ (a real life problem) and are to be completed in real time, with a clearly defined end result. In this course real and theoretical, practice and education are not separated and students have to find creative solutions to the issue tackled. During this course, besides completing a real project that fulfills a societal need, students are getting experience in team work, group processes, project management and project delivery. In 2015, the students work on a social responsibility project on diabetics to be presented to a pharmaceutical company’s Board of Directors. Students are expected to diversify society’s understanding of this disease, through how to create awareness and how to take preventive action in terms of creating consciousness of “integrating healthy nutrition and exercise to our lives”.

### **BUS 481 - Business Ethics**

The course aims to provide an understanding of ethical issues in the contemporary business life. The aim is to develop in students a critical approach in implementing ethical behavior in organizations in relation to various stakeholders as well as the institutionalization of business ethics in the corporations. The students are presented real-life examples to identify the ethical issues confronted by the managers of Turkish and global companies, and learn the importance and role of social responsibility activities within companies. Within this course, concepts of ethics, values, morality and the development of these concepts through history in different contexts are studied. At the end of the course, students are expected to develop a critical approach toward evaluating ethical behavior of organizations in relation to topics like environmental responsibility, consumerism and work ethics.

### **HRM 514 – Corporate Social Responsibility and Work Ethics**

This course examines the responsibilities of business corporations and corporate executives towards shareholders and stakeholders. The course also studies best practices used by Turkish and global companies to engage in socially responsible business. Another goal of the course is to inform the students about ethical issues and to stimulate thinking on the ethical dimension of business conduct.

### **INT 437 - International Trade**

The impact of international trade and agreements on working conditions and labor market, and the impact of globalization on environment are some of the topics discussed in this course. The

“fair trade” concept is introduced to the students.

### **Courses offered by the Economics Department**

#### **EC 179 – Social Issues and Critical Thinking I**

The main goal of this course is to improve the analytical skills of students in a framework at which their social awareness is triggered as the links between economics and sociology, psychology, law and political science are highlighted. The students are introduced several controversial topics of socioeconomic focus, such as the roots of global inequality, globalization and environmental concerns. For each topic covered, as a sample of complementary and conflicting approaches in the literature is introduced, the course provides a platform for students to discuss and compare these approaches.

#### **EC 316 – Environmental Economy**

Increasing pressure on the environment calls for urgent solutions. International organizations are trying to draw attention to the importance of solutions to environmental problems. Some of the topics covered in this course include economy and the environment, sustainable economy, optimal pollution, environmental standards, measuring environmental damage, global pollution problems, ethics and future generations, environmental policies, green tax reforms, emission trading and international policies.

#### **EC 404 - Energy Economics**

The importance of energy in economic development is indisputable. Globalization and the trend towards liberalization, deregulation and privatization has also made energy markets centers of interest. Energy economics studies energy resources and

energy commodities and includes the forces motivating firms and consumers to supply, convert, transport, use energy resources and to dispose of residuals. It also covers market structures and regulatory structures, distribution and environmental consequences and economically efficient use. The course on energy economics also cover energy market models around the globe.

**The University wide offered general elective courses related to sustainability, environment, social responsibility and ethics.**

**BIOE 438 – Green Biotechnology**

The course covers exploitation of plants and algae for the sustainable production of food and their utilisation as a source of renewable energy as a biofuel. In addition possibilities of using plants and algae as a novel means to generate pharmaceuticals and other novel products are discussed. The technologies of plant genetic engineering used to generate more efficient crop plants, healthy and nutritious foods, and other commercially attractive products are also explored in the course.

**ESEN 340 – Bioenergy: Basics and Applications**

The world energy demand has continuously increased in recent years due to the increase of world population and living standards. Most of this demand is currently supplied by fossil fuels even though they are quite harmful to the environment, and they are estimated to be depleted in the near future. On the other hand, energy derived from biomass is a clean and sustainable way of energy generation; hence, developing the current bioenergy technology is quite important. The subjects covered in this course are heat and energy contents of biomass, the technology of bioethanol production and purification, production of biodiesel from vegetable oils,

algae biofuel and production of gaseous fuels from wastes as well as the new trends of research on bioenergy.

**ESEN 408 – Energy, Environment and Law**

In this course, the energy-environment legislation, environmental impact assessment procedure for energy investments, climate change and carbon trading, green economy policy are evaluated in the scope of "sustainable development" principle. Energy production, transmission, distribution and retail processes, institutions and organizations located within these processes are evaluated within the legal perspective; energy law legislation is discussed within the framework of general principles of law.

**ESEN 431 – Sustainable Engineering**

The course integrates social, environmental and economic considerations into engineering activities while addressing important systems and cycles, industrial ecology and life cycle analysis of products and processes for the preservation of the natural resources and minimization of waste.

**GE 101- Introduction to Practical Ethics**

The online course on practical ethics deals with everyday situations and value-based choices that individuals make within their own context. Students discuss and analyse concepts such as responsibility, morality and values around a variety of cases within daily life, business and work life, education, health, social life and other forms of public confrontations. Controversial cases are analysed through readings, case studies, infographics, cartoons and videos as well as interactive web sites prepared by relevant NGOs.

### **GE 103 - Global Civil Society**

This course aims to provide a learning environment for students who would like to know more about civil activism and civil society organizations globally. At the beginning of the course, it is aimed to raise awareness among the students about the concept of civil society and related literature. At the second part of the course, examples of civil activism and civil society organizations from Turkey and around the world are examined. The course tries to elaborate elementary level discussions on the activities, structures, networks and global impacts of the civil society organizations.

### **GE 104 - Contemporary Issues in Environment and Ecology**

The course aims at developing an understanding of the issues concerning the environment and ecology from a multidisciplinary perspective, especially focusing on problems arising from human intervention and attempted solutions thereof, trying to develop a universal approach by starting from everyday life and problems in Europe, Turkey and İstanbul. Within this framework, earth system, ecosystems and their dynamics and the impact of human intervention are analyzed by dealing with: a) causes like resource use (renewable and non-renewable practices), industrialism and industrial production and consumption practices, global trade and consumption economy, waste, energy (production and use) and urbanisation: b) effects like loss of biodiversity and natural habitats, global climate change and deterioration of urban environment: c) impacts and reflections on human health, ecosystem resilience, human rights, cultural rights, gender equality, social justice and politics.

### **GE 105 - Gender in Everyday Life**

The course aims to provide an introduction to the idea and practice of gender equality. It aims to provide an understanding of the meaning of the terms such as gender, gender equality, gender based discrimination, substantive equality and how these terms come into play in the everyday relations we have within our society.

### **GE 107- Ecological Literacy and Sustainability**

This course aims to provide students with an opportunity to be able to assess ecological literacy and sustainability as a thought and action style as well as deal with the sustainability debate with an innovative, inclusive and holistic view and concrete examples. The course includes topics such as the limits and boundaries of the planet, sustainability debate, concept of ecological literacy and practices of eco-literacy.

### **GE 200 - Social Responsibility, Civil Society and İstanbul**

This course is designed in a way so that the students would develop a local view of civil society in a metropolitan city referring to the everyday activism practices of NGOs (including associations, unions, foundations, initiatives) in İstanbul. Theoretical as well as practical issues are discussed in the lecture, through both analyzing and discussing key concepts, such as volunteerism, democracy and advocacy. Right-based issues of women and youth are mainstream issues in all discussions of the lecture.

### **GE 201- Social Responsibility Project I**

This course with a general aim to raise students' awareness about human rights, democracy and associated values and to improve their abilities to conceptualize the problems they face/witness in daily life within

a human rights framework, aspires to enrich students' attitudes to position themselves against human rights violations and their sense of respect about diversities in and multicultural aspects of society. The course is carried out in a participatory and student-centered way making use of group work and discussions based on students' experiences. By applying non-formal, participatory experiential learning methods, it is intended to provide a space for students where they can learn from each others' experiences and from other active agencies in civil society. The concepts of democracy, voluntarism/active citizenship, civil society, human rights, youth and social rights are discussed by using experiential learning techniques. Students also develop a social responsibility project proposal that they can realize in following semesters.

#### **GE 202- Social Responsibility Project II**

This course provides opportunities for students where they can take part in activities of non-governmental organizations and have an experience of right-based voluntarism, and to increase their motivation to volunteer. It also makes it possible for students to implement the project proposal they have developed in the GE 201 course.

#### **GE 280 – Ecological Social Entrepreneurship Summer Course**

This extensive summer term course aims to examine fundamental problems such as ecological damage, extinction of habitats and species, unhealthy food production, the energy crisis, economic and social crises and unsustainable cycles of production and consumption together with suggested solutions holistically and on site. Students develop scenarios for solving environmental problems created by life styles that are far removed from nature. The course builds a

holistic view of sustainability and harmony with nature step by step, using presentations, discussion sessions, role play, exercises, and visits to sites with a technical focus. Learning process is supported by documentary films and other sources of information on exemplary lives. Throughout 7 days of full time course, students experience applied programs and explanatory site visits with ecological farms, enterprises and artisans living around the Kazdagi/Ida mountains, near the Çamtepe Ecological Living Center and Dedetepe Ecological Farm in Kucukkuyu, Canakkale, where the course and accomodation are held. The most striking aspect of the program is experiencing an ecologically sound and self-sufficient life style for a full week and resulting emphasis on daily life, awareness of present living conditions, and each person's responsibility to be someone who makes a difference for life. Information on the course is available at <http://ekososyalgirisim.wordpress.com/>

#### **GE 321 - NGO Capacity Building and Management**

This course is designed to discuss the notions of civil society, civil society organizations, the structures and functions of the civil society organisations working, particularly, in Turkey.

#### **GE 401 - Ethics and Life Course**

The course is an introduction to ethics as a conceptual tool and its reflections in daily and professional life, business and politics and public discussions in order for the students to develop an ethical point of view on situations they might encounter during their life course. Therefore, contemporary and controversial cases are analysed in class and debates, problems and dilemmas of various ethical approaches are discussed. The course uses active learning methodology and interactive methods like documentary and fiction movies,

debate and role playing, simulations, case studies and online discussions. The course is designed to address students from all departments.

### **PUB 303 - Social Responsibility and Sustainability**

Main concepts of social responsibility and sustainability are discussed in this Public Relations department course while concentrating on volunteerism. During the course by working together with NGOs students get the opportunity to practice their theoretical knowledge about public relations. By active participation in the projects the students gain the necessary skills they will need in their professional life.

**Principle 3 - Method: We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.**

The faculty uses various methods such as lectures, projects, case studies, film series, and guest speakers to teach their students social responsibility, corporate governance, business ethics, organic farming, gender and sustainability topics. In many of the courses, case studies based on responsible, ethical, environmental and sustainable practices of the local and global companies are used. Students present their own best action to the solution of the problems presented in the cases, they also take the role of the decision maker to come up with a right, proper, just, socially responsible and sustainable solution.

**Principle 4 - Research: We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.**

The Faculty of Business supports academic research and knowledge development in areas of corporate social responsibility, ethics, corporate governance, sustainability, organic farming and its marketing, gender, and labor rights issues.

The articles authored or co-authored by our faculty in these areas are published in academic journals.

**Arikan, E., Kantur, D., Maden, C., and Telci, E. E.** "Investigating the Mediating Role of Corporate Reputation on the Relationship between Corporate Social Responsibility and Multiple Stakeholder Outcomes," *Quality & Quantity*, 2014 ,DOI: 10.1007/s11135-014-0141-5.

**Demir, Y.** and Demir C. M. "Vehicle Routing Solution Reduces Transportation Costs for Organic Farmers Serving the Domestic Market in Turkey", *International Journal of Applied Science and Technology*, 4(6), November 2014.

**Demir, Y.** and Akyüz, A. "The Role of a Civil Society Organization in the Development of the Domestic Organic Market in Turkey", *Building Organic Bridges*, 4, 1107-1110, October 2014.

**Demir, Y.** "Supply Chain Management Practices in an Alternative Food Network: The First Organic Marketplace of Turkey", *International Journal of Business and Social Science*, 4(9), 179-187, August 2013.

**Demir, Y.** "Turkey's First Organic Bazaar", *European Scientific Journal*, 9(8), 1-17, March 2013.

Ekmekci, A. K., Doğanay, A., and **Kuscu, Z. K.** "Impact of Family Friendly Organizations and Social Policies on Women's Employment: A Conceptual Model for Turkey", *Research Journal of Business and Management*, 1(4), 2014.

Gevrek Z, **Uyduranoglu A.** "Analysis: Public preferences for carbon tax attributes", *Ecological Economics*, 118, 186-197, October 2015.

**Hoşgör, E.** (2015) The 'new' economic imaginaries of capital in the wake of crisis of neoliberalism: Possibilities and Limits. In Gencer Çakır, Özgür Başpınar Aktükün (Eds.) , *The Gezi Debate: Resistance, Past, Present and Future*, Istanbul: Ütopya Yay. pp. 20-78.

**Yücel, Y.**, Gunluk-Senesen, G., Yakar-Onal, A., Yakut-Cakar, B., and Ergunes, N. "Gender Budgeting in Turkey: An Assessment of Local Practices from the Well-Being Perspective", *Politica Economica Journal of Economic Policy*, 31(2), 175-194, 2015.

**Yücel, Y.** "How Does Responding to the Crisis Affect Gender Segregation in the Labour Market? The Case of Turkey", *Economic and Labour Relations Review*, Vol. 26(2), 276–295, 2015.

#### Paper presentations at Conferences :

At a conference on Gender Well-Being held at Istanbul Bilgi University on November 24, 2014, **Asst. Prof. Yelda Yücel** from the Department of Business Administration presented her research on "Gender Well-Being Gender Budget Approach in Turkey". This research is a part of the United Nations Joint Program–Women Friendly Cities Projects which has been implemented in Turkey since

2006, gender budgeting being one of the conditions. The research revealed data on the impact of local administration policies on gender well-being and policy suggestions were presented.

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Yonca Demir** and **Asst. Prof. Dr. Evren Hoşgör** from the Department of Business Administration presented their study at the "Politics of Ecology – New Borders, New Players" Conference held on 27-28 November 2015 at Istanbul Bilgi University. **Asst. Prof. Dr. Yonca Demir** presented her study "An Organic Farming Plan for Turkey – Plants and Animal Products" and **Asst. Prof. Dr. Evren Hoşgör** presented her study "The green imaginaries of capital and possibilities for resistance".

In terms of academic researches in progress, **Asst. Prof. Yonca Demir** is working with her colleague (Bulut Aslan) on a mathematical model that examines the viability of feeding Turkey's whole population with organic foods. Organic farming is an agricultural practice that respects the soil, water and air; is not polluting and works with biological cycles; and contributes to sustainability by reducing the use of off-farm inputs and fossil fuel. Their model is a large scale linear programming application that uses a healthy menu and organic farming practices as an input.

**Asst. Prof. Dr. Evren Hoşgör** is working on her paper which is about "Green Activism in the World and Turkey".

**Principle 5 - Partnership: We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.**

The Department of Business Administration engages in partnerships with several audit and consultancy firms. Having practitioners and

sector representatives from various national and multinational companies as guest speakers increases the ties with the business world.

**Principle 6 - Dialogue: We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.**

The faculty engages in dialogue with the local municipalities and the local community in terms of environmental, ethical and civil rights issues. **Asst. Prof. Yelda Yücel**, from the Department of Business Administration, studies the gender well-being impact of policies carried out by the local governments in Turkey within a well-being gender budgets approach and hence works closely with several local municipalities.

Istanbul Bilgi University started the Bilgi Young Social Entrepreneur Awards in Turkey in 2010. Every year, 20 social entrepreneurs are selected from all around the globe for founding or co-founding options. Since 2010 İstanbul Bilgi University organizes the competition.

### **III. KEY OBJECTIVES FOR THE NEXT 24 MONTHS**

In the next period, the Faculty of Business will continue to integrate the principles of the PRME initiative into its curriculum, teaching and research practices with the aim of moving the Departments closer to the goal of wholly implementing and embracing the principles for responsible management education. In this respect, the Faculty of Business plans to organize informative seminars and trainings for

the faculty and students to increase awareness and help them learn more about these principles.

The Department of Business Administration plans to organize some seminars with the Business Administration and Economics Student Club such as “Ethical Leadership and Business Ethics”; in cooperation with the EDMER (Etik Değerler Merkezi, the Center of Ethical Values). The department also plans to have closer ties to the international body of academicians in the future by joining PRME working groups, attending PRME conferences, and presenting the Turkish cases.

### **IV. DESIRED SUPPORT FROM THE PRME COMMUNITY**

We would like to continue to share information and experience with the PRME community. We would like to act with solidarity and contribute to other PRME initiatives through working groups.

### **V. UNIVERSITY WIDE ACTIVITIES**

Beside academic teaching and research İstanbul Bilgi University is proud of contributing to the welfare of the society. Several reserach centers of the University are working to contribute to a more socially and economically just world thinking through projects, researches and trainings. Some of these centers are the Center for Migration Research, Children’s Studies Unit, NGO Training and Research Center, the Center for Environment, Energy and Sustainability. Between 2012 and 2015 these centers engaged in various projects, workshops, trainings and researches.

## 1. Center for Civil Society Studies



The main purpose of the Center for Civil

Society Studies is to support the development of civil society both in Turkey and in the world. The Center aims to contribute to this progress by means of conducting scientific research, application and training programs, publications and documentation on the social, economic and cultural dimensions of this development. Working in cooperation with official and private institutions, and non-governmental organization, it strives to contribute to the accumulation of knowledge on related fields.

The Center for Civil Society Studies of Istanbul Bilgi University is hosting the Children Studies Unit, NGO Training and Research Unit, Bilgi Social Incubation Center, MA Program on Civil Society Studies as well as the Youth Studies Unit.

- NGO Training and Research Unit is designing and giving specific trainings for improving capabilities and capacities of NGOs by qualified academicians. The alternative training modules are; NGO and Strategy formulation, Project Management for NGOs, Project Budgeting for NGOs, Impression Tracking and Assessment, Organizational Management for NGOs, National and Interantional Funding for NGOs, Volunteer Cooperation and Human resources Management in NGOs, Gender in the Society.
- Youth Studies Unit is focusing mainly on youth research, youth work related to innovative projects and youth policy. The Unit has been trying to implement a right based approach in the area of youth work

policy in Turkey since it has been founded. By 2015 the unit conducted a qualitative research on youth unemployment in 5 cities. Also, benefiting from the election period in the country, the unit published several documents on interpreting political parties' declarations on youth problems such as civil rights and unemployment.

- Children's Studies Unit (ÇOÇA) founded in 2007, works in the training, research and advocacy fields aiming at the realization of children's rights. With the active participation of the children, ÇOÇA endeavors to contribute to the policies developed concerning children in Turkey. The main stakeholders of ÇOÇA are children aged between 0-18, people and organizations working for and around the children and those who contribute to the development of child policies. In the past years unit, undertook several serious projects. ÇOÇA's objectives are increasing awareness concerning children's rights and empowering children, their families and other relevant parties in their environment for their protection; the development and dissemination of innovative training models on children's rights for children and adults; enhancing participation of children in every field including decision and policy-making; keeping the children's rights on the agenda and enabling active participation of the related stakeholders; serving as a facilitator in matching and mobilizing the resources of the university and the society; enabling sustainable interdisciplinary cooperation concerning children's rights within and outside the university.
- The Gender Equality Project of the Center is a significant analysis of existing social

and cultural values and attitudes that are the foundation of gender discrimination or level of gender equity in the daily environment of children by means of a research to be carried out with fathers and mothers. Reinforcing the Participation of Civil Society in Preventing Violence Against Children project is designed to reinforce the participation of civil society at local and national levels in the development, implementation and monitoring of policies aimed at preventing violence against children. Schools on the way to Democracy Project is partnered with local / Sariyer Municipality and a private primary and secondary school. The project's objective is to exercise due diligence about child participation and student councils in schools of Sariyer District.

- Social Incubation Center (SIC) established in 2014 under Civil Society Studies Center (CSSC). Aims to create and nurture a network between NGOs to contribute democratic attempts in Turkey. To fulfill that objective, the Center is working on establishing direct relationships with citizenship and organizational initiatives and supporting these entities. The center offers various supports for its beneficiaries; like Office, training-workshops, mentorship, face to face consultation, financing, academical and legal backup. The center calls for these supports twice a year. In the first period 13 corporations and in the second term 10 corporations were supported. "Things" Project is a current project that the center is carrying out, whereby youth, programmers, activists and NGOs come together and form a community, to create a synergy for social technology and social change issues.

## 2. The Research Centre for the Environment, Energy and Sustainability

The Research Centre for the Environment, Energy and Sustainability

established in Fall 2010 aims to contribute to studies carried out in the field of the environment, taking into account all aspects of environmental problems, including energy and sustainability. The center also targets to construct a bridge between all stakeholders (universities, NGOs, public institutions, private sector etc).



In the last 3 years the Center is involved in numerous projects and research activities.

- İstanbul Bilgi University is the pioneer university in Turkey, giving support to "Earth Hour" campaign, which is a project initiated by WWF to create awareness and interest to global environmental problems. In the three campuses of the University, the lightings -except safety precautions- had been turned off on 23 March 2013, 29 March 2014, 28 March 2015 between 20:30 and 21:30 hours.
- İstanbul Bilgi University's carbon footprint is voluntarily calculated by GAIA Carbon Finance and this data was shared in a panel held at the University in 2012.
- The Center initiated a project to create environmental awareness in selected Turkish primary schools. This project is sponsored by İstanbul Mineral and Metals Exporters' Association (İMMİB). The first part of the project was held on 6 June 2013 in Mersin and the second training was held in Karabük in December 2013.

- “Akıllı Yıldızlar Energy Saving Corporate Social Responsibility Program” is a project that is sponsored by a Turkish company - Soyak Company. Two academicians of the Center namely **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu** and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gresi Sanje** prepared the academic training materials to be used in 31 public school all over Turkey. They also were involved in the trainings conducted in September 2014 and February 2015.
- A report on water problems of Turkey sponsored by HSBC bank that was jointly prepared by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu** (The Head of the Center at İstanbul Bilgi University) with WWF (Ayça Aksoy) was shared with public in December 2014.
- In 2015, the Center took part in the “Integrated Planning Project”, which is supported by International Union for the Conservation of Nature and The Federal Germany Environment Ministry. For this project a report on actions to prevent climate change and preserve biodiversity conservation was prepared by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu** by analyzing Turkey’s locational and integrated planning regulations and institutional structure.
- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayşe Uyduranoğlu** and **Prof. Dr. Nilüfer Oral** participated as speakers to Koç Holding’s event on “World Environment Day” on 5 June 2015.

### 3. The Human Rights Law Research Center

The Human Rights Law Research Center is an initiative of the Law Faculty of the University. It is the academic unit focusing on research

and education in human rights law. Researches that are conducted within the Center and approved for publishing appear on the “Human Rights Law Studies” series under the aegis of the İstanbul Bilgi University Publications. This series also include essential reference books on theory and application of human rights law at national and international level.



Between 2012 and 2015 period there have been three main projects conducted by the Center.

- Technical Assistance for Prevention of Domestic Violence Against Women (July 2013-July 2015) - The Project is a technical assistance project that aims at strengthening the capacity of the General Command of Gendarmerie for the prevention of domestic violence against women in Turkey.
- Women’s Collaboration for Gender Justice (2012-2014) . This project is led by Purple Roof Women’s Shelter Foundation and İstanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, Van Women Association and Antalya Women’s Solidarity Center are among the partner institutions. The overall objective of the project is to make problems faced by women who are subject to male violence in applying legal mechanisms and using their rights more visible; raise awareness of target groups to such issues; draw attention to the bond between legal arrangements and law enforcement; raise functionality of existing mechanisms in a way to enhance gender justice and gender equality. The

project is funded by the European Union European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights Programme (EIDHR).

- In May 2015 “Violence Against Women Without Borders” event, hosted by Istanbul Bilgi University Human Rights Law Research Center, Prof. Dr. Yakın Ertürk (UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women) shared her experience on violence against women and presented her book recently published by Metis Publishing entitled "Violence Without Borders: Violence against Women with Regard to Paradigm, Policy and Practice". Ertürk, who served as the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women of the United Nations made a comprehensive analysis on violence against women based on her field experience in different countries. Ertürk included into the scope of the book her observations as Special Rapporteur during the official visits to Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Palestine, Ghana, Guatemala, the Netherlands, Iran, Sweden, Russian Federation and Turkey.

- Istanbul Bilgi University also held a Human Rights Summer School Program organized by the Human Rights Law Research Center on September 7-11 September 2015.

#### 4. İstanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research

Istanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research, is the first migration research center to carry out large scale, multi-dimensional scientific researches.

Historically Turkey has been affected by, and has produced, diverse forms of migratory movements and refugee flows. The social,

economic, demographic and human rights aspects of emerging trends in migration from, to and through Turkey present ever-increasing challenges both for social scientists and policy makers. As a result, Turkey's position in the international migration scene has changed. And presently Turkey has become both a country of emigration and immigration.

It is within such a climate that the İstanbul Bilgi University Center for Migration Research has formulated its mission to strengthen institutional co-ordination among researchers through several networking activities, support new research and joint projects, and produce reliable information based on research findings that can contribute to realistic policy and decision-making processes.

Activities held by the Center in 2014-2015 are as follows:

- 50 Years of Turkish-Belgian Migration History symposium was held on May 16, 2015 at santralistanbul Campus.



The symposium is organized by the Center for Migration Research of İstanbul Bilgi University in collaboration with the Consulate-General of Belgium in İstanbul and the Turkish-Belgian Friendship and Cultural Association.

The symposium aimed to facilitate the dialogue and the further development of a network in the field of migration studies by bringing together Turkish and international academics as well as artists with a migration background. It investigated key issues and themes of Belgian-Turkish migration by looking at the legal and social history, national and European policy, the present cultural diversity, identity and ethnicity, transmigration and return migration, as well as artistic responses and perceptions in film, literature, visual arts and theatre. The symposium aimed to contribute to the debates about the sociological memory that binds Turkey and Belgium for over 50 years.

- In May 15 2015, the Center for Migration Research held a conference for the launch of the book titled “Syrians in Turkey: Societal Acceptance and Accordance” by Assoc. Prof. Dr. M. Murat Erdoğan published by Istanbul Bilgi University Publications.
- Seminar on “The Next Generation of Turkish German Civil Society: New Paradigms, New Approaches” was held at İstanbul Bilgi University in March 2015. The speaker was Filiz Bikmen, Richard von Weizsacker Bursiyeri 2014, Robert Bosch Stiftung.
- Seminar on “Graphic Violence: Representing Conflict and Migration through Narrative, Photography and Comics” was held in November 2014.
- Panel on “Urban Gentrification and Tarlabası” was held at İstanbul Bilgi University in November 2014. Participants were Noray Çolak, UCTEA Chamber of City Planners; Ahmet Gün,- Association for the Development and Social Solidarity of Landlords and Tenants in Tarlabası; Gülşen İşeri, Journalist-Writer; Özlem Ünsal, Sociologist, City University, London; and Mücella Yapıcı, UCTEA Chamber of Architects.
- Seminar on “Refugees on Their Journey into the Unknown: The Right to Access Asylum, Protection and Assistance in Europe and Germany”, was held in November 2014. The speaker was Silvia Oitner, Alice Salomon University.
- The Conference on “Migration and Literature: Reflections of ‘Armenian Deportation’ on Literature” was held in November 2014. Participants were Fethiye Çetin, Marc Nichanian, Halil İbrahim Özcan, Gülçiçek Günel Tekin, Ragıp Zarakolu, Zülküf Kışanak.
- A Movie Screening and Talk on “Hatred” organized by the Center for Migration Research and the Tarlabası Community Support Association was held in November 2014.

**Contact:**

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