EMU CONTINUES TO ADVANCE ITS PLACE IN WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

U.K. based Times Higher Education (THE), the publisher of the world’s widely referenced university rankings, announced the Impact Rankings of universities according to their United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. According to the rankings, Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) increased its previous year’s score of 52.7 to 69.4 this year. Therefore, EMU achieved to be listed among the 301-400 band rather than last year’s 401-600 band.

EMU Ranked as the First Across the Island and Third in Turkey
Two universities from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) achieved to be listed in the list featuring a total of 1,115 universities.

EMU ranked as the 1st among these two universities. Moreover, EMU succeeded in taking the first place in the list of 4 universities from Southern Cyprus across the island of Cyprus.

Some of the Turkish universities appearing in the list are: Abdullah Gül University and Istanbul Technical University – ranked as first within 101-200 band and, Istanbul Gelişim University, METU and Ozyeğin University ranked as second within 201-300 band. EMU shares the third place with Boğaziçi University, Hacettepe University, Istanbul Bilgi University and Erçiyes University which are all listed within 301-400 band. Total of 49 universities from Turkey appeared in the THE rankings.

Significant Success in Combating Poverty
Last year, EMU was evaluated from 9 of the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and this year it has been evaluated from 10 of the 17 goals. Rankings in the annual evaluations are made within the scope of the three highest achieving goals and general collaborations for all goals. This year, EMU’s highest scoring goals were in the fields of “No Poverty”, “Health” and “Decent Work and Economic Growth”. EMU has succeeded in being well above the general average, especially with the aim of ending poverty. Scientific research in this field, publication outputs and the support provided to the students of the university played an important role in the success achieved.

Another achievement is made within the field of Health. EMU’s collaboration projects regarding health was found as highly praiseworthy. In line with its goal of Decent Work and Economic Growth, EMU has contributed greatly to its research, publication outputs and policies and processes as an employer in this field.


EMU SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED THE EUROPEAN UNIVERSITY ASSOCIATION INSTITUTIONAL EVALUATION PROCESS

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) successfully completed the evaluation process within the scope of European University Association Institutional Evaluation Program.

Institutional Evaluation Program is a program designed with the aim of examining and evaluating the voluntary work processes of universities at the institutional level by a team of European university leaders. Within the scope of this program, universities prepare a self-evaluation report and share their information on strategic management and internal quality assurance systems with the European University Association Institutional Evaluation Program teams.

EMU completed its first evaluation process in 2007. With the results of the 2007 evaluation, university’s quality improvement has been enhanced. This year, within the scope of a second evaluation, reports prepared by our university has been evaluated and two online sessions regarding the evaluation process took place on 15 January – 3 February and 12-15 April, respectively. More than 20 interviews have been conducted with university administration, academic staff members, students and various partners of the university during the online evaluation process.

Institutional Evaluation Program team presented a verbal report to the university administration on the last day of the online procedures and, congratulated EMU’s achievements in the fields of internationalization, institutionalization, public service and research culture. EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Aykut Hocanın emphasized the importance of planning, quality processes and independent international evaluations on the improvement of the university. Moreover, Prof. Dr. Hocanın shared his faith on university’s experiences of program accreditations to contribute the university’s improvement process along with such extensive evaluations taking place on institutional level. Lastly, EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Hocanın thanked the European University Association team.
EMU GRADUATE DR. MEHMET MUŞ BECOMES TURKISH REPUBLIC MINISTER OF TRADE

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Business and Economics Faculty, Business Administration Department graduate Dr. Mehmet Muş, with a decree dated Wednesday, 21 April 2021, has been appointed as the Turkish Republic Minister of Trade. Dr. Muş graduated from EMU with a CGPA of 4.00 and a High Honor degree in the Spring Semester of the 2004-2005 Academic Year.

Who is EMU Graduate Dr. Mehmet Muş?
Dr. Muş was born on 01.05.1982 in Trabzon Sürmene. He graduated from EMU Business and Economics Faculty, Business Administration Department. He holds a master’s degree in Economics from Washington State University School of Economic Sciences. He worked as a Budget Planning and Reporting Specialist in the private sector. He completed his PhD in Economics at Marmara University, Department of Economic History.

COLLABORATION STEPS TAKEN BETWEEN EMU TOURISM FACULTY AND FRANCE’S LEGENDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION PAUL BOCUSE

Having become a member of the association formed by The Alliance by Institut Paul Bocuse, which consists of the world’s most important culinary arts, gastronomy, food service and hospitality institutions, and where only institutions with high quality education can attend, the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Faculty of Tourism took steps towards mutual cooperation.

EMU is the First Tourism Faculty Accepted from the TRNC
In his statement, EMU Tourism Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Hasan Kılıç stated that only gastronomy and tourism schools providing high-level education can become a member of the association, which was founded in 2004 by The Alliance by Institut Paul Bocuse, one of the founders of whom was the legendary French chef Paul Bocuse, and the “Institut Paul Bocuse”, the most important Culinary Arts School in France.

Prof. Dr. Kılıç stated that the doors of international knowledge sharing are now open to the students and academicians of the institutions that are members of the association established for joint education programs, intercultural information exchange, joint activities and research projects, and that the association has 18 membering institutions from Bolivia, Canada, Ecuador, Finland, France, Greece, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru. Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey and the United States.

Prof. Dr. Kılıç stated that they are living the pride of being the first Tourism Faculty from the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) to be admitted to The Alliance by Institut Paul Bocuse within the framework of EMU’s internationalization policies, goals and strategies.

Stating that as a faculty, they have met the criteria of the association as a result of the accreditation meetings held following their contact with the said association in 2020, Prof. Dr. Kılıç listed the opportunities and possibilities offered to the institutions that are members of the association as follows:

- Organizing joint education and diploma programs with Paul Bocuse
- Summer school held at the Institut Paul Bocuse Campus in Lyon, France
- Exchange programs and seminars for academics
- Conferences, webinars and workshops
- Joint research projects
- Participation in annual general assembly meetings
- Development-oriented activities

Stating that the promotion, opportunities and benefits of reputation provided by the membership of The Alliance by Institut Paul Bocuse will expand the horizons of not only the EMU Faculty of Tourism, but also the entire tourism sector of the TRNC, Prof. Dr. Kılıç added that students and graduates will gain experience and become more effective in the international arena. Lastly, Prof. Dr. Kılıç emphasized the difficulty of achieving this especially during the challenging pandemic process, and thanked all teammates who contributed, especially EMU Rector’s Office for their support.
EMU DAKMAR ORGANISED TWO TALKS FOR 18 APRIL WORLD CULTURAL HERITAGE DAY

Eastern Mediterranean University Eastern Mediterranean Cultural Heritage Research Center (DAKMAR) organised two online events on the occasion of 18 April World Cultural Heritage Day.

The first of the events, moderated by DAKMAR Executive Board Member Assist. Prof. Dr. Emel Kaya, took place on Thursday, 15 April 2021 at 19.00, with a talk by Simla Sunay, master architect and children’s book writer, on “Architectural Heritage and Children’s Books / Workshops”. The main theme of the talk was the ability of children to perceive the relationship between architecture and nature through children’s books and workshops and to grow up with the awareness of nature during the processes of the construction of cities and living in them and cultural formation.

Events Open to Public
On 16 April 2021, at 19:00, the second event was held with the participation of EMU Foreign Languages and English Preparatory School, Foreign Languages Department academic staff member Dr. Nafia Akdeniz. At the said event, Dr. Akdeniz held a talk titled “Cultural Memory and Closed Varosha Narratives” within the scope of “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures” theme determined by ICOMOS for 2021. Both events were open to the public via live broadcast on MS Teams.

18 April is celebrated all over the world as the “World Heritage Day” under the leadership of ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) in order to raise awareness about the protection of cultural assets and to contribute to the creation and enhancement of public awareness.

EMU-URDC AND MASDER ORGANIZES HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT AWARENESS EVENT

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Urban Research and Development Center (EMU-URDC) and Famagusta Walled City Association (MASDER) organized a historic environment awareness event series including a photo-shoot, exhibition and a talk with “Looking our Home/City from Outside: Eyesore Scenes in Famagusta Walled City” theme on the occasion of 18 April International Day for Monuments and Sites.

The statement released by EMU-URDC and MASDER on the matter said: “The 2021 year theme of the annually celebrated 18 April International Day for Monuments and Sites organized with the leadership of International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) organization and with the intention of raising awareness on preservation of cultural properties and creating/increasing public awareness is set to be “Complex Pasts: Diverse Futures” on the condition of referencing the United Nations’ 2030 New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”.

Exhibition Opening and Talk Event took place on 17 April
With this event organized with the collaborations of EMU-URDC and MASDER; it was aimed to emphasize the values of living in a historic city like Famagusta and raise awareness on the importance of preserving such values. The event also aimed to make Famagusta Walled City a more sustainable historical city and to reside in a sustainable community within the scope of the UN’s “Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG11)” Goal. Therefore, identifying, bringing forward and discussing the problems encountered in the city was in the agenda of the event.

A selection of photographs taken by the participants of the event were shared with the public on social media as well as the garden of the MASDER building on Saturday, 17 April 2021 at 10:00.

A talk took place on same day at 11:00 with an opening speech of MASDER Director Rifat Yalınç. Famagusta Mayor Ismail Arter delivered a speech during the talk and mentioned the current and future plans’ of the Famagusta Municipality regarding Famagusta Walled City. At 12:00, EMU-URDC Executive Board member and EMU Architecture Department academic staff members Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ege Uluca Tümer commented on existing problems in Famagusta Walled City and its historic structure through the exhibited photographs. Photograph artists and MASDER members participated during the talk. The event that took place outside the MASDER building in Famagusta Walled City according to all COVID-19 measures got the attention of public.
Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Faculty of Health Sciences, Department of Nutrition and Dietetics represented EMU by participating in the prestigious International Nutrition and Dietetics Congress held biennially by Hacettepe University. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the event, taking place for the tenth time this year, was held online in the form of an e-congress between 31 March and 4 April 2021.

During the congress which attracted the intensive participation of faculty members, dieticians and students, EMU Nutrition and Dietetics Department participated in the congress with 6 poster presentations, 2 oral presentations and the chairing of 1 session.

Under the chairing of EMU Nutrition and Dietetics Department academic staff member Prof. Dr. Emine Yıldız, a session took place under the title “Do Complementary Medicine Practices Have a Place in Nutrition and Dietetics?”. Additionally, an oral presentation titled “Milk and Dairy Products and Heavy Metal Intake in Northern Cyprus: Is the Intake above the Daily Acceptable Amount?” from a phd thesis supervised by EMU Nutrition and Dietetics Department Chair Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ceren Gezer and another oral presentation from a master’s thesis that was supervised by Assist. Prof. Dr. Tevhide Ziver Sarp was delivered under the title “Validity and Reliability Study of Food Label Reading Attitude Scale”.

Two poster presentations, namely faculty member Asst. Prof. Dr. Gözde Okburan’s “Determination of the Effects of Hedonic Hunger Tendencies of Eastern Mediterranean University Students on Body Composition” and Asst. Prof. Dr. Seray Kabaran’s “Body Weight, Body Mass Index and Body Fat Percentage National Reference Values of School Age Children Living in the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus”, also took place at the congress.

The following poster presentations also took place at the congress: Senior Instructor Merve Yurt and Research Assistant Cemre Elmas’s poster presentation titled “Evaluation of the Effects of Sleep Time on Body Composition and Nutritional Status of University Students”, Senior Instructor Burcu Barbaros’ poster presentation “Evaluation of University Students’ Eating Attitudes and Sleep Quality in the COVID-19 Process”, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ceren Gezer’s poster presentation “The Relationship Between Excessive Food Demand and Eating Behavioral Disorder Tendency in Pregnant Women” and Prof. Dr. Emine Yıldız’s poster presentation titled “Integration of Nutrition and Dietetics Undergraduate Core Education Program into Distance Education System: A Pilot Study”. All papers will be included in the congress proceedings and they will also be published in full text.

JOINT WORKSHOP FROM EMU AND MINISTRY OF NATIONAL EDUCATION AND CULTURE

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Faculty of Education and Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) Ministry of National Education and Culture, Education and Morality Department’s joint workshop entitled “Reading Culture in Our Schools Workshop” on obstacles, opportunities and threats within schools took place on online platforms on 19-20 April 2021. Total of 212 individuals participated in the event including academic staff members, teachers, writers and students discussing the obstacles and solutions regarding the improvement of reading culture in TRNC.

The opening speeches of the event were delivered by TRNC Minister for National Education and Culture Olgun Amcaoğlu and EMU Rector Prof. Dr. Aykut Hocanın. Prof. Dr. Sedat Sever from Ankara University delivered a speech titled “Improving Reading Culture and PISA Results” and touched on studies conducted in Turkey on reading culture. Prof. Dr. Sever commented on the scores of Turkey in reading category of international PISA exam which is held by Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in every three years for 15-year old students.

Second day of the event commenced with “Reading Culture during Pandemic Period” presentation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. İbrahim Seçkin Aydın from Dokuz Eylül University. Work groups were held on both days of the event sessions: Primary School Work Group moderated by EMU Faculty of Education Dean Prof. Dr. Ahmet Pehlivan, Secondary School Work Group moderated by Education and Morality Department Director Murad Aktuğ and High School Work Group moderated by Education and Morality Department Board Member Salih Sarpten. Final report of the workshop will be released in upcoming days.
Eastern Mediterranean University Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty hosted Harvard Medicine Faculty academic staff member Dr. Ayşe Atasoylu on the 15th of April 2021, Thursday at 17:00 within the scope of the EMU Alumni Communication and Career Research Directorate’s 9th annual International Career Days. During the online event, Dr. Atasoylu delivered a speech in English titled “Following Your Dreams, Becoming a Doctor, and Creating a Meaningful Life”.

“Making Right Choices of Profession is Important”
EMU Dr. Fazıl Küçük Medicine Faculty Dean Prof. Dr. Nahide Gökçora delivered the opening speech of the event and stated that it is aimed for the future physician candidates plan their career options on a more solid basis after their medical trainings. Dean Prof. Dr. Gökçora added that making the right choice regarding one’s profession holds a critical role on that individual’s happiness and success. Therefore, Prof. Dr. Gökçora underlined the importance of career days in the field of medicine.

Dr. Atasoylu Shared 20 Years of Experience in Harvard
Dr. Ayşe Atasoylu talked about her career journey which started in the United States of America following her graduation from highschool. Dr. Atasoylu shared her professional experiences with the students. Becoming an internal medicine specialist after her medical studies and being an academic staff member of Harvard Medicine Faculty for more than 20 years, Dr. Atasoylu presented future doctors information on medical training.

Dr. Ayşe Atasoylu suggested students to ask themselves questions like “Where am I at the moment and where do I want to be in 5 years?”, “What does motivate me?” and “What are my values?” which will help them on their journey of making professional decisions. Stating that loving and enjoying your field of work as the key, Dr. Atasoylu said that the difficult journey that future doctors go through is to be much more difficult if they do not enjoy practicing medicine. Underlining that this journey is a long one, Dr. Atasoylu stated that learning and improving do not end after the medical training. Medical practitioners must keep improving themselves in order to be successful in this field. Apart from the difficulties, mentioning her belief on determination being the road to success, Dr. Atasoylu stated that most important factors of an individual creating a journey which is on the right path, are self awareness and being open to change.
Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Dr. Fazıl Küçük Faculty of Medicine academic staff member Dr. Altuğ Çinçin wrote an article titled “Pandemic and Our Heart” on the occasion of the heart health days observed during the second week of April every year.

Dr. Çinçin included the following statements in his article:

We have left behind a whole year in the Covid-19 pandemic, during which we lost a large number of people. Although the vaccination programs are continuing rapidly, the numbers both in our country and the world are unfortunately not good. Cardiovascular diseases, the most common cause of death before the pandemic, have become even more important during the pandemic period. While individuals with a known heart disease have a more difficult disease process, the medicine they have to use and their interactions with each other, fighting against complications that may arise after the first period of the disease are big enough problems, even the stress that occurs while trying to avoid Covid-19 creates serious difficulties for heart patients. Considering that the elderly people are the most affected group by the pandemic, the presence of heart disease becomes more important.

Although it is not a tangible organ, one of the most important and functional structures of the human body is a membrane called “endothelium” that covers the inner surface of all our vascular structures. Although the virus mostly affects the lungs, the inflammation it creates in this endothelial structure causes various complications in many cardiac patients. In this process, the risk of heart attack and pulmonary embolism increases significantly. It is known that rhythm and conduction disturbances can be observed in the heart and heart failure may worsen. Decreased oxygen delivery due to problems in the lungs and the need for bed rest during the disease process are other important reasons for the poor prognosis in cardiac patients.

Although one of the most discussed issues since the early days of the pandemic has been the relationship between hypertension and hypertension drugs and the disease, sufficient evidence on the subject has not been obtained. Since there is no information in the current literature that any hypertension or heart medication may increase the risk of developing the disease or worsen its course, it is important that all cardiac patients, including those with hypertension, continue their treatment regularly.

If the elderly with heart disease encounter the virus, the risk of serious progress of the disease is higher than other individuals. Therefore, social isolation of the elderly, heart patients, those who receive cancer treatment or those who have diseases that may affect the immune system is extremely important. Exercise, weight control and good nutrition are our most important weapons in the current pandemic process. If it is not possible to go outside due to the lack of suitable conditions, at least 30 minutes of exercise should be practiced without interruption, even indoors. Inevitably, the increase in the time we spend in our homes should not lead to an increase in the amount of food consumed, and carbohydrate-based nutrition should be avoided. Fruit and vegetable consumption should be increased and maximum attention should be paid to daily fluid consumption. Protection is important, but hesitating to apply to the hospital when a serious complaint such as chest pain, shortness of breath, feeling faint will cause more serious problems. For simple complaints or postponable routine controls, it is more rational to wait for periods when the pandemic slows down, if possible.

It is evident that in societies that start the vaccination program earlier and can make progress, serious success can be achieved in the rate of disease spread. It is extremely important that all heart patients in our country be vaccinated regardless of the type or duration of their disease. Since there is no evidence as to which vaccine is best suited for heart patients, they should be vaccinated without hesitation once any vaccine is available.

As we leave behind the heart health days, observed in the second week of April every year, we seek ways to protect our heart and from the virus. With the hope that we all have healthy days which we win the fight against the epidemic and our hearts are ticking with health.
EMU ATAUM RELEASES A STATEMENT ON THE OCCASION OF 23 APRIL NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY AND CHILDREN’S DAY

Eastern Mediterranean University Atatürk Research and Application Center (EMU-ATAUM) Chair Assist. Prof. Dr. Turgay Bülent Göktürk released a statement on the occasion of 23 April – National Sovereignty and Children’s Day. The statement touched on the following:

“Every year 23rd of April, the establishment anniversary of Grand National Assembly of Turkey (TBMM) which convened in Ankara on 23 April 1920 and representing the sovereignty of the nation, is celebrated as a national holiday in Turkey and Northern Cyprus. Since the Turkish Grand National Assembly has the characteristics of the Constituent Assembly, this date is also the date when a nation declares to the whole world that it has established a new state based on its sovereignty.

Moreover, 23 April is the only day dedicated to children which was gifted to the children by the Great Leader Atatürk; “I will present this day to children, the successors of the future”.

National sovereignty is a fundamental principle that Atatürk has clearly put forward, emphasized and applied since the first days of the National Struggle. On May 19, 1919, Mustafa Kemal who had the idea of “establishing a new state based on unconditional national sovereignty” at the very beginning, went to Samsun to start the “Action Phase” of the National Struggle, to ensure the success of the national struggle, and the solution of the nation. He deemed it necessary to make his determination and decision, the sovereignty of the nation, and the new State to be based on principles such as national sovereignty and national will. Mustafa Kemal’s idea of national sovereignty shows itself in the motto of “The independence of the nation will be saved by the determination and decision of the nation” in 1919 Amasya Circular, in the Erzurum Congress on the basis of “Making the National Forces Sovereign and the National Will Sovereign”, the “Mandate and patronage, which were unanimously received by the representatives of the Nation at the Sivas Congress, are unacceptable” which appeared in the” İradei Milliyé “newspaper published during the Sivas Congress and finally became the mainstay of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and the newly established state on 23 April 1920.

Atatürk’s principle of national sovereignty can be understood by not only from his thoughts but also with his deep personal feelings he shared at the cemetery after the death of his mother:

“I swear in front of my mother’s grave and in the presence of God, I will never hesitate to go to my mother’s side if necessary, in order to protect and defend the sovereignty that the nation has achieved and stated by shedding so much blood. It is clearly understood from his words that to give my life for the sake of national sovereignty is a duty of conscience and honor for me.”

On this occasion, we commemorate with gratitude and respect the first members of the Turkish Grand National Assembly, especially the Great Leader Gazi Mustafa Kemal Atatürk and his comrades in arms, and all our martyrs who fell to the land for the sake of making this land our homeland.”
We wish you all a happy 101st anniversary of the opening of the Turkish Grand National Assembly and 23 April National Sovereignty and Children’s Day.

This Week’s Academic Publications

Faculty of Arts & Sciences

Faculty of Engineering

Source: Web of Science