

# YAŞAR UNIVERSITY EU RESEARCH CENTER

## 2021 ANNUAL ROUND-UP NEWSLETTER



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay ÖZERİM  
Director, European Union Research  
Center  
& Dept. of International Relations



Burcu KİPER  
Chief, European Union  
Research Center



Güldan KALEM  
Expert, European Union  
Research Center



Efsa SABİT  
Expert, European Union  
Research Center

### Dear Researchers,

While closing a year and opening the doors of a new one with hopes and wishes, we would like to share with you a summary of 2021 in terms of the EU and international funded projects and activities at our university.

In 2021, **24 European projects** were carried out at Yaşar University. Around **70 activities** were organized (face to face and virtually) by the researchers of our university in scope of these projects and **more than 2000 people** joined in these activities. With the support of our center, **26 new project proposals** were prepared and submitted by our researchers for the new project calls. So far, a part of these submission results was announced, and **9 new projects were accepted** by funding authorities and 4 of these projects started in 2021.

Yaşar University European Union Research Center continued to monitor European Union (EU) integration process closely and develop international cooperation between Yaşar University and European research institutions through European education, training and research projects. Besides providing European training and cooperation opportunities for our academics, researchers and students, these projects also contribute to the institutional research policy of the university by producing high quality academic knowledge. You may find the details and academic outputs of these projects at the web site of our center (<https://euc.yasar.edu.tr>).

We would like to congratulate our project teams for their commitment to fostering a strong research ecosystem and increasing the international collaboration and cooperation capacity of our institution. We send affectionate greetings to all of you by wishing peace and prosperity, and a happy New Year.

### The EU Center Team

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay ÖZERİM, Burcu KİPER, Güldan KALEM, Efsa SABİT

# 2021 IN NUMBERS



24

Ongoing projects



70

Activities organized



>2000

Participants



26

New project applications



9

New projects approved

# NEW EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

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## RIECOLAB

Project Period: 2021-2023

**Aim:** The project aims to develop a novel way of performing research and development in universities to ensure immediate commercialisation (spin-offs) and involvement of a large number of internal stakeholders (academic and non-academic staff, as well as students).

**Project Team:** Prof. (PhD) Levent KANDILLER (Coordinator), Assoc. Prof. (PhD) Ruhan Aşkın UZEL Lecturer (PhD) Efthymia STAIYOU

RiEcoLab

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## GREEN NIGHT

Project Period: 2021-2022

**Aim:** The project aims to bring together researchers and their achievements closer to society, and to increase the researchers' and innovators' visibility in Europe by making society in general and young people in particular aware of scientific achievements in research and innovation.

**Project Team:** Assoc. Prof. (PhD) Mehmet Gökay ÖZERİM (Coordinator), Güldan KALEM, Burcu KİPER, Efsa SABİT



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## VİRZTEX

Project Period: 2021-2023

**Aim:** The project aims to integrate technology into textile education courses to engage students in immersive learning experiences whether teaching in class or remotely. The project also explores the potential of virtual reality (VR) for deepening understanding and enhancing learner engagement by eliminating the screen and placing learners in the middle of real situations through utilizing VR 360 videos.

**Project Team:** Assoc. Prof. (PhD) Yasin ÖZARSLAN (Coordinator), Nejla GÜNDOĞAR



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## SDG4BIZ

Project Period: 2021-2023

**Aim:** The project aims to create, test and disseminate a curriculum and training material on recognizing and realizing the business opportunities in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set by the United Nations.

**Project Team:** Prof. (PhD) Çağrı BULUT (Coordinator), Assist. Prof. (PhD) İsmail OKAY



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## AGRIEU

Project Period: 2022-2025

**Aim:** The project aims to create a course titled "Sustainable Agri-Food Production and Supply Chain Management" to make participants aware of the sustainability concept in agri-food production and supply chain management and to develop a new course material that will be publicly available by practicing it at and outside of Yasar University.

**Project Team:** Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ruhan Aşkın UZEL (Coordinator), Prof. Dr. Arif HEPBAŞLI, Prof. Dr. Aylin GÜNEY GEVREK, Prof. Dr. Yiğit KAZANÇOĞLU, Assoc.Prof.Dr. Ayselin Gözde YILDIZ



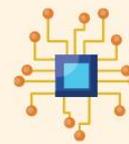
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## DIGIWAY

Project Period: 2022-2024

**Aim:** "The Digital way to Employment" project addresses cultural barriers and stereotyping of women roles in business by introducing young women to digital occupations.

**Project Team:** Prof. (PhD) Çağrı BULUT (Coordinator)



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## TOUCAN

Project Period: 2022-2024

**Aim:** The project aim is to strengthen professional development of SMEs and young entrepreneurs and VET trainers through adoption or improving knowledge and skills in the field of tourism.

**Project Team:** Prof. (PhD) Çağrı BULUT (Coordinator), Assoc.Prof.Dr.Serpil KAHRAMAN



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## MUSENSE

Project Period: 2022-2024

**Aim:** The project aim is to educate and forge HES' music staff and students in order to acquire and embrace the digital shift while improving skills in cyber and live innovative performances, involving renewed art practices.

**Project Team:** Assist. Prof. Dr. Payam GÜL SUSANNI (Coordinator), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Paolo SUSANNI



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## TURKEY, ASIA AND EUROPE IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER

Project Period: February-December 2022

**Aim:** This research project proposes to examine shifting dynamics of economic and political relations between Turkey and Asia and its policy implications and impacts on Turkey-EU relations.

**Project Team:** Assoc.Prof.Dr. Sinan ÜNLÜSOY (Coordinator), Pof.Dr. Aylin GÜNEY GEVREK, Prof.Dr. Emre İŞERİ, Dr. Defne GÖNENÇ



# JEAN MONNET PROJECTS AT YAŞAR IN 2021

## Boosting Knowledge on European Studies by Jean Monnet Program

Yaşar University is triggering academic studies on the EU by actively using EU funding programmes. In this regard, our university has been awarded with **eight Jean Monnet Modules and 2 Jean Monnet Chairs in last 10 years**. Our university became also a partner of a **Jean Monnet Network project**. These projects address a variety of topics such as migration, international relations and EU studies, project management, art and culture, media, gender equality, literature and agriculture.

The activities of *the Jean Monnet Chair on Multifaceted Approaches to Migration in the EU and Turkey (MIG-EU)*, coordinated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay ÖZERİM, from the Department of International Relations and the Director of EU Center, continued throughout the year.

Webinars, training programs and information sessions were organized with various stakeholders including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, College of Europe, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) Turkey and Turkish-German Solidarity and Integration Association. More than 300 students and researchers participated in these activities.

The Chair on Migration aims to deepen knowledge on European integration and European studies from the perspective of immigration issues in Europe and by bringing representatives from different sectors of migration governance together.

For further information: <https://migration-eu.yasar.edu.tr>



## Gençlerle AB buluşması

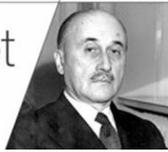


# JEAN MONNET PROJECTS AT YAŞAR IN 2021

Boosting Knowledge on European Studies by Jean Monnet Program



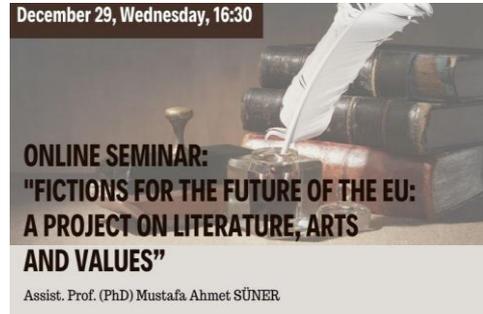
Jean Monnet  
Programme



**EU Sustainable Agri-Food Production Principles and Supply Chain Management: Innovative Approaches for Turkey's Integration** Jean Monnet Module was selected for funding by European Commission in 2021. The project is coordinated by **Assoc.Prof.Dr.Ruhan Aşkın UZEL**, Vice Director of Vocational School and Head of Department of Food Processing and will be implemented between 2022 and 2025.

The project will create a new course on “Sustainable Agri-Food Production and Supply Chain Management” and a researcher network between Europe and Turkey concerning the public, students, and professionals to investigate the European agri-food industry and EU food policies comprehensively.

Another Jean Monnet Module ***Fictions for the Future of the European Union: Confronting Fears and Building Values by way of Literature and Art (FFEU)*** coordinated by **Lecturer Dr. Ahmet SÜNER** from the Department of English Language and Literature, continued through module activities which aim to bridge the gap between European Studies and studies in literature and the art. (<https://ffeu.yasar.edu.tr/>).



**EU Middle East Network in Action (EUMENIA)** Jean Monnet Network Project, coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Emre İŞERİ**, Department of International Relations, has continued also in 2021 by organizing seminars and conducting research on EU and Middle East studies (<http://eumenia.eu>).

Lastly, the activities of the Jean Monnet Module entitled ***Gender Politics and EU in the Time of Crisis (GP-EU)*** was concluded in 2021 (<https://gender-eu.yasar.edu.tr>).



# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-I: POLICY DEVELOPMENT

## *Institutional Frameworks for Gender Equality & Innovation*

Yasar University's involvement in two big-scale projects funded by **the Horizon 2020 Programme** and **European Institute of Innovation & Technology** have resulted in policy development and institutional change for gender equality and responsible innovation. YU Gender Equality Plan and YU Innovation Vision Action Plan will become fundamental institutional policies for the achievement of strategic plan of the organization.

### **“Linking Gender and Innovation for Gender Equality - CALIPER” Horizon 2020 Project**



Following the institutional capacity building training on gender equality and the analysis of internal and external conditions on gender equality in 2020, the CALIPER Project team prepared the institutional **Gender Equality Plan** which was approved by the Board of Trustees in November 2021. YU Gender Equality Plan presents measures for gender equality in human resources, institutional governance, research, teaching, institutional communication, sexual harassment and collaborative actions.

The project is conducted at Yaşar University by a team composed of **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Gökay ÖZERİM (coordinator), Güldan KALEM (EU Expert), and Burcu KİPER (Chief at EU Center)**. Further information about the project is available at: <https://caliper-project.eu/>

### **“Responsible Innovation-Led Entrepreneurial University Transformation Centres - RiEcoLab” European Institute of Innovation & Technology Project**

RiEcoLab project aims to develop a novel way R&D is being performed in universities in order to ensure immediate commercialization (spin-offs) and involvement of a large number of internal stakeholders (academic and non-academic staff, students) for the realization of institutional Innovation Vision Action Plan. Further information about the project is available at: <https://riecolab.eu/>

The Project brings together higher education institutions, research centers, business networks and associations from seven European countries. Yaşar University is represented in the Project by **Prof.Dr.Cemali DİNÇER, Rector, Prof.Dr.Levent KANDİLLER, Vice Rector and Project coordinator, Mesut Erol SEZER, Dean of Faculty of Engineering, Assoc.Prof.Dr.Ruhan Aşkın UZEL, Assoc. Prof.Dr. Yasin ÖZARSLAN, Assist.Prof.Dr. Önder BULUT, Assist.Prof.Dr. Serpil KAHRAMAN, Lecturer Dr.Efthymia STAIU.**

RiEcoLab

# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-II: TRAINING & OUTREACH

## Large-scale Activities Involving Key Stakeholders & the Wider Public

Several on-going EU funded projects organized face-to-face or virtual training, piloting and multiplier events with the participation of students, staff members, researchers and various stakeholders.



**GREEN NIGHT**  
EUROPEAN RESEARCHERS NIGHT  
<https://greennight.yasar.edu.tr/>

**ONLY PROJECT SELECTED IN TURKEY IN 2021**

**GREEN NIGHT**

GREEN NIGHT project was the only European Researchers Night project selected from Turkey in 2021.

**5 PARTNERS:**  
**4 UNIVERSITIES**  
**1 PUBLIC AUTHORITY**

- Yaşar University (Coordinator)
- Ege University
- İzmir Institute of Technology
- İzmir Katip Çelebi University
- İzmir Provincial Directorate of National Education

**4 THEMES**

- Energy
- Food
- Waste
- Transportation

**177 ACTIVITIES**  
**258 RESEARCHERS**  
**20.000 VISITORS**  
**1.000.000 PEOPLE REACHED**

**GREEN NIGHT** project is a European Researchers' Night project funded by the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions under Horizon 2020 Programme. The European Researchers' Night is a Europe-wide public event, organized on the last Friday of September each year with the aim of showcasing the impact and importance of science to the general public

**GREEN NIGHT** is the only project selected from Turkey in the 2021 edition of the European Researchers' Night. The project focuses on main action areas of **energy, food, waste, and transportation**, and aims to demonstrate the leading role that sciences have in how to achieve this transformation. **GREEN NIGHT** was developed by **the European Union Research Center** and coordinated by its director.

**GREEN NIGHT** project brought together 4 universities and the provincial directorate of national education in Izmir, Turkey. Total of 177 activities were offered with the involvement of 258 researchers. Over 20.000 people directly got in contact with the researchers and took part in the activities and around 1.000.000 people made aware of the **GREEN NIGHT**. For more information: <https://greennight.yasar.edu.tr/>.



# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-II: TRAINING & OUTREACH

## Disseminating Project Results to Key Stakeholders & the Wider Public



Local multiplier event of Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project *Education and Digital Cultural Laboratory (EDUCLAB)* was organized in August 2021, with the participation of pre-school teachers, trainers, and administrators from different educational institutions. At the event, project coordinator **Assist. Prof. Dr. Mehmet KAHYAOĞLU** from the Yaşar University Faculty of Art and Design presented the results and outputs of the project. The EDUCLAB Toolkit was distributed to the participants, and the DUCLAB Online platform and video tutorials were presented to the pre-school teachers.

The main objective of the project was to increase the awareness of children aged 3-5 about the importance of cultural heritage as a common good, independent from any ethnic or religious considerations. For more information: [www.educlab.eu](http://www.educlab.eu).



A virtual multiplier event entitled *“Protection of Personal Data: Priorities of Businesses”* was organized by Yaşar University with the participation of students, researchers, representatives of business sector and law practitioners within the framework of Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project: *Immersive Learning in Information Security (MISSILE)*.

The project focused on developing key competences and a methodology to raise awareness in information security gaps, threats and precautions through learning and training, thereby increasing the overall security level of users and organizations. The project was coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Çağrı BULUT**, Department of Business Administration. For more information: <https://project-missile.eu/>.

# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-II: TRAINING & OUTREACH

## Training Programmes for Piloting and Testing



Two virtual mobility activities were organized in 2021 within the scope of **New Employability Within Self-Leadership in Music Academic Programs (NEWS in MAP)** Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project which aims to increase employability of the music graduates. The project proposes a new direction that has a fundamental aim for music education: self-leadership for a new employability through entrepreneurship. NEWSINMAP is coordinated by **Dr. Lecturer Payam Gül SUSANNI**, Department of Music. For more information: <https://www.newsinmap.eu/>

**Sustainable Skills for Local Developer (SKILLeD)** Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project, which aims to meet the professional needs of young people related to local development, trained the first group of **European Experts in Sustainable Local Development** through its piloting course. The project is coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Çağrı BULUT**, Department of Business Administration. For more information: <https://skilled-project.eu/>.



In Summer 2021, young people from partner organizations of **İzmir Design Factory** Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project had the opportunity to intern at the Porto Design Factory in Porto, one of the biggest design centers of the EU. IDF project aimed to establish Turkey's first international design center associated with universities, private sector, professional chambers, and non-governmental organizations. The project was coordinated by **Yaşar University Knowledge and Technology Transfer Office**. For more information: <https://www.izmirdesignfactory.com/>.

In 2021, Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project **The European University for Transition (EU4TRANSITION)** organized its first Autumn School in Spain. The activity enabled students from partner universities to benefit from the courses set up in the service of an authentic and successful transition. EU4TRANSITION project aims at developing and implementing innovative learning and research practices addressing key topics relevant for the ecological, economic, social and legal transition at local and European level. In doing so, EU4TRANSITION focuses on the development of a **"European University in Transition"**. The project is coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Çağrı BULUT**, Department of Business Administration. For more information: <https://sites.google.com/essec.edu/european-university-transition/>.



# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-III: INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS

## Transforming higher education with research

Yasar University's *Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 Projects* produced innovative and creative intellectual outputs on **sustainable design and circular economy, sustainable development goals, agri-tech, distance learning and virtual reality, youth employment, digital youth work and internet of things** in 2021.

The poster for the SDG4BIZ project features a central logo with the text 'SDG4BIZ' surrounded by a circular arrangement of colorful dots representing the Sustainable Development Goals. The poster is divided into several sections: 'PROJECT OBJECTIVES' on the left, 'FOLLOW US' with social media icons in the middle, and 'RESULTS & IMPACT' on the right. The top right corner contains the website URL 'https://www.sdg4biz.eu/en/'. At the bottom, logos of partner institutions are displayed, including Yasar University, FENICE, Hasejo-Halla, STU, brain, Learning, and Metropolia.

**Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliance for Business Opportunities in SDGs (SDG4BIZ)** project, coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Çağrı BULUT**, Department of Business Administration, creates, tests and disseminates a curriculum and training material on recognizing and realizing the business opportunities in SDGs. In 2021, the Project consortium prepared a report on the outcomes of **a current state analysis** in Finland, Slovakia, Austria, Turkey, Spain, and Italy, and examples of best practices in the implementation of sustainable development goals (SDGs). In 2022, an effective multidisciplinary curriculum and training materials on business opportunity recognition related to SDGs will be created based on the current state and best practices analysis. For more information: <https://www.sdg4biz.eu/en/>.

**Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliance of Agri Businesses, Academia and Business Angels for Disruptive Farm-to-Work Agri-Tech Training (AgTech7)** project aims to enhance the knowledge of European HEIs'/Research Institutes' students and 'in-house' incubator managers, agribusiness entrepreneurs and business angels on a wide set of agri-tech disruptive farm-to-fork applications. In 2021 the project has developed **a new curriculum** tailored to the specific needs and learning habits of the different target-groups, **practical and actionable agri-tech case studies, and AgTech7 course delivery methodology**. In 2022, the project consortium will continue with the organization of workshops, training programmes and focus groups. The project is coordinated by **Dr. Efthymia STAIUO**, Department of Industrial Engineering. For more information: <https://www.agtech7.uns.ac.rs/>



# AgTech7

# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-III: INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS

Transforming higher education through research

Yasar University's **Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 Projects** produced innovative and creative intellectual outputs on **sustainable design and circular economy, sustainable development goals, agri-tech, distance learning and virtual reality, youth employment, digital youth work and internet of things** in 2021.



## **Integration of Sustainable Design and Circular Economy Concepts in Civil Engineering Curriculum (SUSTAIN-CE)**

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project SUSTAIN-CE aims to enrich the contemporary civil engineering undergraduate programs' curricula by incorporating sustainability, resilience and circular economy concepts in various stages of the design courses. In 2021, the project consortium has started developing an innovative civil engineering curriculum by surveying representatives of academia, professional organizations, business sector, public sector and non-governmental organizations through focus groups. The project is coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Özgür EĞİLMEZ**, Department of Civil Engineering. For more information: <https://sustain-ce.yasar.edu.tr/>.

Funded under Erasmus+ Partnerships for Digital Education Readiness programme, **Digital Learning Materials for Sustainable Textile Education (Vir2TEX)** project aims to integrate technology into courses to engage students in immersive learning experiences whether teaching in class or remotely. The Vir2TEX project partnership will develop new learning materials created by digital technologies such as virtual reality for delivering high-quality education.



The Vir2TEX project started by contacting stakeholders and identifying key points crucial in textile vocational training via survey or observation. The Project is coordinated by **Assoc.Prof. Yasin ÖZARSLAN**, Director, Open and Distance Learning Center.

# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-III: INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS

## Supporting and Mentoring Youth Workers and Youth Organizations

Yasar University's **Erasmus+ and Horizon 2020 Projects** produced innovative and creative intellectual outputs on **sustainable design and circular economy, sustainable development goals, agri-tech, distance learning and virtual reality, youth employment, digital youth work and internet of things** in 2021.

**Mentoring Programme for Young People at Risk for Labour Force Entry (EMPLOY)** Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project brought together universities, career guidance centres, research centres, and youth organisations in an effort to develop collaborative online mentoring hub, where young people can improve their employability skills with the aim to enter the labour market. The project concluded with the publication of the **skills and competences handbook and the policy toolkit**. The project was coordinated by **Dr. Efthymia STAIYOU**, Department of Industrial Engineering. For more information: <http://employprogramme.eu/>.



## DiGi YOUTH

Erasmus+ Strategic Partnership project, **DiGi YOUTH: Innovative Training for Digital Youth Work and Inclusive Youth Organizations** promoted quality youth work through supporting open and innovative practices in a digital era. In 2021, the DiGi YOUTH consortium developed three important outputs; **digital youth work manual, digital youth work media manual and the DiGi YOUTH simulation game** with the overall objective of improving skills and competences of youth workers and youth organizations in digital youth work planning, implementing and assessment. The project is coordinated by **Dr. Efthymia STAIYOU**, Department of Industrial Engineering. For more information: <http://employprogramme.eu/>.

Yasar University EU Research Center experts **Güldan KALEM and Burcu KİPER** contributed to the DiGi YOUTH Work Manual and simulation game by developing and gamifying two chapters on self-development and self-assessment of youth workers and reaching disadvantaged youth through digital tools.

# THE IMPACT OF EUROPEAN PROJECTS-III: INNOVATIVE OUTPUTS

## Breakthrough Research

**Horizon 2020 Programme** continued to provide European research opportunities in 2021 and to link Yasar University to the European Research Area. Yasar University researchers were involved in Marie Curie Individual Fellowships and COST Actions projects during 2021.



**Marie Curie Individual Fellowships** are a great opportunity for experienced researchers who plan to diversify and enrich their research. **Prof. Dr. Volkan RODOPLU**, from the Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering coordinated **Quality of Service for the Internet of Things in Smart Cities via Predictive Networks (QoSIoTSmartCities)** individual fellowship project which aimed to enable the delivery of Quality of Service (QoS) for the Internet of Things (IoT) in smart cities.

In 2021 QoSIoTSmartCities project concluded with the organization of workshops, technology days, tutorials and training programmes on artificial intelligence targeting researchers and students. For more information: <https://qosiotsmartcities.yasar.edu.tr/>.

**“Wind Power Plant Maintenance Training” (ADA-RENEWAC)** project is funded by the Austrian Development Agency (ADA) and aims to develop a maintenance course for the qualification of maintenance personnel of wind turbines. The planned wind turbine maintenance course will offer comprehensive and continuous training of specialists in the field of wind power, considering international standards. Within the project the course will be developed, teaching staff will be trained and a first training will be carried out in 2022. The project is coordinated by **Asst. Prof. Dr. Emrah BIYIK**, Department of Energy Systems Engineering, Faculty of Engineering. For more information: <http://www.renewac.com/>.



**“Wellbeing, Housing and Infrastructure in Turkey” (WHIT)** is another project funded by the Institute of Development Studies, UK and aims to contribute to finding ‘durable solutions’ for housing infrastructural deficits in the context of two of the defining challenges of our times: Large scale displacement and rapid urbanization. The project will deliver propositional and innovative engineering and architecture solutions rooted in vulnerable groups’ wellbeing priorities and will develop new employment skills for low-income workers. The project is coordinated by **Prof. Dr. Meltem GÜREL**, Department of Architecture and **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ayselin YILDIZ**, Department of International Relations. Further information about the project is available on the project website: <https://unescochair.yasar.edu.tr/whit/?csrt=9165539992167017517>.





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