



Eastern Mediterranean University
Urban Research and Development Center
(EMU URDC)
2025-2026 Academic Year
September 2025-July 2026
Activity Report
(19 June 2026)



**Eastern Mediterranean University
Urban Research and Development Center
(EMU URDC)**

2025-2026 Academic Year Activity Report
September 2025-July 2026

EMU-URDC Executive Committee

On duty 18 March 2024 – 18 March 2027

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| Prof. Dr. Şebnem Önal Hoşkara | Director | <i>Architect – Urban Design and Urbanism</i> | Department of Architecture |
| Assoc.Prof.Dr. Müge Rıza | Member – Vice Director | <i>Architect – Yaratıcı Kentler ve Tarihi Çevrede Tasarım Uzmanı</i> | Department of Architecture |
| Assoc.Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert | Member – Vice Director | <i>Landscape Architect and Urban Designer – Urban Morphology</i> | Department of Architecture |
| Assoc.Prof.Dr. Ege Uluca Tümer | Member | <i>Architect – Conservation and Restoration</i> | Department of Architecture |
| Assist.Prof.Dr. Pınar Uluçay | Member | <i>Architect – Sürdürülebilir Kent Politikaları Uzmanı</i> | Department of Architecture |
| Assist.Prof.Dr. Pelin Karakuş Akalın | Member | <i>Psychologist – Environmental Psychology</i> | Department of Psychology |
| Assist.Prof.Dr. Ayşenur Talat Zrilli | Member | <i>Sociologist – Immigration</i> | Department of Psychology |

Research Assistants on duty:

Mahmoud El Doukhi (B category)

Introduction

This report presents the activities of EMU URDC for the Academic Year 2025-2026, covering the Fall and Spring Semesters.

During this period, 4 Executive Board Meetings and several online consultations and brainstorming sessions were held within each semester. Additionally, online consultations have been conducted as needed for urgent or time-critical issues.

| Academic Year | Semester | # Meetings | # Decisions |
|----------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|
| 2025-2026 | Fall & Spring | 4 + several Whatsup consultations | 9 |

The Executive Board has carried out all administrative duties with the support of one Research Assistant. Our research assistant also works for the Sustainable Campus with the Center's Director, Prof.Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara, who is also the Sustainable Campus Coordinator. He helps run the university's SDGs website (<https://sdgs.emu.edu.tr/en>) and the SDGs Club's social media account.

The web page of the Center is regularly updated (www.urdc.emu.edu.tr). All activities, including posters, photographs, and video recordings, are published on the web page. The Center's Facebook page (@EMUKENTAG) is being kept active. Besides, the Centre has been running its

YouTube account (https://www.youtube.com/@EMU_URDC), Instagram account (@emuurdc), and LinkedIn account ([EMU Urban Research and Development Centre](https://www.linkedin.com/company/emu-urdc)) actively since August 2025. Our research assistant is responsible for the Centre's website and all social media accounts, under the guidance of our director.

The Report is organised under 4 headings, as has always been done for semester/year activity reports:

- A. Research Projects & Research-Based Urban Design / Planning Projects
- B. Publications
- C. Scholarly Activities
- D. Competitions



A. Research – Research Projects & Research-Based Urban Design / Planning Projects

The Center receives research-based urban design and/or planning projects from central and/or local authorities at different times. Besides, the Center also advises similar institutions.

This year, based on the request of the Rectorate, we have defined our 2026 Working Theme as **'Public Space and Social Resilience'**. For this, we have prepared a **Vision Statement** and published it on our website in both English and Turkish.

(<https://urdc.emu.edu.tr/en/Documents/EMU%20URDC%202026%20Vision%20Statement.pdf>)

Based on this vision statement, we have initiated a new research project, which also contributes to our ongoing Campus Planning efforts. (Please see Section 4 below).

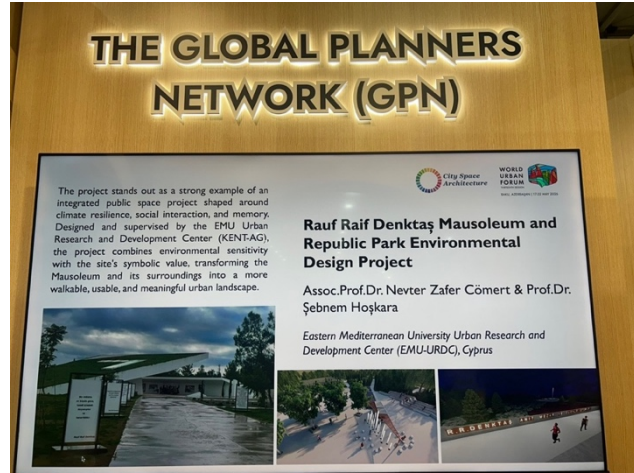
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|  <p>URBAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER KENTSEL ARAŞTIRMA VE GELİŞTİRME MERKEZİ</p> <p>EMU URDC 2026 Vision Statement Public Space and Social Resilience</p> <p>For the 2026 academic year, the Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) at Eastern Mediterranean University adopts "Public Space and Social Resilience" as its overarching theme, reflecting the Center's commitment to advancing inclusive, sustainable, and socially responsive urban environments. This theme builds upon URDC's longstanding engagement with public space, urban design, and sustainability, while expanding directly to the spatial, social, and environmental challenges facing Northern Cyprus and the wider Eastern Mediterranean region.</p> <p>Public spaces—such as streets, squares, parks, waterfronts, heritage areas, and campuses—play a fundamental role in shaping everyday urban life. Beyond their physical form, these spaces function as critical arenas for social interaction, cultural expression, care, and collective identity. In contexts marked by climate stress, socio-economic inequality, governance challenges, and prolonged uncertainty, the quality and accessibility of public space become central to a city's capacity to sustain social cohesion and adaptability. URDC's 2026 vision positions public space as a key driver of social resilience, understood not only as the ability to withstand shocks, but as the long-term capacity of communities to maintain inclusive public life, social ties, and shared values.</p> <p>The theme emphasizes the relationship between everyday practices and resilience, recognizing ordinary spaces and daily routines as essential sources of urban knowledge and social strength. By focusing on lived experience, URDC aims to foreground the voices and needs of diverse user groups, including women, youth, older adults, and marginalized communities, whose interactions with public space are often overlooked in conventional planning and design processes. Particular attention is given to historic, small-scale, and transitional urban contexts, which characterize much of Northern Cyprus and offer valuable insights for global urban discourse.</p> <p>In 2026, URDC will advance this vision through interdisciplinary research, community outreach, living laboratories, public space audits, workshops, exhibitions, and international collaborations. These activities will integrate <i>climate-responsive design, gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches, participatory methods, and heritage-aware strategies, contributing to more equitable, adaptive, and livable urban environments.</i> The theme aligns closely with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals—especially SDGs 11, 5, 10, 13, and 17—and reinforces EMU's role as an engaged academic institution addressing societal and environmental challenges through research, education, and outreach.</p> <p>Through the theme <i>Public Space and Social Resilience</i>, URDC reaffirms its mission to generate locally grounded and internationally relevant knowledge, positioning public space as a foundational element of resilient cities and communities.</p> <p>Key Words and Thematic Areas for URDC 2026</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Public Space and Public Life• Social Resilience and Community Well-being• Everyday Urbanism and Lived Experience• Inclusive and Gender-Responsive Design• Accessibility and Universal Design• Climate-Responsive Public Spaces• Urban Commons and Collective Use• Heritage, Memory, and Identity in Public Space• Participation, Co-creation, and Civic Engagement• Small Cities and Non-Metropolitan Urban Contexts• Campus-City Relations and Living Laboratories• Sustainable Development Goals and Urban Policy |  <p>URBAN RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CENTER KENTSEL ARAŞTIRMA VE GELİŞTİRME MERKEZİ</p> <p>DAÜ KENT-AG 2026 Vizyon Bildirimi Kamusal Alan ve Toplumsal Dayanıklılık</p> <p>Doğu Akdeniz Üniversitesi Kentleşme Araştırma ve Geliştirme Merkezi (DAÜ KENT-AG), 2026 akademik yılı için "Kamusal Alan ve Toplumsal Dayanıklılık" temasını, çatı tema olarak benimsemiştir. Bu tema, Mekânın Kapasite, Sürdürülebilir ve Toplumla Açılan Dayanıklı Kentel Çevrelerin Geliştirilmesine yönelik kararlaştırılan yasaçılarla; aynı zamanda Kuzey Kıbrıs'ta daha geniş Doğu Akdeniz bölgesinin karşı karşıya olduğu mekansal, toplumsal ve çevresel sorunlara doğrudan yanıt vermektedir. Tema, URDC'nin kamusal alan, kentsel tasarım ve sürdürülebilirlik alanlarındaki uzun süreli birikimi üzerine inşa edilmektedir.</p> <p>Sokaklar, meydanlar, parklar, kıyı alanları, niş alanlar ve kamusal alanlar gibi kamusal alanlar, gündelik kentsel yaşam biçimlenmesinde temel bir rol oynamaktadır. Fiziksel niteliklerini ötesinde, bu mekânlarda sosyal etkileşim, kültürel ifade, bakım ve kolektif kimliğin üretildiği kritik alanlar olarak işlev görmektedir. İlim bakarak, sosyoekonomik eşitsizlikler, yönetişim sorunları ve uzun süreli belirsizliklerle tanımlanan bağlamlarda, kamusal alanların niteliği ve erişilebilirliği, kentlerin toplumsal uyumu ve uyum sağlama kapasitesini sürdürülmesinde belirleyici olmaktadır. DAÜ KENT-AG'in 2026 vizyonu, kamusal alan; yalnızca işlevsel kapasite dayama kapasitesi olarak değil, toplulukların kapsayıcı kamusal yaşamı sosyal bağları ve ortak değerleri uzun vadede sürdürülebilirliği gücü olarak tanımlanan toplumsal dayanıklılığın temel bir itici unsuru olarak ele alınmaktadır.</p> <p>Bu tema, gündelik pratikler ile dayanıklılık arasındaki ilişkiyi vurgu yaparken, sradan mekânları ve günlük rutinleri kentsel bilgi ve toplumsal gücün temel kaynakları olarak kabul etmektedir. Yaşamın önsayısı olarak URDC, kadınlar, gençler, yaşlı ve dezavantajlı gruplar başta olmak üzere farklı kullanıcı gruplarını seçer ve ihtiyaçlarını gözetir kimliği amaçlamaktadır. Gelecekteki planlara ve tasarımlara ilham verirken, sadece geleceğe değil aynı zamanda günümüze kamusal alanla kurduğu ilişkiler, çözümün merkezinde yer almaktadır. Özellikle Kuzey Kıbrıs'ta yaygın olan tarihi, küçük ölçekli ve geçici haldedeki</p> <p>2026 yılında DAÜ KENT-AG, bu vizyonu disiplinlerarası araştırmalar, toplumsal etkileşim çalışmaları, yaygın laboratuvarlar, kamusal alan değerlendirilmeleri, sivil toplum kuruluşları ve üniversite dışı kuruluşlarla ortaklaşa yürütmeyi hedefler. Bu faaliyetler, kentsel tasarım, toplumsal cinsiyet eşitliği ve kapsayıcı kalkınma konularını yönetimler ve miras odaklı stratejileri birleştirerek daha adil, uygulanabilir ve yaşanabilir kentsel çevrelerin geliştirilmesine katkı sunacaktır. Tema, Birleşmiş Milletler Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçları (özellikle SKA 11, 5, 10, 13 ve 17) ile ilgili bir uyum içinde ve DAÜ'nün araştırma, eğitim ve toplumsal kalkınma vizyonuna ve çevresel sorunlara yanıt veren etkin bir akademik kurum olma rolünü pekiştirmektedir.</p> <p>Kamusal Alan ve Toplumsal Dayanıklılık teması araştırıldığı DAÜ KENT-AG, yerel bağlama dayalı ve uluslararası ölçekte anlamlı bilgi üretme misyonuna yanıt veren bir çalışmadır; kamusal alan, dayanıklı kentlerin ve toplumların temel yapı taşı olarak konumlandırılmaktadır.</p> <p>DAÜ KENT-AG 2026 İçin Anahtar Kelimeler ve Tematik Alanlar</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Kamusal Alan ve Kamusal Yaşam• Toplumsal Dayanıklılık ve Toplumsal Refah• Gündelik Kentel Pratikler ve Yaşamın Deseyni• Kapsayıcı ve Toplumsal Cinsiyet Dayalı Tasarım• Erişilebilirlik ve Evrensel Tasarım• İklim Dostu Kamusal Alanlar• Kentleşme Ortak Alanları ve Kolektif Kullanım• Kamusal Alanın Miras, Bellek ve Kimlik• Kadınlar, Ortak Değerler ve Yurttaşlık• Küçük Kentler ve Metropol Dışı Kentleşme• Kamusal-Kent İlişkileri ve Yaşamın Laboratuvarları• Sürdürülebilir Kalkınma Amaçları ve Kentleşme Politikası |
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1. Nicosia Cumhuriyet Park – RRD Memorial and Museum Landscape Project

The project that has already been submitted has been put out to tender, and its implementation has started. Our executive board member, Assoc. Prof.Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert, on behalf of URDC, is serving as the advisor and site manager for the project's implementation under a new protocol. (Döner Sermaye Projesi) The project work is still ongoing and has moved to its second stage.



Besides, we have presented this project in Baku, at the 13th Session of World Urban Forum (WUF13), organised by UN-Habitat between 17 and 22 May 2026. The presentation was part of the City Space Architecture members' presentations at the Global Planners Network booth.



2. URDC Contribution to the Design of Ayluga Natural Life Park in Famagusta

In February 2024, a protocol was signed among Famagusta Municipality, Eastern Mediterranean University, and the NGO MAKAMER (Famagusta Women Center) to protect the Ayluga Lake area in Famagusta. The main goal of the project was to establish the area as the "Ayluga Natural Life Park." URDC contributed to developing the core design ideas and the project's visual presentation, with direct involvement from the Assoc. Prof.Dr. Muge Riza and the consultancy of Assoc. Prof.Dr. Nevter Zafer Comert, both vice directors of URDC, along with our previous Research Assistant Amirhossain Karimizadeh, whose assistantship is over due to his PhD timing.

The establishment of the Ayluga Natural Life Park will not only help conserve local ecosystems but also serve as a platform to raise environmental awareness, encourage community engagement, and promote Famagusta as a city that values and protects its natural heritage.

This year, URDC contributed to the Community-Based Vision Development Workshop on Ayluga Wetland, held on 7 March 2026. More information about this workshop is presented under Section C.

3. EMU Campus Master Planning 2025

Based on the never-before-legalised Master Plan of the EMU Campus, a new team under URDC is now working on the improvements and updates of the EMU Campus planning.

4. New Research Project: *Experiences of Safety and Public Open Space Use among Female Students in Famagusta, Northern Cyprus*

This new research project aims to explore how female university students perceive safety in their most frequently visited public spaces and how these perceptions are shaped by spatial, environmental, and temporal factors. The research will examine how safety perceptions vary across public areas and times of day, and how observable environmental features influence them. Using a mixed-methods approach that combines surveys, field observations, and safety mapping, the study will investigate the relationship between perceived safety and environmental elements such as lighting, visibility, activity levels, and spatial design. It is expected that perceptions of safety, particularly when comparing daytime and nighttime use, will be closely tied to specific spatial features. The findings aim to inform gender-sensitive urban design and the inclusive planning of public spaces in areas with large student populations. The project is led by our Executive Board Members, Şebnem Hoşkara and Pınar Uluçay, and our research assistant, Mahmoud El Doukhi. The initial findings of the research will be presented at an International Conference in Bologna in July 2026.

5. Funded Research Projects

No funded projects this year.

B. Publications

The Center regularly publishes newspaper articles related to urban issues within the country. Also, the Center has started its academic journal – the ***Journal of Urban Research and Development (JURD)***, based on the decision of its Executive Board and with the approval of the EMU Press Executive Board and the University Executive Board. However, due to time restrictions, the journal has not been published lately. We are trying to find solutions to this problem.

1. Newspaper Articles

2025

On World Town Planning Day, Prof. Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara shared her insights on how planning and urban design can guide our collective future.

8 Kasım Dünya Şehircilik Günü 2025 Notu:

Sokaklar taşıtlar için değil, öncelikle yayalar için tasarlanmalıdır!

Planlama ve Kentsel Tasarım ile Başarabiliriz!

Prof.Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara

<https://ozgurgazetekibris.com/yasam/198576-hoskara-planlama-ve-kentsel-tasarim-ile-basarabiliriz.html>, Özgür Gazete, 8 Kasım 2025

2026

7 April 2026, World Health Day statement by our Executive Board Member, Assistant.Prof.Dr. Pelin Karakuş (both in Turkish and in English), published in DAÜ'de Geçen Hafta / Last Week in EMU.

https://pr.emu.edu.tr/Documents/LastWeekInEMU/2026/04/17_april_2026.pdf

https://pr.emu.edu.tr/Documents/DAUdeGecenHafta/2026/04/17_nisan_2026.pdf

2. Scientific Journal – *Journal of Urban Research and Development (JURD)*

The Journal's fourth issue (Vol 4 Issue 1) was published in September 2023. Unfortunately, the fifth issue could not be published in 2024 due to scheduling conflicts and the absence of an OJS assistant. Vice directors were recently assigned responsibility for completing this issue and the one coming in 2025. However, this task was not realised. The Executive Board has considered ending the Journal! We are still thinking about what to do.

3. URDC E-Newsletter

Last year, the URDC launched an ***E-Newsletter*** to be published at the end of each semester in August and March. The newsletter, designed by our Research Assistant, **Amirhossain Karimizadeh**, will feature all activities from the previous semester and include some writings from the Members. The first two (joint) issues were released in September 2025; the third issue

was published in March 2026 as the Winter Issue, and the fourth issue was just published in July 2026 as the Summer Issue. All issues are available on the Center's website.

4. Visual Press / Social Media Awareness Campaigns & Posts on/for Special Days – concentrating on UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

As URDC, we highlight several special days on social media to raise awareness. Our concentration is mainly on UN Sustainable Development Goals. For these awareness posts, our Center, on some occasions, collaborates with the EMU SDGs Club, the Department of Architecture or some other academic units within the university and/or with some NGOs.

These social media posts are in various formats, including PSA videos, posters, and infographics.

Below is a list of such posts on special days.

2025

13 October 2025

URDC Celebrated International Day for Disaster Reduction

On the International Day for Disaster Reduction 2025, we pause to recognize the importance of preparedness, resilience, and community action in the face of natural and human-made disasters.

This year's global theme, "Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future," reminds us that reducing disaster risk begins with inclusive planning and empowering every member of society.

The EMU Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) proudly joined this global call for awareness and action.

Let's build together a future where resilience is shared, equity is prioritized, and no one is left behind. A future where preparedness today saves lives tomorrow.

To watch the video on YouTube please press https://youtu.be/gKu1D6O8V_c?si=bYmuzrY59tmB2QzZ

31st October 2025

World Cities Day 2025

In World Cities Day 2025, a moment to reflect on how our cities shape who we are and how we live together. This year's theme, "People-centered Smart Cities," calls for urban environments where technology serves humanity, not the other way around.

Our beloved student, Aziz Hasan Gül, prepared this PSA video as a part of the course 'Arch 320 The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet' at the EMU Department of Architecture, while supporting the efforts of EMU URDC and EMU SDGs Club for achieving SDGs on the EMU Campus.

Let's continue building cities that value community, equity, and sustainability. Cities that are smart but also compassionate, inclusive, and human-centered.

To watch the video on YouTube please press <https://youtu.be/kaciddTt3FQ?si=npzFAOqsWKZI7Igl>

7th November 2025

World Town Planning Day 2025

This year, our recent alumnus, Abdel Rahman Abu-Zannad, from the EMU Department of Architecture, prepared a powerful Public Service Announcement (PSA) video, as a part of the course Arch320-The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, highlighting the vital role of urban planning in creating better futures for our communities.

Let's rethink how we design, plan, and live together for people, planet, and progress.

To watch the video on YouTube please press <https://youtu.be/TmiCsXujN9E?si=ex55cZqRHrxDXq5E>

8th November 2025

Prof. Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara, the Director of EMU URDC, made a public statement in a local newspaper on November 8th, 2025, World Town Planning Day, highlighting the theme 'We Can Succeed Through Planning and Urban Design!'.

On World Town Planning Day, Prof. Dr. Şebnem Hoşkara shared her insights on how planning and urban design can guide our collective future. Click below to read the full article (Turkish).

<https://ozgurgazetekibris.com/yasam/198576-hoskara-planlama-ve-kentsel-tasarim-ile-basarabiliriz.html>



3rd December 2025

International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Proudly presented by EMU URDC & EMU SDGs Club- Every city, every campus, every public space should be designed for everyone.

Our new PSA reminds us that accessibility is not a favor—it is a right, a design principle, and a commitment to equity.

At Eastern Mediterranean University, we continue to advocate for:

- Inclusive and barrier-free environments
- Equal participation in social and academic life
- SDG 10 & SDG 11: Reducing inequalities and building inclusive communities

Let's work together to create spaces where everyone belongs, moves, learns, and thrives.

To watch the PSA please press: <https://youtu.be/niECNRJw7oc?si=UQgKh3kQ-S4FuBQ->

2026

24th January 2026

International Day of Education

On 24 January, URDC, SDG Club, and Department of Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean University celebrate education as a fundamental human right.

This PSA was prepared by Mark Morobane as part of the course Arch320; The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet in the department of architecture program It reflects how powerful education is when it comes to sustainable, inclusive, and equitable societies. For people, progress, and the future.

To watch the PSA please press <https://youtu.be/7c4R6swRqek?si=H8gMZzjKVryxgglh>

26th January 2026

International Day of Clean Energy

On 26 January, the International Day of Clean Energy, URDC, SDG Club, and Department of Architecture of Eastern Mediterranean University highlight clean energy as a cornerstone of sustainability, climate action, and an equitable future.

This PSA was prepared by our student Ahmet Can Dursun as part of the course Arch320; The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet in the Department of Architecture program. It reflects the vital role of renewable and clean energy systems in building resilient communities and responsible environmental practices. Clean energy is not only a technological shift but a social and spatial imperative. For people, planet, and future generations.

To watch the PSA please press <https://youtu.be/e2UEgo1MwOM?si=hcw53GwAQkNfWvZ9>

8th March 2026

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - 1

On 8 March, International Women's Day, EMU URDC in collaboration with Department of Architecture and EMU-SDGs Club celebrate gender equality, empowerment, and the vital role of women in shaping inclusive and resilient cities and communities.

This PSA was prepared by our student, Nafuna Simba, as part of the course Arch320, The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It reflects the importance of equal opportunities, safety, and representation in public and professional spaces. Gender equality is not only a social imperative but a spatial and cultural one—for people, planet, and future generations.

To watch the video, please click <https://youtu.be/rb5LTA8GNMw?si=80nWipUoIUfxJMhf>

8th March 2026

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - 2 (English)

Safe Spaces for Women, Better Cities for All

Cities should enable everyone to move freely, confidently, and safely. Creating safer public spaces for women benefits entire communities. When urban environments incorporate good lighting, active streets, visible public areas, and inclusive design, they foster greater participation, accessibility, and social vitality.

On 8 March, International Women's Day, we are pleased to share the initial findings from our research on women students' experiences of safety, in public open spaces in Famagusta. This work highlights the

importance of designing inclusive urban environments where women can access, use, and enjoy public spaces without fear or restriction.

8th March
International Women's Day 2026

FEMALE STUDENTS' EXPERIENCES IN PUBLIC OPEN SPACES IN FAMAGUSTA

HER JOURNEY. HER SPACE. OUR RESPONSIBILITY.

On International Women's Day 2026, EMU URDC is pleased to announce its latest research, which highlights the experiences of female university students regarding safety and the use of public open spaces in Famagusta, North Cyprus. Focusing on daily mobility and spatial practices, the study examines how perceptions of safety change at different times of day and in various public spaces, and how spatial, environmental, and social factors influence these perceptions. Here are the initial findings of our research conducted by our team: Mahmoud El Doukhi, Şebnem Hoşkara, and Pinar Uluşay.

MORE THAN JUST FOOTSTEPS!

Public open spaces play an important role in the everyday lives of female university students in Famagusta. Based on our initial findings these spaces are widely used for social interaction, daily mobility, academic related activities, and leisure. This highlights that public spaces function not only as routes for movement but also as key settings where students connect, study, relax, and participate in everyday urban life.

TIME AND PERCEIVED SAFETY

A city that feels safe by day should also feel safe at night.

ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS AND SAFETY

Safe spaces are designed, not accidental!

8th March
International Women's Day 2026

Safe Spaces for Women, Better Cities for All!

Creating safer public spaces for women benefits everyone. When cities invest in better lighting, active streets, visible public areas, and inclusive design, they empower women to move freely and participate fully in urban life. By prioritizing women's safety in public space planning, cities gain more vibrant, accessible, and inclusive environments for all.

21st March 2026

International Day of Forests

On 21 March, International Day of Forests, EMU URDC, in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and EMUSDG Club, highlights the vital role of forests in supporting biodiversity, regulating climate, and enhancing the quality of life within urban and rural environments.

This PSA was prepared by our student (and recent graduate) Rûmeysa Nur Güven as part of the course Arch320, The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It reflects the importance of protecting forest ecosystems, promoting sustainable land use, and integrating nature into design and planning practices.

To watch the video, please click <https://youtu.be/FTe4mytPA7I?si=n5n5rbgQZiEqjsPl>

22nd March 2026

World Water Day

Water is not just a resource; it's the foundation of life, cities, and communities.

On 22 March, World Water Day, EMU URDC, in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and EMUSDG Club, highlights the critical importance of water in sustaining life, shaping resilient environments, and supporting equitable communities.

This PSA was prepared by our student Aseel Hussein as part of the course Arch320, The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It reflects the significance of responsible water use, conservation, and the role of design in addressing global water challenges. Water sustainability is not only an environmental concern but also a social and spatial one for people, planet, and future generations.

To watch the video, please click <https://youtu.be/cnge-ROXNBI?si=roOldi26D8euvjD1>

30th March 2026

International Day of Zero Waste (English)

Small actions lead to big impact. From reducing waste to rethinking our daily habits, every step counts toward a more sustainable future.



On 30 March, International Day of Zero Waste, EMU URDC in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and EMU-SDGs Club emphasize the importance of everyday actions in reducing waste, promoting recycling, and encouraging more responsible consumption patterns.

18th April 2026

International Day for Monuments and Sites

On ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites (IDMS), celebrated each year on 18 April, focuses on “Living Heritage” and “Emergency Response” in the conservation of heritage affected by disasters and conflicts, in 2026. Let’s all think how we can respond and what kind of actions we can take for the future of cultural heritage!

International Day for Monuments and Sites
18th April 2026

*2026 Theme:
Emergency Response for
Living Heritage in Contexts of
Conflict and Disasters*

Urban heritage is more than monuments, it is the layered fabric of streets, spaces, and everyday life that shapes collective memory.

Safeguarding heritage means sustaining the continuity of place.

International Day for Monuments and Sites
18th April 2026

Conflicts and disasters threaten not only structures, but the living traditions, practices, and meanings embedded within them.

Act fast. Protect what cannot be replaced.

International Day for Monuments and Sites
18th April 2026

Heritage persists through everyday urban life, through use, occupation, and community interaction within space.

Inclusive and participatory approaches are critical in times of crisis.

22nd April 2026

Earth Day

On 22nd of April, Earth Day, EMU URDC, The department of Architecture and EMU_SDG Club highlight the power of individual and collective action in protecting our environment and shaping a more sustainable future. This PSA was prepared by our student IRIZA TREASURE NKUBANA as part of the course Arch320 - The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It emphasizes that everyday actions—such as recycling, water conservation, tree-planting, and the use of clean energy—play a vital role in safeguarding our planet. These grassroots efforts demonstrate that meaningful environmental change is both achievable and necessary, reinforcing the importance of SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, 13, and 15.

To watch the full PSA please press <https://youtu.be/AfEq9RRk19c?si=D6xigH0lynyIVsZO>

22nd May 2026

International Day for Biological Diversity

On International Day for Biological Diversity, EMU URDC, in collaboration with the Department of Architecture and EMU-SDGs Club, highlights the importance of protecting biodiversity and maintaining the balance of ecosystems that support life on our planet.

This PSA was prepared by our student ANAS MAHMOUD MANSOUR BILEID as part of the course Arch320 - The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It emphasizes the value of biological diversity in sustaining healthy environments, resilient communities, and a more sustainable future. Preserving biodiversity is essential not only for nature itself, but also for human well-being, climate resilience, and future generations.

[#InternationalDayForBiologicalDiversity #Biodiversity #SDG13#SDG14 #SDG15](#)

To watch the full PSA please press <https://www.instagram.com/p/DYnbJmBu9Om/>

26 May 2026

WUF13 - Baku Call to Action

Our support to 13th World Urban Forum – Baku Call to Action through social media:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DYzrtGmDNBJ/?img_index=1&igsh=Z2dzODl0Y2psaHph

Doğu Akdeniz Üniversitesi Kentsel Araştırma ve Geliştirme Merkezi (DAÜ KENT-AG) olarak, daha güvenli, kapsayıcı, dirençli ve sürdürülebilir kentler için hazırlanan Dünya Kentsel Forumu - Bakü Eylem Çağrısını destekliyoruz.

Barınmanın temel bir insan hakkı olduğuna; güvenli konutun, kamusal yaşam kalitesinin ve sosyal dayanıklılığın, adil kentlerin temelini oluşturduğuna inanıyoruz.

Kentsel araştırma, tasarım, katılımcı yönetim ve sürdürülebilirlik ekseninde; iklim dirençli, kapsayıcı ve insan odaklı yaşam çevrelerinin geliştirilmesine yönelik ortak çabaların önemini vurguluyoruz.

Üniversitelerin bilgi üretimi, toplumsal sorumluluk ve yerel-küresel iş birlikleri aracılığıyla kentlerin geleceğine yön veren önemli aktörler olduğuna inanıyoruz; herkes için daha yaşanabilir, güvenli ve dirençli kentler ve topluluklar çağrısına katılıyoruz.

Çağrının orjinal dosyasına bu linkten ulaşabilirsiniz:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/wuf13_baku_call_to_action.pdf

As the Eastern Mediterranean University Urban Research and Development Center (EMU URDC), we support the World Urban Forum – Baku Call to Action for safer, more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities.

We believe that housing is a fundamental human right, and that safe housing, quality public life, and social resilience form the foundation of just cities.

Through the lenses of urban research, design, participatory governance, and sustainability, we emphasise the importance of collective efforts toward developing climate-resilient, inclusive, and human-centred living environments.

We believe that universities are important actors shaping the future of cities through knowledge production, social responsibility, and local-global collaborations, and we join the call for more livable, safe, and resilient cities and communities for all.

You can access the original document of the Call through the link:

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2026/05/wuf13_baku_call_to_action.pdf

[#EMU #URDC #BakuCallForAction #HousingTheWorld #UrbanResilience](#)

BAKÜ Eylem Çağrısı



Çağrımızdır:

- 1 İnsan haklarımızı koruyun, saygı gösterin ve hayata geçirin!
- 2 Evlerimizi koruyun!
- 3 Çeşitliliğimizi tanyın!
- 4 Evlerimizi iklim dirençli hale getirin!
- 5 Evi toplumsal bütünleşmenin itici gücü haline getirin!



Çağrımızdır:

- 6 Herkes için erişilebilir ve karşılanabilir konut sağlayın!
- 7 Ayrımcılık olmaksızın konut hakkını güvence altına alın!
- 8 Zorla tahliyelere son verin!
- 9 Konut üretimi ve barınma yaklaşımlarını çeşitlendirin!
- 10 Konut için (güvenli ve erişilebilir) arazi sağlayın!



Çağrımızdır:

- 11 Kaynakları ihtiyaç duyulan yerlere yönlendirin!
- 12 Çok sektörlü ve çok aktörlü yaklaşımları teşvik edin!
- 13 Çok düzeyli ve katılımcı yönetimi güçlendirin!
- 14 Uygulama, hesap verebilirlik ve somut sonuç üretme konusunda kararlılık gösterin!
- 15 Bilgiyi ve veriyi kamu yararı için kullanın!



Dünyaya Barınma Sağlamak:

Güvenli ve Dirençli Kentler ve Topluluklar



5th June 2026

World Environment Day 2026

On World Environment Day, EMU URDC, in collaboration with the EMU-SDGs Club, highlights the importance of environmental stewardship and collective action in creating a more sustainable future.

This PSA was prepared by our student and EMU-SDGs Club member, ZAKIRA NASER KHAN, as part of the course Arch320 - The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet, in the Department of Architecture undergraduate program. It emphasizes the responsibility we all share in protecting natural resources, reducing environmental impacts, and promoting sustainable practices in our daily lives. Environmental sustainability is a collective commitment that supports healthier communities, resilient ecosystems, and a better future for generations to come.

To watch our PSA press <https://youtu.be/myzgiwLXQHE?si=zFf8Fslvr68r4Ct>

5th June 2026

World Environment Day 2026 – social media campaign

POST on Instagram:

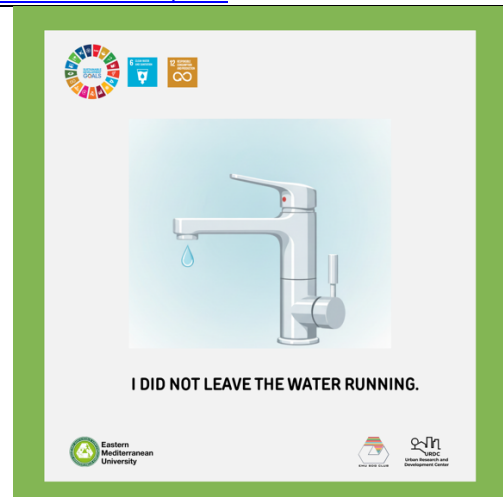
Protecting our environment begins with the choices we make every day. From saving water to reducing waste and making more sustainable decisions, small actions can create a lasting impact.

This series highlights simple steps that each of us can take to contribute to a healthier and more sustainable future.

- 💧 Every drop saved matters.
- ♻️ Every responsible choice counts.
- 🌱 Every action makes a difference.

Together, we can build a more sustainable world.

[#WorldEnvironmentDay](#) [#Sustainability](#) [#ClimateAction](#) [#ResponsibleConsumption](#)





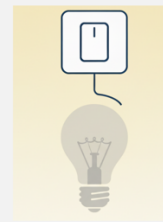
I DID NOT BUY A PLASTIC BOTTLE.



I DID NOT TAKE A PLASTIC BAG. I BROUGHT MY REUSABLE CLOTH BAG.



I CHOSE TO WALK SHORT TRIPS INSTEAD OF DRIVING.



I TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS WHEN I DID NOT NEED THEM.



I DID NOT WASTE FOOD.



NOW IT'S YOUR TURN, TELL US IN THE COMMENTS WHAT YOU DID FOR THE ENVIRONMENT TODAY



C. Scholarly Activities and/or Events for Celebrations of Special Days

Within this academic year, we organised three scholarly activities. One of these is an International School in collaboration with other international institutions. One of them is student- and education-oriented within the university, and the last one is a local event for a special day, in collaboration with local NGOs and supported by other academic units within the University.

Below are the descriptions of these three events.

URDC Contribution to the Community-Based Vision Development Workshop on Ayluga Wetland, Famagusta Municipality

7 March 2026

In order to plan and discuss the future of the Ayluga Wetland in Famagusta, a Community-Based Vision Development Workshop was held on 7 March 2026, organised by the Sustainable Wetlands Initiative for Famagusta's Transformation (SWIFT) Project, implemented by the Famagusta Women's Centre Association (MAKAMER) funded by the European Union Aid Programme for the Turkish Cypriot community.

URDC contributed to the workshop with direct involvement from URDC vice director Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Rıza, one of the co-leaders of the European Union funded SWIFT project, as a member of the organizing committee and URDC board member Assist. Prof. Dr. Pınar Uluçay Righelato as invited participant.

The workshop brought together more than 50 experts and residents including academics, public sector and NGO representatives as well as private sector stakeholders, to develop a vision for the future of the Ayluga wetland area. The aim of the one-day workshop was to contribute to the development of policies and practices focusing on protection and sustainable management of the Ayluga Wetland as an integral part of the city.



3rd International School on Urban Morphology (ISUM)

23rd – 30th April 2026

We are delighted to announce the successful completion of the 3rd International School on Urban Morphology (ISUM) in Famagusta!

Organized by the Eastern Mediterranean University Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) in collaboration with ISUF – International Seminar on Urban Form and CyNUM – Cyprus Network of Urban Morphology, this year's School brought together an inspiring international community of scholars, researchers, and emerging urbanists.

Over the course of the program, we had the pleasure of welcoming 35 participants from 22 countries — including 8 African, 6 Asian, 6 European, and 2 American countries — to engage deeply with the urban landscape, history, and future potentials of Famagusta. Through lectures, fieldwork, discussions, and design-oriented explorations, participants examined the city's complex urban morphology and developed thoughtful ideas for its future transformation.

We are proud to have hosted such a vibrant and diverse group in Famagusta and grateful to all participants, tutors, collaborators, and supporting institutions who contributed to making this international learning experience so meaningful.

Famagusta once again became a living laboratory for urban morphology, critical inquiry, and shared urban imagination.

ISUM

3rd International School on Urban Morphology Famagusta, Cyprus | 23-30 April 2026

Program Schedule

22 April Wednesday
Welcoming Students

23 April Thursday
09:00-09:30 Opening Ceremony
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
09:30-11:00 Lectures & Discussions
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
- **Sebnem Hogkara, "Urban Form of Cypriot Cities & Urban History of Famagusta"**
11:00-11:15 Short Break
11:15-12:45 Lectures & Discussions
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
- **Era Can Akbil, "Famagusta as a Fragmented City"**
- **Nezire Ozgec, "The (In)complete Part City Image of Famagusta"**
12:45-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-18:00 Visit to the City & Site
18:00 End-of-day Session & Planning for the Next Day

24 April Friday
09:00-09:30 Introduction to the International School of Urban Morphology
09:30-11:00 Lectures & Discussions
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
- **Vitor Oliveira "Urban Morphology and the Historico-Geographical Approach"**
- **Tolga Unlu "Historico-geographical approach: A dialectical method"**
11:00-11:15 Short Break
11:15-13:30 Lectures & Discussions
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
- **Ela Isifilidu "Planning Strategies in Famagusta"**
- **Tolga Unlu "Fringe belts: development, alienation and morphological cost"**
- **Neven Zafar Cimer "Theory of Morphological Regions"**
13:30-14:30 Lunch Break
14:30-18:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101

25 April Saturday
9:30-11:45 Lectures & Discussions
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
- **Alisa AlSadaty, "Interpreting Urban Forms: Intangible Aspects and Collective Memory in Shaping Cities;"**
- **Maysa' Abee, "Urban form assessment; Morpho method, plan units and morphometrics;"**
- **Vitor Oliveira "On New York's Ground: Dense Divers and Sustainable"**
11:45-13:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-18:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
18:00 End-of-day Session & Planning for the Next Day
18:30 Free Time

26 April Sunday
09:30-13:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
13:00-18:30 Technical Trip to Nicosia

27 April Monday
09:30-13:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-18:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
18:00 End-of-day Session & Planning for the Next Day
18:30 Free Time



28 April Tuesday
09:30-13:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-18:00 Studio Work
Faculty of Engineering, Department of Civil Engineering, CE 101
18:00 End-of-day Session & Planning for the Next Day
18:30 Free Time

29 April Wednesday
09:30-13:00 Studio Work & Preparation for Exhibition
13:00-14:00 Lunch Break
14:00-18:00 Student Presentations and Exhibition

30 April Thursday
9:30 Farewell





Beginner-Friendly D5 Render Workshop at EMU

22nd May 2026

We are pleased to announce the successful completion of our beginner-friendly D5 Workshop, hosted by the Urban Research and Development Center (URDC), on Friday, May 22, at the Faculty of Engineering.

A special thank you to *Sajida Siddig*, student at the Department of Architecture and D5 Campus Ambassador, for leading the workshop and introducing students to the possibilities of architectural visualization through D5 Render. During the session, students were introduced to the program and guided through the basics of the interface, main tools, and workflow. After the introduction, participants worked on a small practice project, allowing them to apply what they learned and explore the software through hands-on practice.

Thank you to all students who joined and actively participated in the workshop.

You can find the the top 3 winners' projects from our workshop by pressing <https://urdc.emu.edu.tr/en/Documents/winners.pdf>



Collaborative Event for World Environment Day 2026: 'A Glocal Call for Climate Action'

3rd June 2026

A Collaborative Event on the 2026 World Environment Day: A Glocal Call for Climate Action On 3 June 2026, a documentary screening and panel discussion titled "There Is No Other Cyprus" was held at the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Activity Center to mark World Environment Day (5 June). The event was organized jointly by EMU's Urban Research and Development Center (URDC/KENT-AG), Social Sensitivity Center (TDM), the Famagusta Women's Center Association (MAKAMER), and the Yeniboğaziçi Women's Association (YEKAD).

The event focused on the rapid environmental degradation in northern Cyprus resulting from uncontrolled urbanisation, overdevelopment, pollution, and climate change. Following the screening of the documentary, experts from different disciplines discussed environmental challenges and sustainable solutions.

The program was attended by Nilden Bektaş Erhürman, an environmental engineer and the spouse of Turkish Cypriot leader Tufan Erhürman, highlighting the growing importance of environmental issues in public discourse. Speakers from civil society organisations and EMU emphasised that climate change is no longer a distant threat but an urgent reality affecting public health, cultural heritage, biodiversity, and future generations. They stressed that environmental protection is a shared social responsibility and that women and civil society organisations play a crucial role in raising awareness and promoting collective action.

EMU representatives underlined that sustainability must move beyond rhetoric and become embedded in education, governance, and everyday practices. They noted that climate change, water scarcity, energy challenges, biodiversity loss, and environmental pollution have become interconnected global crises with direct local consequences for Cyprus.

The documentary "There Is No Other Cyprus," a joint production of the PRIO Cyprus Centre and the Cyprus Green Action Group, was then screened. Directed by Faik Uzuner and Doğu Bozkurt, and coordinated by Mete Hatay, the film examines environmental degradation in Northern Cyprus, including unplanned construction, marine and soil pollution, and the destruction of natural habitats.

2026 DÜNYA ÇEVRE GÜNÜ ETKİNLİĞİ

İklim Eylemi için Küresel Çağrı



BELGESEL GÖSTERİMİ:

BAŞKA KIBRIS YOK

Yönetmenler: Faik Uzuner & Doğu Bozkurt
Koordinatör: Mete Hatay



PANEL:

PANELİSTLER:

METE HATAY

FERİHA TEL

MERTKAN HAMİT

MODERATÖR:

PROF. DR. NACİYE DORATLI



ETKİNLİĞİMİZİN ÖZEL KONUĞU:

KKTC CUMHURBAŞKANI'NIN EŞİ,
ÇEVRE MÜHENDİSİ SAYIN NILDEN BEKTAŞ ERHÜRMAN



3 HAZİRAN 2026
ÇARŞAMBA



11.30 - 13.30



DOĞU AKDENİZ ÜNİVERSİTESİ
AKTİVİTE MERKEZİ



The documentary aims to increase public awareness of climate change and the need for sustainable development.

A panel discussion followed the screening, featuring PCC research consultant Mete Hatay, environmental activist Feriha Tel, economist Mertkan Hamit, and director Faik Uzuner. Moderated by Naciye Doratlı, the discussion explored climate change, environmental protection, sustainable living, and Cyprus's environmental future from multiple perspectives. The event served as an important platform for raising environmental awareness and encouraging cooperation among universities, civil society organizations, local communities, and policymakers in addressing the island's growing ecological challenges.



D. Competitions

In previous years, the Centre's Executive Board decided to organise an international competition for the Best Research Dissertation on Urbanism. This task was to be implemented in collaboration with City Space Architecture, with whom we have an agreement. However, no actions have been taken yet, and the task has been cancelled.