

URDC E-Newsletter



Beating Plastic Pollution:
EMU, URDC, and Local NGOs Unite for World Environment Day 2025



07 International Women's Day 08th March 2025





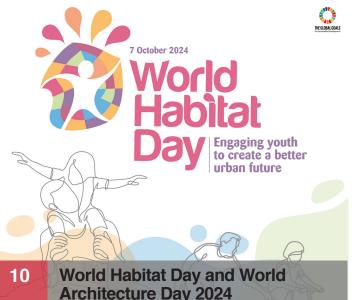






12 EMU Campus Master Planning 2025

A new URDC team is updating the EMU Campus Master Plan to create a safer, more inclusive, and sustainable campus. The vision: a pedestrian, and bicycle-friendly environment with modern transport, active public spaces, and accessible areas for all.



URDC
Contribution to
the design of
Ayluga Natural
Life Park in
Famagusta

Famagusta Municipality, EMU, and MAKAMER launched Ayluga Natural Life Park in 2024, with URDC supporting its design to protect ecosystems and raise environmental awareness.



URDC is happy to present the Students Map Stories Class Introduction and Educators' Seminar

URDC is excited to present:
Students Map Stories Class
Introduction and Educators'
Seminar Ever wondered about
the untold stories behind the
buildings and monuments in
your neighborhood?
As you walk down the street,
you see the structures, but
do you know the stories that
breathe life into them?

Why your class should make Chat Maps:

If you walk down your street, you can see all the buildings and the monuments. But if you do not know the story behind this building or that monument, you can not understand the meaning of those things to the people who live there. Chat Maps are created to uncover and share the stories behind the neighborhood, helping people understand its significance to the local community.

Who uses Chat Maps?

Community support groups may organize story tours for children and newcomers to help them understand the values and perspectives of local residents.

An entrepreneur plans to launch a new business in your neighborhood and aims to make it relevant to the existing community by incorporating local stories into their

business plan and building design. A local political representative seeks to understand how to make a decision that impacts your neighborhood. To do this, they draw on local stories to tailor



their proposal to the community's needs and values. Neighbors can identify and document recurring needs in the

community, share their stories, and advocate for hange with their elected representatives.

25 July Social Media Post after the Fires in Türkiye and Cyprus



Wildfires, intensified by climate change, are increasingly frequent, larger, and harder to control, causing severe ecological and social damage.

Recent fires in İzmir, Eskişehir, and Cyprus devastated forests, wildlife, agriculture, and human settlements, resulting in loss of life, injuries, and destruction of homes and livestock.

Izmir: Thousands of hectares burned; wildlife and agricultural lands affected; evacuations and extensive firefighting efforts.

Eskişehir: Around 1,500 hectares destroyed; homes, barns, and livestock lost; fatalities occurred.

Cyprus (Limassol): 12,000 hectares destroyed, the largest fire in the country's history; two

deaths, 26 injuries; widespread loss of trees, endemic plants, and wildlife.

These disasters highlight the long-term ecological consequences of climate change, drought, and human negligence, with recovery potentially taking over a century. Experts stress that only collective, preventive, and sustainable action against the climate crisis can protect forests and the future.

Stay strong, Türkiye! Stay strong, Cyprus!

Beating Plastic Pollution: EMU, URDC. and Local NGOs Unite for World Environment Day 2025

This World Environment Day, we call to #EndPlasticPollution. Watch our student-led PSA and join us in rethinking, reducing, and refusing plastic in daily life. Every action matters for a cleaner, greener future. The PSA was created by Civil Engineering student Mwasimba Simba for the course Arch 320: The UN Sustainable Development Goals - An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet at the **EMU** Department of Architecture, to raise awareness and support SDG initiatives on campus.

EMU Organizes a Special Panel for World Environment Day, June 5

"Beat Plastic Pollution" Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Urban Research and Development Center (URDC/KENT-AG) and the Community Involvement Center are jointly organizing a special panel for World Environment Day, June 5.

World Environment Day has been celebrated annually on June 5 since the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment held in Stockholm, Sweden in 1972, with the aim of raising global awareness and taking action to protect the environment. Marked under the theme "Beat Plastic Pollution" for 2025. World Environment Day will be commemorated at EMU with a panel co-organized by the EMU Urban Research and **Development Center** (KENT-AG) and the Community Involvement Center, in collaboration with two civil society organizations — Yeniboğaziçi Women's Association (YEKAD) and Famagusta Women's Center Association (MAKAMER). The event will take place at the Yeniboğazici Cultural Center.

Moderated by Assist. Prof. Dr. Pinar Ulucay, Member of the Executive Board of EMU KENT-AG, the panel will feature the following speakers:



Dr. Özge Cumaoğulları Eker, Faculty Member, EMU Faculty of Medicine

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert. Member of the Executive Board of EMU KENT-AG Lawyer Nazenin Taşçıoğlu Şahali, President, Yeniboğaziçi Women's Association (YEKAD) Muhammed Ali Türkkal. representing Inyle Plastic LTD.

Biologist Pelin Üretici, Expert in Environmental Education and Management, Board Member of **MAKAMER**

The panel was held on Thursday, 12 June 2025, between 17:00-19:00 at the Yeniboğaziçi Cultural

Social media awareness post to promote **PUBLIC SPACES FOR A HEALTHIER AND MORE EQUITABLE SOCIETY**



Public spaces, such as parks, trails, and recreation centers, can provide opportunities for physical activity. This can help promote physical health and well-being and reduce the risk of chronic diseases.



THE GRANDONS

Public spaces, such as community centers, libraries, and other gathering spaces, can provide a platform for social interaction, which is essential for mental health and well-being.



























18 May - International Museums Day 2025

Joint Event by MAKEMÜD, EMU KENT-AG, GMTMK, and NKLThe Memory of a City: Youth Tell the Story of FamagustaMay 18 has been declared International Museums Day by the International Council of Museums (ICOM) to promote the preservation of world cultural heritage and the advancement of museology.

Since 1977, May 18 has been celebrated as a global event highlighting the transformative role of museums in society. In 2025, International Museums Day will address the theme "Museums in a Rapidly Changing"

Society", focusing on how museums can navigate a world undergoing profound social, technological, and environmental

changes and

how they can contribute to this transformation. Museums are not only spaces of preservation but also institutions that actively shape sustainable and inclusive societies.

18 MAYIS ULUSLARARASI
MÜZELER GÜNÜ 2025
MAKEMÜD,
DAÜ KENT-AG,
GMTMK ve NKL Ortak
Etkinliği

Bir Kentin Hafızası:
Gençlerin Gözünden Mağusa

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This year's theme aligns with three Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

SDG 8: By creating employment opportunities and offering educational programs that empower communities, museums support local economies.

SDG 9: By fostering creativity and embracing technological developments, museums promote innovation and enhance accessibility.

SDG 11: As cultural hubs that encourage inclusivity, resilience, and the preservation of cultural heritage, museums contribute to sustainable urban development.

On May 18, 2025, International Museums Day, we asked the youth!The answers come from high school students of Famagusta...























The videos are available on the YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@MağusaKentMüzesi

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

22 May 2025

Nature is not a resource — it's a partner in our survival. This year's theme, "Harmony with Nature and Sustainable Development," reminds us that true progress means living in balance with the ecosystems that sustain us.

Biodiversity is the heart of sustainable development — from food security and clean water to climate resilience and human health.

Here is a PSA video created by a Mechanical Engineering program student (**Kemal Engin Kumuşoğlu**) 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 to raise awareness about the issue and support the SDGs initiatives on the EMU Campus.

WORLD CLIMATE CHANGE DAY

15 May 2025

The climate is changing — so must we.

Rising temperatures, extreme weather, and disappearing ecosystems are no longer future threats — they're today's reality. But change is still possible. Through bold action, green innovation, and global solidarity, we can build a more resilient and just world. Climate action starts with awareness — and leads to transformation.



This PSA has been prepared by @karya_beliz, a student in the EMU Department of Architecture, as part of her course ARCH320, instructed by Prof.Dr.Sebnem Hoskara.

INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY

22 April 2025

22 April - World Mother Earth
Day is a global call to raise
awareness and drive action
against environmental
degradation and climate
change. It emphasizes the need
to protect the planet's
ecosystems, reduce emissions,
and build climate resilience,
which are at the core of
#sdg13climateaction.

Earth Day is also related to #SDG15LifeOn-Land, #SDG14LifeBelowWater, #SDG12ResponsibleConsumptionandProduction, #SDG7AffordableAndCleanEnergy, and #sdg6cleanwaterandsanitation.

Earth Day's 2025 theme is #OurPowerOurPlanet, calling for everyone to unite around



renewable energy so we can triple clean electricity by 2030.

Rami Akkawi, a Department of Mechatronics Engineering student at EMU, prepared the video for his university elective course "ARCH320 The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet" at the EMU Department of Architecture.



The videos are available on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@EMU_URDC

ICOMOS Day 2025 Seminar: Restoration and Re-use with Architect Ümit Erdim

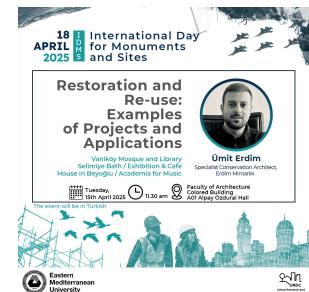
As the Urban Research and Development Center of Eastern Mediterranean University, we organized a seminar on April 15, 2025, in recognition of the ICOMOS International Day for Monuments and Sites (April 18).

Since 2011, we have been marking this day with various events to raise public awareness, contribute scientifically to conservation and restoration efforts in the country, and provide additional support to the education of undergraduate and graduate students in architecture and urban design.

As part of this year's program, esteemed Conservation Architect Ümit Erdim, who has taken part in numerous conservation and restoration projects in Istanbul, delivered a presentation titled "Restoration and Re-use: Examples of Projects and Applications."

He shared his

experiences, with particular emphasis on his work on Vaniköy Mosque and Library, Selimiye



Bathhouse, and a residential building in Beyoğlu.

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR MONUMENTS AND SITES 2025

18 April 2025

Safeguarding Heritage, Shaping the Future!

In celebration of International Day for Monuments and Sites (18 April), the Urban Research and Development Center of EMU is proud to present a PSA video produced by Muharrem Ezel, a student in the EMU Department of Architecture.

This video, created within Prof.Dr. **Şebnem Hoşkara**'s elective course, "The UN Sustainable Development Goals: An Interdisciplinary Approach for the Future of Our Planet," reflects on the importance of cultural heritage in achieving SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities.

Our monuments and historic sites are symbols of the past and foundations for sustainable development, cultural identity, and resilience. You can now watch this inspiring student voice as we rethink how to







protect and integrate heritage into our urban futures.



The video is available on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/@EMU_URDC

International Women's Day 08th March 2025

In collaboration with the Eastern Mediterranean University Academic Staff Union (DAÜ-SEN) and the Cyprus Turkish Teachers' Union (KTÖS), the EMU Urban Research and **Development Center** organized a talk and book launch event on Wednesday, March 6, at the DAÜ-SEN Local, as part of the March 8 International Women's Day.

At the interactive event, attended by EMU students and academic staff, Melis Güvensoy Okalpler and Agita Beržanskaitė from the Association for Historical

Open Discussion and Book introduction by AHDR

Date: 6 March, Thursday Time: 16.30 Venue: DAU-SEN LOCAL

Date: 6 March, Thursday Time: 16.30 Venue: DAU-SEN LOCAL

Eastern March Thursday Time: 16.30 Venue: DAU-SEN LOCAL

A Space of Our Own: A Handbook on Gender and Monuments in Intersectional Dialogue and Research (AHDR) Public Spaces and held a discussion on women and art in public space.

The event to emphasised **SDG11.7**: "Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces. By 2030, ensure universal access to safe, inclusive, and accessible green and public spaces, particularly for women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities."

You can reach the details of the handbook through: https://www.ahdr.info/project/aspace-of-our-own-2/









"No Excuse": **EMU's SDG Club Raises Awareness** for Ending Violence **Against Women**

Eastern Mediterranean University and the EMU SDG Club support the United Nations 16 Days of Activism campaign to End Violence against Women under the slogan "No Excuse". You can follow and participate in our digital awareness campaign through the EMU Sustainable Development Goals Club's social media account:

https://www.instagram.com/sdg_emu/.



DID YOU KNOW?



GLOBALLY, AN ESTIMATED 736 MILLION WOMEN HAVE EXPERIENCED PHYSICAL AND/OR SEXUAL VIOLENCE GIRLS ARE AT PARTICULAR RISK OF VIOLENCE—1 IN 4 ADOLESCENT GIRLS IS ABUSED BY THEIR **PARTNERS**



DID YOU KNOW?

16% TO 58% OF WOMEN **GLOBALLY EXPERIENCE** TECHNOLOGY-FACILITATED GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE. GENERATION 7 AND MILLENNIALS ARE THE MOST AFFECTED.





DID YOU KNOW?



70% OF WOMEN IN CONFLICT, WAR, AND HUMANITARIAN CRISIS, EXPERIENCE GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.





















UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN WILL DRAW ATTENTION TO THE ALARMING ESCALATION
OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN TO REVITALISE COMMITMENTS CALL FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACTION FROM DECISION-MAKERS









JOIN US!

EVERY 10 MINUTES, A WOMAN IS KILLED.

UNITE TO END VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN.





EMU Urban Research and Development **Center was invited** to the 'Sustainability Day' event at **Famagusta Turkish** Maarif College, organised by their **Environment Club.**

During the event, we discussed the global goals as a framework for a sustainable and resilient future with the students who are the future of our planet and communities. Youth is hope!







A City Forest Life Workshop in Collaboration with EMU URDC is Being Organized for Multidisciplinary Spatial Planning Training.

Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) Urban Research and **Development Center** (KENT-AG), Ufuk Planning, Kyrenia Municipality (GB), the Turkish Cypriot Chamber of Engineers and Architects (KTMMOB), the Chamber of City Planners (KTMMOB-CP), and the Chamber of Architects (KTMMOB-A) organized the "City **Forest Life Workshop: Multidisciplinary Spatial** Planning Training" in collaboration.

The event was held between

Kyrenia Municipality and aimed

to bring together students and

February 18-22, 2025, at

academics from various

KENT ORMAN YASAM ATÖLYESİ **MULTIDISIPLINER MEKANSAL** PLANLAMA EĞİTİMİ - KKTC **OTURUMU** 18 - 22 Şubat 2025













with the Board of Directors of DAÜ KENT-AG Center and Faculty Members of the Faculty of Architecture at EMU, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Riza, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Pınar Uluçay, were the speakers.

Services at EMU, along

Students and Expert Trainers met In the training, 16 students from the Department of Architecture at EMU, as well as selected students from the Departments of

City and Regional Planning, Forestry Engineering, and Landscape Architecture at universities in Turkey, participated alongside expert trainers.







urban planning solutions. In this event, Prof. Dr. Sebnem Hoskara, Head of DAÜ KENT-AG Center, Faculty Member of the Faculty of Architecture at EMU, and Coordinator of Campus

















































World Habitat Day and World Architecture Day 2024

Every October, **UN-Habitat** (UN-HABITAT) and its partners organize a month of events and discussions on urban sustainability. The events, which start with World Habitat (Human Settlements) Day on the first Monday of October every year, and end with World Cities Day on October 31, are called Urban October.

Gençler kentsel tasarım hakkında bilgi sahibi olduğunda, yaşadıkları toplumlarda daha aktif katılımcılar olurlar



World Habitat Day, established by the United Nations

General Assembly in 1985 with Resolution 40/202 and was first celebrated in 1986, also corresponds with World Architecture Day. Its purpose is to reflect on the state of our cities and the fundamental right of everyone to adequate shelter. At the same time, World Habitat Day aims to remind the world that we have the power and responsibility to shape the future of our

cities and towns and which is celebrated on the first Monday of October every year.

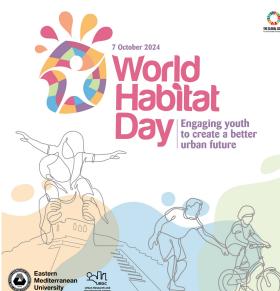
This year, in 2024, World Habitat Day (WHD 2024) and World Architecture Day 2024, we prepared informative awareness posters for social media in English. Also, Director of URDC had a press message on a local newspaper for these special days.

To celebrate World Habitat Day and World Architecture Day on 7th October 2024, EMU URDC has prepared and shared social media posts and Prof.Dr. Sebnem Hoskara, the Director of EMU URDC, has made a public statement in a local newspaper emphasising the

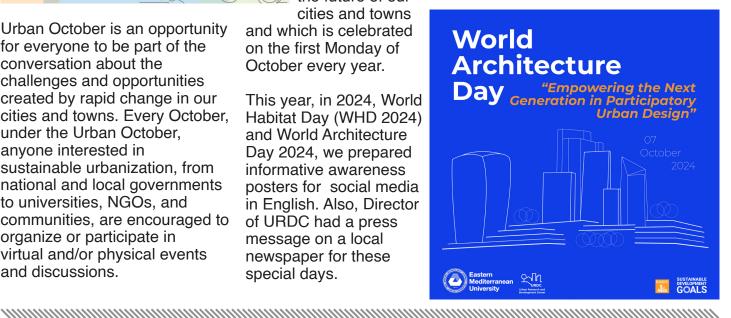
role of the young generation,

By equipping youth with the knowledge, tools, and passion to reshape their cities, we are investing in a future where urban spaces are created not only to serve current generations but also to be adaptable, inclusive, and sustainable for the generations to come.

participation, and urban design for the future of cities and environments.



Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by rapid change in our cities and towns. Every October, under the Urban October. anyone interested in sustainable urbanization, from national and local governments to universities, NGOs, and communities, are encouraged to organize or participate in virtual and/or physical events and discussions.



Nicosia Cumhuriyet Park RRD Memorial and Museum Landscape Project

URDC continues to carry out research-based urban design and planning projects for central and local authorities, while also providing consultancy to related institutions. One recently submitted project has successfully been put out to tender, and implementation is now underway. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Cömert, an executive board member of URDC, is serving as the advisor and site manager within the framework of a new protocol (Döner Sermaye Projesi). The project has now advanced into its second stage, with ongoing design and site supervision. Assistance for project visuals and drawings was provided by URDC Research Assistant Amirhossein Karimizadeh. including 3D visualizations and support in architectural drawings.









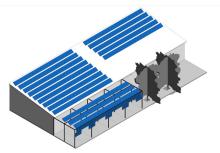


Identifying an Optimal Renewable Energy Strategy for the EMU Campus

This pilot project introduces a renewable energy strategy for the Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU) campus by integrating photovoltaic (PV) technologies into its built environment. The Electrical Vehicle Development Center was selected as the case study, where a 70 kWp PV system was designed, combining rooftop installation with a canopy structure over the car park to provide shading and expand the PV surface area.

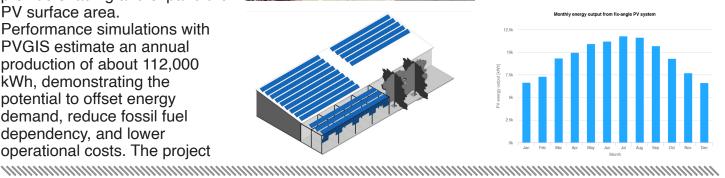
Performance simulations with PVGIS estimate an annual production of about 112,000 kWh, demonstrating the potential to offset energy demand, reduce fossil fuel dependency, and lower operational costs. The project was conducted by URDC Research Assistant Amirhossein Karimizadeh, in collaboration with his PhD thesis supervisor Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ercan Hoşkara.





Their research provides a framework for assessing the technical, economic, and environmental benefits of PV systems, supporting wider adoption across the EMU campus.

Awareness activities, including digital posters and media outreach, further reinforce EMU's commitment to sustainability and renewable energy innovation.



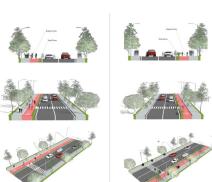
EMU Campus Master Planning 2025

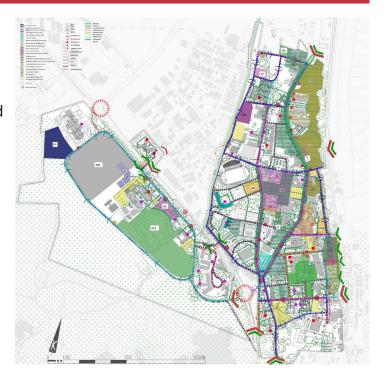
Based on the never-legalised Master Plan of the EMU Campus, a new team under URDC is now working on the improvements and updates of the EMU Campus planning. The vision of the EMU Campus Master Plan is:

A campus where users can walk and cycle freely without traffic interference; where public open spaces and pedestrian zones

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are actively used without being affected by climatic conditions; and where modern transportation systems are available: and where campus users



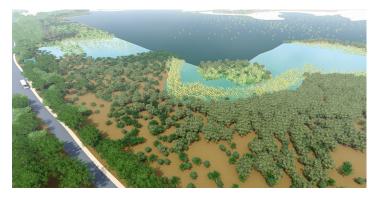


pedestrian-and bicycle-friendly, inclusive, accessible, and safe.

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

In February 2024, a protocol was signed between Famagusta Municipality, **Eastern Mediterranean** University, and the NGO **MAKAMER** (Famagusta Women Center) to ensure the protection of 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 visual presentation of the project, with direct involvement from Assoc. Prof. Dr. Müge Riza and the consultancy of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nevter Zafer Comert, vice directors of URDC, along with Research Assistant Amirhossein Karimizadeh.

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





New Seminar Series! Re: Think SDGs - Fresh Perspectives. Bold solutions.

The Eastern Mediterranean University Urban Research and Development Center (URDC) has decided to launch a new seminar series in support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which is also believed to contribute to our University's (QS Sustainability and THE Impact) rankings.

Conducted under the title Re:Think SDGs - Fresh Perspectives. Bold Solutions, the seminars are expected to attract the participation of both our students and the public, and will be held at different times. either online/or face-to-face.

Kickstarting our first session, we brought you an insightful LIVE Webinar on the European Green Deal and UN Sustainability Goals Overview & Framework!

Prof. Dr. Hatice Camgöz Akdağ from Istanbul Technical University joined us to explore

strategies for a more sustainable future.



Date: Tuesday, 25th March 2025

For our highly anticipated second session, we hosted an enriching LIVE Seminar on 'Architecture & Innovation!' Assoc. Prof. Dr. Almula Köksal Işıkkaya and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Tuğçe Ercan from Yıldız

Technical University joined us to explore cutting-edge trends shaping the future of architecture and innovation. It was a stimulating and thought-provoking discussion that expanded our perspectives!





Social media awareness posts to promote

WORLD TOWN PLANNING DAY

08 November 2024

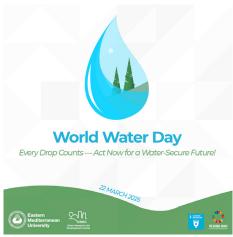
WORLD WATER DAY

22 March 2025

INTERNATIONAL **DAY OF FORESTS**

23 March 2025







HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED...

Have you ever noticed how interconnected the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are? Urbanization, global challenges like climate change, and inequality highlight the need for collective action. Every goal plays a role in shaping a better world.



Share with friends to spread awareness of the SDGs.











SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE...

The SDGs are about more than just individual goals—they're a holistic plan to improve the world. Whether it's addressing inequality or promoting innovation, the bigger picture shows that every action counts.



Think global, act local.













HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED...

Have you ever noticed how global challenges like poverty, hunger, urban sprawl, and climate change affect us all? The SDGs provide a roadmap to address these issues and create a fair. sustainable future for everyone.



Inspire action for a better tomorrow.



SEE THE BIGGER PICTURE...

From clean water to reduced inequalities, the SDGs remind us to think beyond ourselves. Tackling global challenges like urbanization and climate resilience shows that by focusing on the bigger picture, we can build a world where everyone thrives.



Let's create a sustainable future















Eastern Mediterranean University



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