

FIRAT UNIVERSITY NEWSLETTER



STRONG STEPS TOWARD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

According to the 2025 Impact Ranking results announced by Times Higher Education (THE), Firat University achieved significant success in the ranking that evaluates universities contributing to sustainable development goals. **Among 2,526 universities from 130 countries, Firat University demonstrated an effective performance by rising from the 801-1000 band in 2024 to the 601-800 band in 2025.**

THE Impact Ranking is recognized as one of the most prestigious international rankings that measures universities' environmental, social, and economic contributions in line with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In this context, Firat University achieved remarkable success not only in the general ranking but also in field-based rankings:

- **In the Clean Water and Sanitation category**, it was ranked in the 101–200 band globally and 4th in Turkey.
- **In the Climate Action category**, it was ranked in the 201–300 band globally and again rose to 4th place in Turkey.
- **In the Quality Education category**, it was ranked 101–200 globally and 11th in Turkey.
- **In the Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure category**, it was ranked 101–200 globally and 8th in Turkey, drawing significant attention.

These achievements demonstrate that Firat University has implemented effective policies not only in the academic field but also in areas such as community service, environmental sustainability, and innovation. The university's increasing sustainability performance and enhanced international visibility each year are directly related to its visionary management approach, qualified academic staff, and community-sensitive institutional strategies.

Firat University aims to further elevate this success trajectory in the coming years through innovative projects, environmentally friendly practices, and inclusive education models that contribute to global sustainability goals.

GLOBAL MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Global Development and Sustainability Congress 2025, organized in collaboration with the Council of Higher Education (YÖK) and Times Higher Education (THE), one of the world's leading higher education ranking organizations, was held at the Istanbul Congress Center between 16th-19th June.

This prestigious event brought together university leaders, policymakers, researchers, and sustainability experts from around the world, and Firat University participated with its institutional promotional booth, attracting significant attention.

The Firat University stand was one of the most popular stops for many local and international participants throughout the conference. In the exhibition area, comprehensive information was shared about the university's undergraduate and graduate programs, internationalization strategies, student and academic staff mobility, and European Union-supported projects such as Erasmus+, Jean Monnet, and Horizon Europe. Additionally, the university's sustainable campus vision, environmentally friendly practices, and academic projects aimed at combating the climate crisis were also highlighted through engaging presentations.

Discussions with academics, researchers, and institutional representatives who visited the booth explored various collaboration opportunities, ranging from student exchanges and joint research projects to dual degree programs and academic networks. These interactions are expected to lay an important foundation for expanding Firat University's global academic visibility and research networks.

By actively participating in this significant conference, Firat University has once again strongly demonstrated its commitment to sustainable development goals and its vision of becoming an active player in the international higher education system.



GLOBAL MEETING ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



INTERNATIONAL VISION, REGIONAL COOPERATION

Firat University has taken another important step towards expanding its international academic cooperation by signing a protocol covering academic, cultural, and scientific cooperation with K. Karasaev Bishkek State University, one of Kyrgyzstan's prestigious higher education institutions.

Through this protocol signed between the parties, the aim is to implement long-term collaborations in various areas such as student and academic staff exchange, joint scientific research projects, cultural and artistic activities, joint publications, and the sharing of information and resources.

During the visit,

- Technical discussions and practical reviews were conducted on topics such as information management and digital archiving systems,
- Resource sharing applications,
- Joint cataloguing infrastructures and interlibrary academic resource support.

This interaction is considered a step that will not only contribute to the development of institutional capacity but also to scientific diplomacy between the two countries. Additionally, through this collaboration, which is a concrete reflection of the spirit of solidarity between universities, Firat University has once again demonstrated its determination to digitize access to information, promote open science, and establish sustainable academic networks.



THE GATEWAY TO FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Firat University hosted a new initiative that will add value to Elazığ as part of Sabancı Holding's social impact initiative, Sabancı Youth Mobilization. The AGESA Technology and Impact Center has opened the 11th center at Firat University.

Aiming to redefine the insurance and finance sectors around digital transformation, this center also positions itself as a new-generation production, education, and solution center for young people in the eastern region. The center, established by AGESA, will directly provide support for approximately 7,000 students, studying Computer Engineering, Artificial Intelligence and Data Engineering, Software Engineering, and Insurance at Firat University in the first phase.

The training, seminars, workshops, and entrepreneurship programs to be held at the center will not only transfer technical knowledge but also develop students' innovative thinking skills, digital competencies, and sectoral awareness. Over time, the center will open up to all faculties and disciplines, becoming a hub for multi-stakeholder projects and interdisciplinary studies.



THE GATEWAY TO FUTURE TECHNOLOGIES

Combining Firat University's research university status, strong academic staff, and interdisciplinary approach, this new center will be available not only for university students but also for entrepreneurs, researchers, and young professionals in the region.

Aiming to reach 2,500 students by the end of the three-year project period, the center will also contribute to accelerating social and economic development in Elazığ and surrounding cities. Thus, Firat University has once again strongly demonstrated its vision of sustainable development based on innovation, technology, and entrepreneurship.



THE NEW ADDRESS FOR INNOVATION

Firat University has once again proven its success in the field of research and innovation. In the 4th R&D Project Market competition organized by the Anatolian Universities Union (AÜB) and hosted by Erciyes University, our university achieved significant success by winning three awards in different categories.

The event, held at the Erciyes Cultural Center, received 493 project applications across Turkey. Following the preliminary evaluation, 319 projects were qualified to participate in the poster presentation stage. In the competition, projects were evaluated separately at the student and academic levels under four main categories, and the awards were distributed accordingly.

Firat University proved its academic and student-based research capacity by winning awards in three different categories:

In the field of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences, Prof. Dr. Özlem Emir Çoban acquired the first place in the academic category with her project.

In the field of Engineering and Basic Sciences, Research Assistant Niyazi Furkan Bar was awarded with the first prize in the academic category for his innovative project.

In the field of Biotechnology and Health Sciences, Fatih Karaman received the second prize in the student category with his project.

This success is a testament to Firat University's commitment to research and development activities, its qualified academic staff, and the potential of its young researchers. Our university will continue to support scientific productivity, strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem, and develop innovative solutions that contribute to regional development through such competitions.



PRACTICAL POWER FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Firat University has taken another important step toward strengthening its vocational education infrastructure. In collaboration with UK-based Phinia Delphi Technologies, a new spare parts laboratory has been added to Firat University's Technical Sciences Vocational School.

Acting on its vision of "investing in the education of future generations," Delphi Technologies carried out a comprehensive renovation, maintenance, and refurbishment process in the workshop area as part of this collaboration. The renovated laboratory is equipped not only with technical equipment but also with modern application areas, aiming to prepare students in line with current industry expectations.

The established laboratory will support the development of practical skills for students studying in fields such as automotive technologies, motor vehicle technology, machinery, and maintenance and repair. The project also aims to create an educational model that contributes to the development of qualified workforce by bridging the gap between the regional industry and the university.



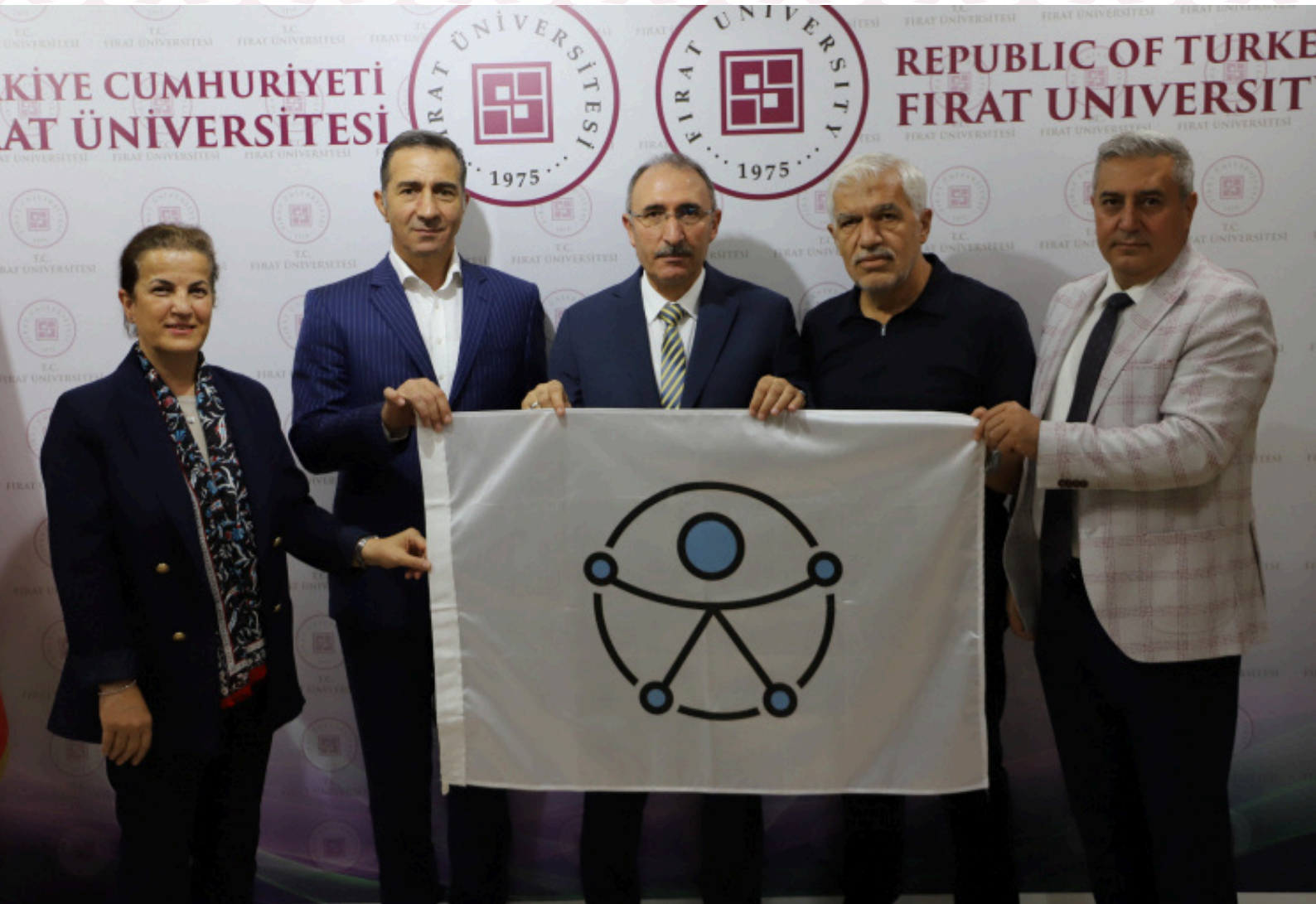
NO BARRIER TO KNOWLEDGE

Firat University has achieved another significant success with its comprehensive efforts to ensure that individuals with disabilities have equal and unimpeded access to information. In this vein, Firat University Library has been awarded with the "Accessibility Logo Flag."

At the 4th Accessible Libraries Workshop held in Turkey, university and institutional libraries reached out to the public. Libraries, which earned the right to receive certificates for their high-quality work in the field of accessibility, were presented with flags symbolizing this achievement at a ceremony.

Firat University stands out with its accessible information services in both digital and physical environments, steadfastly continuing its mission to provide equal access to information for all segments of society. Continuous improvement efforts in areas such as increasing auditory, visual, and physical access opportunities in library services, producing accessible materials, creating specially equipped work areas, and developing user-focused digital infrastructure were decisive in winning this award.

This prestigious award is a concrete proof of our university's commitment to inclusive education and accessibility principles. Firat University aims to further elevate accessibility standards and continue its work as a model higher education institution in the future.



THE KICK-OFF MEETING OF RES-UNI PROJECT WAS HELD BY FIRAT UNIVERSITY

The kick-off meeting of the Research Universities (RES-UNI) project, coordinated by Firat University and co-funded by the European Union under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education Programme, was successfully held with the participation of partner institutions from the Western Balkans and EU countries.

The meeting took place between 14th–16th April 2025 in Elazığ, Türkiye, and served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, planning, and collaboration among partner universities and stakeholders. The project partners consisted of distinguished representatives from Poland, Albania, Kosovo, Montenegro, and Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Throughout the three-day event, the RES-UNI project's strategic objectives, expected outcomes, and work packages were presented in detail by the Firat University coordination team. Discussions focused on the timeline for implementation, responsibilities of each partner institution, and the expected impact of the project on strengthening research capacities and digital competencies in higher education institutions.

A significant component of the meeting was the visit to Firat University's Digital Transformation Office and Distance Learning Centre, where participants had the opportunity to observe ongoing initiatives in digital innovation and e-learning practices. These visits highlighted Firat University's commitment to integrating technology into education and showcased best practices that could be replicated across partner institutions.

The meeting not only provided a clear roadmap for the project's future phases but also strengthened intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding among participants. Collaborative sessions and bilateral discussions enabled partners to align their expectations and develop a shared vision for the project's long-term success.

The RES-UNI project is poised to contribute significantly to digital transformation and the enhancement of academic excellence across the region. The strong partnerships established during this initial meeting have laid a solid foundation for achieving the project's ambitious goals in the coming years.



UZBEK THANKSGIVING DAY AT FIRAT UNIVERSITY

Firat University hosted another meaningful academic and cultural gathering in line with its internationalization vision. Within the scope of the III. Turkey-Uzbekistan Education Forum, a delegation of Uzbek academics participated in an education program at our university under the cooperation protocol signed between our university and the Denov Entrepreneurship and Pedagogy Institute in Uzbekistan.

This training program, successfully carried out under the coordination of our University's International Relations Office, was extremely productive in terms of academic knowledge and experience sharing. Within the scope of the program, observation visits, class observations, and seminars on university operations were organized in various faculties, providing the visiting academics with detailed information about internal institutional practices.

At the end of the training program, the Uzbek guests organized a meaningful event called "Thanksgiving Day" to celebrate the 5th anniversary of their university and to thank our university for its hospitality. During the event, academics wearing traditional Uzbek clothing, cooked special dishes from their own cuisine and served them to the guests. Thanksgiving Day was a heartfelt and friendly occasion that strengthened the cultural ties between the two countries.

Such international contacts are concrete manifestations of Firat University's goals of deepening academic collaborations and establishing connections with different cultures. Our university will continue to build connections beyond borders, both academically and culturally, through similar interactions in the future.

