



16th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region

BSUN 2024 Congress

„Summit of the Future for the Black Sea Region and the Role of Universities“



11th-12th of July, 2024

Istanbul University

Istanbul, Turkiye

*Summit of the Future for the Black Sea Region and the Role of Universities
11th-12th of July, 2024, Istanbul, Turkiye*



World Academy of
Art and Science



The Black Sea Universities Network and Istanbul University cordially invite you to the 16th Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region and BSUN Congress in Istanbul, Turkiye.



The Black Sea Universities Network (BSUN) represents the cooperation framework for Academic institutions from the Black Sea Region that facilitates the inter-university cooperation and the generation of synergies between education, scientific research, innovation and cultural cooperation.

Website: [Https://bsun.org](https://bsun.org)



The Istanbul University is an academic institution with a history starting in 1453 that contributed over the centuries to the education of generations of scholars from a large geography from Middle East and Northern Africa to Central Asia, Caucasus and Central Europe. After 1993, when the university was reestablished as a modern European university, it has been involved in the continuous process of structuring the intellectual elites in the modern Turkish society for promoting the fundamental values of the mankind society, for the benefit of the Turkish population and for building a democratic and prosperous Nation. At the same time, the University is continuing its international mission by educating students from many different meridians of the Globe.

At present, there are over 67,000 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students studying in 33 academic units, including faculties, institutes, colleges, and vocational schools at 10 campuses. The main campus is adjacent to Beyazıt Square in Fatih, the capital district of the province, on the European side of the city.

Istanbul University alumni include 2 Nobel laureates, Aziz Sancar (in Chemistry) and Orhan Pamuk (in Literature), the longest-serving President of Israel Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, two Prime Ministers of Israel (David Ben-Gurion and Moshe Sharett), President of Turkey Abdullah Gül, six Prime Ministers of Turkey (Suat Hayri Ürgüplü, Sadi Irmak, Nihat Erim, Refik Saydam, Naim Talu, Yıldırım Akbulut), and the current Mayor of Istanbul Ekrem İmamoğlu.

Website: <https://www.istanbul.edu.tr/en/>



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The World Academy of Art and Science (WAAS) was founded in 1960 to serve as a transnational forum for reflective scientists, artists, scholars, policy-makers, diplomats and other professionals dedicated to addressing the pressing challenges confronting humanity independent of political boundaries or limits. WAAS places great emphasis on the need for new thinking characterized by transdisciplinary, human-centered, values-based perspectives and theories that integrate the objective and subjective dimensions of knowledge addressed by the sciences, humanities and arts. WAAS is founded on faith in the power of original and creative ideas. Its activities give greater expression to its mission of "Leadership in thought that leads to action".

WAAS is currently conducting a global campaign Human Security for All (HS4A) in collaboration with the UN Trust Fund for Human Security. HS4A aims to create global awareness, shape public discourse, inform policy-making and build momentum for a global social movement in support of UN Agenda 2030. WAAS is working with universities, academies, research institutions, business and technology leaders, youth groups, parliamentarians and artists to galvanize all sectors of global society around the vision of Human Security for All.

BSUN Congress 2024 theme – "Summit of the Future for the Black Sea Region" was selected based on the assessment of the emerging themes and trends in higher education systems globally that interest equally the Rectors of BSUN, interested stakeholders, decision-makers, and key actors in higher education.

At the same time, the 75th Anniversary of the United Nations was marked in June 2020 with a declaration by Member States that included 12 overarching commitments along with a request to the Secretary-General for recommendations to address both current and future challenges. In September 2021, the Secretary-General responded with his report, Our Common Agenda, a wake-up call to speed up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and propel the commitments contained in the UN75 Declaration. In some cases, the proposals addressed gaps that emerged since 2015, requiring new



intergovernmental agreements. The report, therefore, called for a Summit of the Future to forge a new global consensus on readying ourselves for a future that is rife with risks but also opportunities. The General Assembly welcomed the submission of the “rich and substantive” report and agreed to hold the Summit on 22-23 September 2024, preceded by a ministerial meeting in 2023. An action-oriented Pact for the Future is expected to be agreed by Member States through intergovernmental negotiations on issues they decide to take forward.

Key Topics:

Account for the future: new pathways and best practices for promoting science-based decision making in the society;

Better respond to global shocks: the role of universities for a stronger international response playbook for complex regional and global shocks;

Meaningfully include young people: pathways for systematically include young people in the regional and global decision-making;

Measure human progress more effectively: metrics beyond GDP so that decisions on debt relief, concessional funding, and international cooperation take account of vulnerability, well-being, sustainability, and other vital measures of progress.

Vision of digital technology as a motor for human progress in the Black Sea Region that can deliver full benefits while minimizing potential harm;

Integrity in public information: possible approaches and initiatives to achieve an information ecosystem (notably online) that is inclusive and safe for all, perhaps via a code of conduct;

Reform of the international financial architecture: to ensure it delivers more effectively and fairly for everyone and particularly the Black Sea Region, including through objectives that are aligned with the SDGs, debt sustainability, a global financial safety net, and more;

Peaceful and sustainable use of outer space: proposals and initiatives to update norms governing the use of and behaviour in space so that it is peaceful, secure and sustainable for the benefit of all;

A new agenda for peace: proposals and initiatives to update our understanding of all forms and domains of threats and adapt our toolbox to prevent and manage hostilities on land, at sea, in space, and in cyberspace;



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Transform education: proposals and initiatives to achieve a fundamental shift in how education is seen and treated including in relation to the purpose of education; the learning environment; the teaching profession; harnessing digital transformation; investing in education; and multilateral support for quality education for all.

BSEC 2.0: adapt basic national and regional cooperation practices on data, communications, innovation, strategic foresight, performance and results, and more, so it is better positioned to support all the above and face the challenges of tomorrow for the extended Black Sea Region from Caucasus to the Balkans and South-East Europe.



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Draft Program

July 10th, 2024 - *Arrival of participants*

July 11th, 2024

09:00 - 09:30 Registration of the participants

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome speeches**

🚩 **Prof. Osman Bülent ZÜLFİKAR, Rector, Istanbul University**

🚩 **Prof. Marian PREDA, Rector, Bucharest University**

10:00 - 10:30 **Keynote Speech**

10:30– 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 – 12:00 **Plenary Session on...**

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 **Parallel Sessions**

15:30– 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 **Parallel Sessions**



July 12th, 2024

9:30 - 10:30 Reports from the Parallel sessions and the adoption of the Declaration of the Conference of Rectors from the BSR on the implementation of the UN 2030 SDGs in the Black Sea Region Countries

10:30– 11:00 Coffee Break

✚ 11:00 – 12:00 Session of the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region – BSUN General Assembly

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

✚ 14:00 – 15:30 Session of the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region – BSUN General Assembly

15:30– 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 – 17:30 Session of the Conference of Rectors from the Black Sea Region – BSUN General Assembly

July 13th, 2024

✚ Social Programme: Istanbul & Bosphorus Tour

July 14st, 2024 - *Departure of participants*