



 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



Khazar University
Sustainable Development Goals
Summary Report

Baku, Azerbaijan, 2021

Mission

The mission of Khazar University is to serve Azerbaijan and the broader region through exceptional university education at undergraduate, graduate, and post-graduate levels of studies with a student-centered approach as the main pillar. The university has a strong commitment to continuously evaluate, develop and improve academic activities and to enhance theoretical and applied research that benefits the country and society as a whole.

Vision

The vision of the University is to become a world-class higher education institution, recognized for its excellence in education and research, as well as wide-ranging partnerships with stakeholders both nationally and internationally.

Commitment to Sustainable Development Goals

Khazar University is committed to supporting UN Sustainable Development Goals through the followings:

- Provide students with the knowledge and skills that are essential to promote sustainable development;
- Perform research in a wide array of disciplines to meet the sustainable development challenges;
- Contribute to the achievement of the SDGs by ensuring that all programs offered are socially inclusive



SDG 1 No Poverty

Khazar University is dedicated to contributing to the Millennium Development Goal on “eradicating extreme hunger and poverty”. The University is committed to ensuring that financial issues do not present an obstacle for students.

Nailekhanim Foundation Scholarship

For 2021, the Nailekhanim Foundation offered a high-profile competition-based full scholarship for a gifted female student, regardless of national background and citizenship.

In addition, Khazar University provides the following **need-based scholarships**:

- in case if one or both parents work at Khazar University
- in case if 2 (two) or more students from one family are studying at Khazar University
- students from the Martyr family
- students from the families of disabled from the Karabagh war
- in case of the loss of both parents
- if a student has lost one of his / her parents while studying

Khazar University supports students with excellent academic performance from all over the world to study at Khazar University. “Excellence scholarship” covers the full tuition fee of international students, enabling them to study tuition-free at Khazar University. Merit scholarship covers cover 75%, 50%, or 25% of the tuition fee. Meanwhile, University provides successful master and PhD students with an opportunity to teach and earn monthly salary to cover their basic needs.

All students from low-income countries enrolled to Khazar University in year 2021 received university’s scholarship.



SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing

International Creative Writing and Painting Competition Dedicated to World One Health Day

Khazar University, Dunya school Khazar University's affiliate Dunya School held the 4th symposium dedicated to World One Health Day with the participation of researchers and students.

The main aim of the symposium is to promote understanding of the importance of One Health to improve human, animal, and ecosystem health issues in Azerbaijan.

Social Project “See Me”

Social project entitled "See Me" was developed at Khazar University involving second-year students of the department during the teaching process of the subject “Health Psychology”.

The theoretical study of topics such as social awareness, psychological education and organization of health projects which are among the subjects of this course , as well as the practical application of knowledge ensure the future development of students as useful psychologists and are reflected in social projects.

Note that the main goal of the project “See Me” is to increase the awareness of individuals about their psychological health and to say "no" to the use of labels, which is the biggest obstacle to mental health care.

Awareness raising and behavioral development for the reproductive health of the youth and family planning

A number of workshops “Awareness raising and behavioral development for the reproductive health of the youth and family planning” were held for students at Khazar University.

These awareness-raising workshops were organized within "Action Plan of the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Azerbaijan on implementation of the Azerbaijani Youth State Program 2017-2021", approved by Order #72 of the Ministry of Health. For this purpose, awareness-raising campaigns on "Reproductive health and healthy lifestyle - family planning" are conducted by experts at universities and colleges.



SDG 4 Quality Education

Contribution through aligned courses

A review of the university's courses revealed that more than 65 % of courses have coverage of sustainable development, social responsibility, or impact on the community.

Series of seminars on Women in Entrepreneurship: Challenges and Opportunities

Khazar University in cooperation with Middlesex University, UK organized series of seminars on Women in Entrepreneurship supported by the British Council's Creative Spark Higher Education Enterprise Program.

The general purpose of the publicly available seminars was to expand the opportunities and prospects of women entrepreneurs, as well as to highlight the problems and successes they face, to motivate women to become entrepreneurs.

Data Science Program

Khazar University is committed to its initiative being the first in Azerbaijan. Regarded as one of the most exciting professions of the 21st Century - **Data Science**, a one-year education program continues to make a difference in the region.

The curriculum, developed by professional teachers with international experience, will help each student acquire the necessary and basic knowledge in the field of Data Science by collecting all the necessary information in this field, and further applying this knowledge in practice.

MBA Programs of Khazar University among the Best Masters Programs 2021

Khazar University's School of Economics and Management ranked first among Azerbaijani business schools in the EDUNIVERSAL ranking.



SDG 5 Gender Equality

Full Scholarship for Postgraduate Female Students

In 2021, Nailekhanim Foundation, Khazar University launched a full scholarship for a gifted female student, regardless of national background and citizenship, who is determined to pursue her studies toward a post-graduate academic degree (either Master's or Doctoral).

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SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation

Research

Article entitled Nature-based management scenarios for the Khojasan Lake was published in the journal Sustainable Water Resources Management (7:86, 2021).

The article deals with the development of environmental management framework for Lake Khojasan.

Assuming Responsibility of Climate Change Conference

Khazar University hosted a one-day conference titled 'Assuming Responsibility for Climate Change'. The event's name is the de-abbreviation of the arCc project, which is supported by the Creative Commissions program of the British Council.



SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy

Natural Resources for Sustainable Development multi-mode course 2021

The Eurasia Extractive Industries Knowledge Hub offered “Natural Resources for Sustainable Development “2021 multi-mode course.

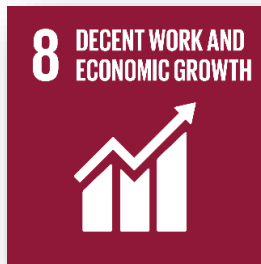
The course provided a well-grounded knowledge of theories and practices for efficient resource governance. It included of online and residential phases and was concluded with a final assignment in a form of research or analytical paper.

In addition to modules in data analysis, revenue management and contracting the participants of the online phase had an opportunity to participate in an online discussion with Eurasia Hub experts on the consequences of COVID-19 for resource-rich countries of the region.

The program aims to facilitate a rich dialogue about best practices from around the globe and their lessons for countries in the region.

Research on Affordable and Clean Energy

Analysis of research outcomes revealed that Khazar University researchers produced about 15% of research outputs linked to Goal 7.



SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth

Curriculum

Khazar University is dedicated to policy-oriented research and trainings promoting social responsibility, sustainable value of business and society, global leadership, mutual partnership to solve sustainable development challenges.

More than 80% of courses of the School of Economics and Management have include Principles of Responsible Management Education that are disseminated across the university.

Research

Analysis of research outcomes revealed that Khazar University researchers produced about 15% of research outputs linked to Goal 8.

Researches focus on resource-rich countries' development models, macroeconomic policy framework for oil-rich countries, resource curse, economic diversification, poverty reduction, migration and sustainable development.



SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Khazar University in Country Final of Start-up Competition

The EdTech Startup competition, supported by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, is a competition held among students studying in higher education institutions. The main purpose of the competition is to identify gaps and problems in the field of education among students in our country, to present technological solutions to eliminate them.

Out of 244 teams representing various universities in Azerbaijan, only 10 teams qualified for the finals. One of the 10 teams that qualified for the finals is the 'Pyramid' team, which represents Khazar University. The team members are Mushvig Nagizadeh, a 3rd year student of the university (majoring in Business Organization) and Ilkin Safarov, a 1st year student (majoring in accounting).

Creative Spark Partnership Fund

Khazar University in partnership with Middlesex University Higher Education Corporation, UK is one of the winners of Creative Spark Partnership Fund supported by the British Council. This partnership enables students to develop their entrepreneurship skills.

The School of Economics and Management at Khazar University contributes to the success of the project by providing courses on Entrepreneurship that include the development of entrepreneurial, leadership and managerial skills.



SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities

"All for all of us"

Webinar on "Psychological Health" was delivered to the participants of the project "All for all of us" which is run by the US-Educated Azerbaijani Alumni Association to further improve the opportunities provided to persons with disabilities, and to educate them about their rights and current issues.

At the webinar detailed information about the potential psychological barriers, that people with disabilities may encounter in society and techniques to overcome them was presented.

Education

More than 35% of students are the first in family to start their first degree in 2021.



SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities

Contribution to community unity

The Music and Fine Arts department has strong partnerships with the community to support community unity. Examples of this include various festivals, concert, and joint projects with the local schools.

Head of Department was appreciated for her support for the song “Heç kim unudulmur” (Nobody is forgotten) dedicated to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Statistics

More than 80% of the University students use public transports or walk to get to the University.

Number of annual University public performances – more than 70.



SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production

Curriculum

University is committed to increasing awareness of sustainable development through enhancing sustainability awareness in engineering education. Students are able to explore sustainable development and social responsibility via a problem-based learning approach.

Green Space

Public access to safe green spaces is one of the priorities of the environmental policy of Khazar University. Green Space of the Buzovna Conference and Leisure Center is a prime example of sustainable practices.

Responsible Procurement

The University is committed to ethical procurement strategy in line with organizational policy. University maintains sustainable procurement practice incorporating where possible environmental considerations into its purchasing decisions.



SGD 13 Climate Action

Assuming Responsibility for Climate Change project supported by the British Council

Khazar University is one of the winners of the Creative Commissions call announced by the British Council in response to climate change and COP26. The project was collaboratively designed and submitted by Middlesex University and 12 other partners from 13 countries. The project arCc which stands for assuming responsibility for Climate change will reflect on the impact of lifestyle on climate change, realize the importance of individual accountability, identify ways to demonstrate awareness of own responsibility to take action through local level awareness webinars, events, and competitions.

Series of Seminars on Climate Change

Series of the seminars within the project arCc held by the Geography and Environmental Sciences Department of Khazar University.

Assuming Responsibility of Climate Change Conference

In 2021, Khazar University hosted a conference at Dunya School titled 'Assuming Responsibility for Climate Change, supported by the Creative Commissions program of the British Council.



SDG 14 Life below water

Preventing plastic pollution through the campus's waste management policy

University is committed to reducing plastic pollution in the Caspian Sea through its zero waste-to-landfill policy.

University is going to achieve this by decreasing the amount of unnecessary single-use plastic and other disposables used on campuses.



SDG 15 Life on land

"National Ecosystem Assessments" Project

In 2021, the next meeting of "National Ecosystem Assessment" project team conducted by the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan and IPBES (International Panel on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services) was held in Galalti village of Shabran district. Khazar University was presented by Rovshan Abbasov, Head of the Department of Geography and Environment who is also the team leader of the Water Group in the "National Ecosystem Assessments" project and coordinates the assessment of freshwater ecosystems in the country. As a result of the project, the current state and future trends of Azerbaijan's forest, pasture and aquatic ecosystems will be studied and published and submitted to the government and international organizations.



SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

Khazar University is committed to raising awareness on global citizenship, conflict resolution, and social justice through education, research, and outreach activities.

Curriculum

University offers more than 30 courses that are directly linked to 16th Goal.

Mediation Trainings

In 2021, academic staff of Khazar University participated in the trainings held by the mediation training institution of the Academy of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan to improve the professional skills of mediators.

From July 1 2021, Azerbaijan started to use the mediation process as an alternative solution to pre-trial disputes. Especially in the case of divorce, the parties are expected to apply to mediation, not directly to the court.



Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals

Strengthen the Means of Implementation and Revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

Partnership

Khazar University contributes to SDG17 with a commitment to various activities promoting the cross-sectorial dialogue on the SDGs.

- University has a strong partnership with government bodies, NGOs, and other organizations to promote outreach activities and cross-sectorial dialogue on SDGs.
- Khazar University actively participates in the programs to facilitate the mobility of students, researchers and the development of collaborative projects.

International network

Khazar University is a member of the leading university consortia: Eurasia University Union (EURAS), Black Sea University Association; Caspian University Association; Alliance of Universities for Democracy; International Information Security Research Consortium; and Caucasus International Consortium for Academic Cooperation (CICAC)

It provides various opportunities for international collaboration between teaching and research staff and for universities to collaborate on contributions to the SDGs.