



**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**Khazar University**  
**Summary Report on**  
**Sustainable Development**

**Baku, Azerbaijan, 2022**

## **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**

Khazar University is dedicated to supporting the sustainable development through the following actions:

1. Providing students with the knowledge and skills essential for promoting sustainable development.
2. Conducting research across a wide array of disciplines to address sustainable development challenges.
3. Contributing to the achievement of sustainable development by ensuring that all programs offered are socially inclusive.



## **SDG 1 No Poverty**

Khazar University is dedicated to advancing the accomplishment of the Millennium Development Goal aimed at 'eradicating extreme hunger and poverty.' The university is firmly committed to ensuring that financial constraints do not prevent students' access to education.

### **Nailekhanim Foundation Scholarship**

In 2022, the Nailekhanim Foundation offered a prestigious, competition-based full scholarship to a gifted female student, irrespective of their national background and citizenship.

Additionally, Khazar University provides the following need-based scholarships:

- For cases where one or both parents work at Khazar University.
- For situations where two or more students from a single family are studying at Khazar University.
- Scholarships for students from Martyr families.
- Scholarships for students from families affected by disabilities due to the Karabagh war.
- In the event of the loss of both parents.
- If a student has lost one of their parents while pursuing their studies.

Khazar University supports students with outstanding academic performance from around the world, enabling them to pursue their studies at the university through various scholarship programs. The 'Excellence Scholarship' covers the full tuition fee for international students, allowing them to study at Khazar University tuition-free. The 'Merit Scholarship' provides coverage of 75%, 50%, or 25% of the tuition fee, based on the level of achievement. Additionally, the University offers successful master's and Ph.D. students the opportunity to teach and earn a monthly salary to support their basic needs.

In the year 2022, all students from low-income countries enrolled at Khazar University received a university scholarship.



### **SDG 2 Zero Hunger**

Khazar University is dedicated to SDG2, Zero Hunger, with a commitment to ending hunger, ensuring food security, improving nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture.

### **2nd International Congress on Cocoa Coffee and Tea Asia**

On May 19-20, 2022, the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Congress on Cocoa Coffee and Tea Asia was held at Khazar University. The Congress was conducted along with the cooperation and partnership agreement on scientific research projects between of the Anhui Agricultural University, and the State Key Lab of Tea Plant Biology and Utilization which are the world leaders in tea science and education.



### **SDG 3 Good Health and Wellbeing**

Khazar University is dedicated to advancing SDG3 through a multidisciplinary approach. The university is committed to generating value in the field of healthcare by producing scientific advancements, offering innovative solutions, and disseminating knowledge.

### **Research Collaboration**

In 2022, Khazar University's Psychology Department initiated a collaboration with the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, and the University of Gdansk, Poland, formalizing this partnership by signing a research collaboration agreement. Together, they are conducting a joint research project that delves into the influence of macro-, meso-, and micro-level factors on work addiction and the resultant health-related challenges.

## **Health and Pollution Action Plan**

On May 6, 2022, the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution convened to deliberate on the Health and Pollution Action Plan, which was coordinated by Khazar University's Department of Geography and the Environment.

During the event, the primary pollution challenges in Azerbaijan were addressed, and collaborative solutions were explored. A representative from the GAHP presented clean-up projects proposed to tackle these issues.

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

A series of workshops entitled "Awareness and Behavioral Development for Youth Reproductive Health and Family Planning" were organized for Khazar University students. Expert-led awareness campaigns on "Reproductive Health and Healthy Lifestyles, with a focus on Family Planning," are regularly conducted.



## **Quality Education**

As an integral part of its dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals, Khazar University is firmly committed to providing high-quality, inclusive, and equitable education.

**Khazar University is committed to sustainable development through the following actions:**

- Integration of sustainable development issues into university curricula.
- Designing new study programs and revising existing ones to incorporate sustainable development topics.
- Introducing new disciplines on sustainable development as elective subjects of study programs across the whole university.
- Updating the themes of student theses, master's theses, and Ph.D. theses across all schools to include sustainable development.
- Maximizing the inclusion of examples and case analyses related to sustainable development in university academic disciplines that do not directly address these topics.
- Developing open online courses on sustainable development and promoting them within the local community via university Moodle platform.

## **Contribution through aligned courses**

A comprehensive review of the university's course offerings has revealed that more than 65% of its courses incorporate elements of sustainable development, social responsibility, or community impact. This commitment to quality education not only equips students with essential knowledge and skills but also ensures that they understand and actively contribute to the principles of sustainable development and social responsibility.

## **MBA Programs of Khazar University among the Best Masters Programs 2022**

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



## **SDG 5 Gender Equality**

Khazar University is firmly dedicated to advancing gender equality and empowering women and girls through its study programs, research endeavors, and institutional policies.

### **Teaching and Learning**

Khazar is committed to supporting gender equality through various courses within the undergraduate and graduate study programs:

- Human Rights
- Inclusive Education
- Leadership Power and Politics
- Marriage and Family
- Gender and Law and others

### **Full Scholarships for Postgraduate Female Students**

In 2022, Nailekhanim Foundation, Khazar University held an award ceremony to present two full scholarships for gifted female students who are determined to pursue their studies toward a post-graduate academic degree.

### **Release of the First Book in the Series Highlighting Women's Contributions**

In 2022, the first book in the series "Women who made a mark in history and contributed to the culture of Azerbaijan" was published. This book is dedicated to the lives and achievements of two prominent Azerbaijani Turks women, Nurjahan and Mumtaz Mahal, who lived during the Great Mughal era.





## **SDG 6 Clean Water and Sanitation**

Khazar University is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6), which emphasizes the provision of clean water and sanitation.

### **Research**

The article entitled “Do People Appreciate Economic Value of Water in Baku City of Azerbaijan?” and co-authored by Rovshan Abbassov, Head of the Department of Geography and Environment at Khazar University, was published as the chapter of the book "Blue-Green Infrastructure Across Asian Countries" by Springer.

The article reflects the results of the survey aimed at calculating the economic value of water in Baku.

### **Assembly of Science and Art on "The World and Azerbaijan: Water Resources and Sustainable Use."**

In 2022, Khazar University's Downtown Campus served as the host for the 73rd session of the longstanding Assembly of Science and Art, focusing on the theme "The World and Azerbaijan: Water Resources and Sustainable Utilization." Rovshan Abbasov, Head of the Department of Geography and Environment at Khazar University, delivered a comprehensive report based on scientific research. The event brought together academics, researchers, government officials, and industry representatives to discuss the research findings and their implications.

### **Baku Water Innovation Forum**

Rovshan Abbasov, who serves as the Head of the Geography and Environment Department at Khazar University, played a pivotal role as a key speaker during the second panel on "Wastewater Management, Recycling, and Environmental Impacts" of Baku Water Innovation Forum.



## **SDG 7 Affordable and Clean Energy**

Khazar University is dedicated to SDG 7, which promotes Affordable and Clean Energy. We are committed to equipping not only our students but also the wider community with the knowledge and tools necessary to address the challenges of energy sustainability.

### **Research on Affordable and Clean Energy**

Analysis of research outcomes shows that Khazar University researchers contributed approximately 20% of research outputs related to Goal 7.

### **Training sessions on enhancing energy efficiency and promoting clean energy practices**

In 2022, Khazar University provided complimentary training sessions to local industries and entrepreneurs with the objective of improving energy efficiency and promoting clean energy practices. This event aimed to raise public awareness and support for the transition to 100% renewable energy beyond the university's boundaries.

Ultimately, the companies and the university reached a mutual agreement, solidifying their commitment to ongoing collaboration in achieving 100% renewable energy usage.

### **Natural Resources for Sustainable Development multi-mode course 2022**

The Eurasia Extractive Industries Knowledge Hub offered the "Natural Resources for Sustainable Development" course in 2022, that was designed as a multi-mode program. This comprehensive course offered a strong foundation in theories and practices essential for effective resource governance. It comprised both online and

residential components, culminating in a final assignment in the form of a research or analytical paper.

In addition to modules covering data analysis, revenue management, and contracting, participants in the online phase had the valuable opportunity to engage in discussions with experts from the Eurasia Hub.

The program's overarching goal is to foster a robust dialogue about global best practices and their applicability to countries in the region, thereby promoting valuable lessons and insights for sustainable development.



## **SDG 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth**

Khazar University is committed to conducting policy-oriented research and training that promotes social responsibility, the sustainable value of business and society, global leadership, and fostering mutual partnerships to address sustainable development challenges.

### **Curriculum**

Notably, over 80% of the courses offered by the School of Economics and Management incorporate Principles of Responsible Management Education, which are actively disseminated throughout the university.

### **Research Output**

Analysis of research outcomes indicates that Khazar University researchers contributed to approximately 15% of research outputs associated with Goal 8. The research primarily focuses on the development models of resource-rich countries, macroeconomic policy frameworks for oil-rich nations, resource curse phenomena, economic diversification, poverty reduction, migration, and sustainable development.



## **SDG 9 Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**

Khazar University's commitment to SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, is demonstrated through its pursuit of innovative solutions that enhance resilient infrastructure and advance sustainable industrialization.

### **Bootcamp "72 hours of a mentor"**

In 2022, a series of trainings on "Innovation in the digital world", "Networking", "Leadership skills", "Effective team management", "Startup pitching", "Mentoring, techniques and mechanisms", "Startup life cycle", "Development of presentation skills", " Financial attraction strategies", "Emotional intelligence" and "Idea competition - Innovative product development" were held within boot camp "72 hours of a mentor".

### **Creative Spark Partnership Fund**

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

In 2022, Khazar University, in partnership with Middlesex University, UK, organized a series of trainings for young entrepreneurs with the support of the British Council's Creative Spark Higher Education Enterprise Program.



## **SDG 10 Reduced Inequalities**

Khazar University is dedicated to fostering an inclusive culture, ensuring that everyone feels welcomed and can cultivate a strong sense of belonging.

In alignment with SDG 10, the university endeavors to establish barrier-free, inclusive, and supportive learning and working environments. It actively engages in activities that enable everyone to fully participate in all aspects of daily life at the university and within the broader community.

### **Support for students with disabilities**

Khazar University acknowledges its moral and legal responsibility to offer developmental resources and facilities for students with disabilities and to facilitate their integration into the educational system. The university is committed to eliminating barriers and ensuring opportunities for students with disabilities in compliance with both national and international regulations. This commitment is aimed at enabling them to access university services, programs, and facilities, and to be embraced as active members of the university community.

### **Employment policy on discrimination**

The University does not discriminate on the basis of race, colour, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, national or ethnic origin, age, or any status covered by Article 16 regarding the Unacceptability of Discrimination in Labor Relations.

Additionally, Khazar University is dedicated to fostering an environment where every employee embraces the values of friendship, equality, multiculturalism, diversity, and inclusion in every aspect of their work. This commitment ensures that the University's systems and processes are non-discriminatory, in compliance with legal obligations, and that it is recognized as a just and equitable employer.



## **SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities**

Khazar University is steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that all its campuses are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

### **Measure and set targets for more sustainable commuting**

Khazar University acknowledges the pivotal significance of Sustainable Commuting principles, encompassing aspects such as Accessibility, People and Communities, Environmental Quality, and Economic Viability. The university has identified and recognizes 24 key indicators crucial for fostering more sustainable commuting practices.

### **Contribution to community**

The Music and Fine Arts department of Khazar University has forged robust community partnerships with a focus on promoting community unity. Notable initiatives in this regard encompass a diverse range of events, such as festivals, concerts, and collaborative projects with local schools.

The Head of the Department received recognition and appreciation for her support in the creation of the song "Heç kim unudulmur" (Nobody is forgotten), dedicated to the cause of Sustainable Development Goals.

The University hosts over 70 public performances each year.

### **Statistics**

Over 80% of university students commute to the campus by public transportation or on foot.



## **SDG 12 Responsible Consumption and Production**

### **Curriculum**

The university is dedicated to raising awareness of sustainable development by fostering sustainability consciousness within engineering education. Through a problem-based learning approach, students have the opportunity to delve into sustainable development and social responsibility.

### **Green Space**

Public access to safe green spaces is a top priority in Khazar University's environmental policy. The Green Space at the Buzovna Conference and Leisure Center serves as an excellent model of sustainable practices.

### **Responsible Procurement**

The university is dedicated to an ethical procurement strategy that aligns with its organizational policy. It upholds sustainable procurement practices, endeavouring to incorporate environmental considerations into its purchasing decisions whenever feasible.





## **SGD 13 Climate Action**

Khazar University is committed to contributing to SDG 13, Climate Action, by addressing climate change through research, policy initiatives, and strategic partnerships.

### **Khazar University Climate Action Plan**

On January 19, 2022, the Department of Geography and Environment hosted a presentation ceremony for the updated "Khazar University Climate Action Plan". The event saw participation from over 30 representatives of diverse organizations, including the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, various NGOs, and academia. It is worth mentioning that the Khazar University Climate Action Plan was initially developed in 2015 and has been consistently updated.

### **Conference of Assuming Responsibility for Climate Change Project (arCc)**

On April 25, 2022, the concluding conference of the 'Assuming Responsibility for Climate Change' (arCc) project, organized by Khazar University in collaboration with Middlesex University, took place. This virtual conference saw participation from over 200 representatives, including project partners from 13 countries. Distinguished speakers addressed a wide range of topics related to climate change.

### **Training on "Climate Change, Renewable Energy"**

Staff members of Khazar University - Rovshan Abbasov, Head of the Department of Geography and Environment and Rovshan Karimov served as trainers during a program on "Climate Change and Renewable Energy." This training was organized by the Environmental Research Center of Khazar University in collaboration with the Baku Higher Oil School and took place from January 14 to 19, 2022. The program drew participants from various ministries, companies, and universities. It

focused on exploring the future of solar, wind, geothermal, green hydrogen energy, and their potential applications in Azerbaijan.



## **SDG 14 Life below water**

### **Preventing plastic pollution through the campus's waste management policy**

Khazar University is dedicated to reducing plastic pollution in the Caspian Sea through its "zero waste-to-landfill" policy. This commitment will be realized by reducing the usage of unnecessary single-use plastic items and disposables on its campuses.

### **Revision of sustainable development strategies of sturgeon in the Caspian Sea**

In June 2022, the faculty staff of Khazar University's Department of Life Sciences conducted a visit to an azfish farm to evaluate the current condition of sturgeon populations. The goal is to encourage stakeholders from the region to collaborate and adopt sustainable development policies to safeguard the vulnerable sturgeon populations in the Caspian Sea. This strategy adjustment is a crucial measure to ensure the long-term survival of sturgeons and preserve the Caspian Sea ecosystem. Additionally, collaboration with national and international organizations is vital for the continued survival of this iconic and endangered fish species.



## **SDG 15 Life on land**

Khazar University is dedicated to preserving its land through the implementation of policies focused on reducing plastic waste and safely disposing of hazardous waste.

### **Policy to Ensure that Food on Campus is Sustainably Farmed**

In 2022, a policy was developed and approved to guarantee that food on campus is sustainably sourced. It serves as a framework to ensure that food and beverages are

produced, acquired, consumed, and disposed of in a manner that prioritizes environmental conservation, societal well-being, and animal welfare.

### **Soil Salinity seminar**

In 2022, the Department of Life Sciences staff organized a seminar on soil salinity, an increasingly pervasive challenge in the realm of agriculture, that is adversely affecting crop yields and food security in various regions. These seminars are a platform to delve into the causes, consequences, and potential remedies for burgeoning issues.

The expert underscored the harmful impact of soil salinity on agricultural productivity, elucidating how it leads to diminished wheat crop yields and economic losses for farmers.



### **SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions**

Khazar University is dedicated to promoting awareness of global citizenship, conflict resolution, and social justice through education, research, and outreach initiatives.

### **Curriculum**

The university offers over 30 courses directly related to the 16th Goal.

### **Effective cooperation between Khazar University and the Mediation Organization**

In 2022, Khazar University and Baku Mediation Organization No. 15 signed a memorandum of mutual cooperation. This memorandum outlines collaborative efforts between the university's academic staff and the specialists of the Mediation Organization to promote mediation practices within the business environment. This includes incorporating global mediation advancements into local entrepreneurship,

educating relevant subjects, and supporting their activities through scientific research and development.

Furthermore, the memorandum facilitates opportunities for students majoring in mediation, economics, finance, business, and management at the university. It enables them to align their research, coursework, graduation projects, and master's dissertations with the projects undertaken by the Mediation Organization.



### **Goal 17 Partnerships for the Goals**

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

#### **Partnership**

Khazar University actively advances SDG17 through its dedication to various activities that foster cross-sectoral dialogue on the SDGs:

- The university maintains robust partnerships with government bodies, NGOs, and other organizations to promote outreach initiatives and facilitate cross-sectoral dialogues on SDGs.
- Khazar University actively engages in programs aimed at enhancing the mobility of students, researchers, and the development of collaborative projects.

#### **International network**

Khazar University is a member of several prominent university consortia and networks, including the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), the 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). These affiliations offer diverse opportunities for international collaboration among teaching and research staff and provide a platform for universities to collectively contribute to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Events held in 2022** (The most updated information is on the website)

[Cooperation agreement between Khazar University and Institute of Microbiology](#)

[Cooperation between Institute of Genetic Resources and Khazar University](#)

[Research cooperation between Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences and Khazar University](#)

[Creative Spark Conference at Khazar University](#)

[Guest lecturer at Department of Education: Magnus Frampton](#)

[The first series of seminars "Alumni Talk"](#)

[Information session by Professor of Polytechnic University of Turin](#)

[Khazar University in Global Partners' Week](#)

[National Ecosystem Assessments" Project Team](#)

[Research seminar held by Professor Sabzali Javadov of the University of Puerto Rico, USA](#)