



 **SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**



**Khazar University**  
**Sustainable Development Goals**  
**Summary Report**

**Baku, Azerbaijan**

**2023**

## **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 the academic year 2022-2023, the Nailekhanim Foundation offered a high-profile competition-based full scholarship for a gifted female student, regardless of national background and citizenship.

On November 11, 2022 the presentation of the Nailekhanim scholarship, established by the Nailekhanim Foundation, was held. Female students selected by the Foundation to study at Khazar University between 2022 and 2025 were awarded. As a part of event, the panel discussion on "The role of higher education in empowering women: challenges and opportunities" was held under the moderatorship of Aygün Gardiner. William abi Abdallah, deputy representative of the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) in Azerbaijan, Rahilya Geibullayeva, head of the Department of Azerbaijani Literature at Baku Slavic University, Vafa Kazdal, vice-rector for Academic Affairs of ADA University, and Gunel Aghabeyli, founder and director of the Azerbaijan Women in Science Youth Organization, took part in the discussion.

The awards to Italian citizen Claudia Palazzo (PhD studies in International Relations) and Indonesian citizen Brilliant Windy Khairunnisa (Master's studies in International Relations and Diplomacy) were introduced by the founder of Khazar University, Chairman of the Board of Directors and Trustees, professor, academician Hamlet Isakhanli, Vladanka Andreyeva, UN Resident Coordinator in the Republic

of Azerbaijan, and Indra Agustini, First Secretary of the Indonesian Embassy in Azerbaijan.

### [Nailekhanim Foundation Scholarship](#)

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. The 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 the academic year 2022-23 received university’s 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.

### **Research**

The 3rd International Conference on "One Health: Problems and Solutions," held on June 1-2, 2023, at Khazar University, addressed key challenges related to SDG 2 Zero Hunger, focusing on climate change, food security, and public health. The conference, organized in collaboration with global institutions, emphasized the impact of climate change on food systems, sustainable agriculture, and integrated health strategies to ensure safe, nutritious food for all. Keynote speakers from the USA, China, and other countries highlighted the importance of international cooperation in tackling food insecurity. The event also showcased student contributions on ecosystem health and sustainable food practices. Overall, the conference promoted global efforts to enhance food security and resilience in the face of climate change.



### **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.

#### **Raising Awareness through Series of Seminars Dedicated to the Dight Against Drug Addiction**

In January-May 2023, Psychology Department of Khazar University and the Republican Narcology Center, organized seminars on "Harmful effects of the use of psychoactive substances" for students majoring in various disciplines. The main goal of the seminars is to make students aware of the dangers of the effects of psychoactive substances on human health. Along with the harms of the use of psychoactive substances, attention was also paid to increasing the general level of knowledge of students on this issue. Issues discussed included the socio-economic and family problems of young people and the negative consequences of an unfavourable social environment. Students were also provided with information on how to protect their mental and physical health and alternative ways.

#### **Research Collaboration**

In the academic year 2022-23, Khazar University's Psychology Department in collaboration with the University of Silesia in Katowice, Poland, and the University of Gdansk, Poland conducted 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.

## **The 7th Azerbaijan International Psychology Conference**

Khazar University Psychology Department and Khazar Psychological Service Center organized the 7th Azerbaijan International Psychology Conference on April 21-22, 2023 at Khazar University.



## **SDG 4 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 2023**

Khazar University's School of Economics and Management, one of the leading business schools in Eurasia & Middle East, was placed in the 1st place among the business schools in Azerbaijan in the Eduniversal Best Business Schools Ranking 2023. Khazar University's MBA with a concentration in Energy Management was ranked 3rd, while the MBA in Management and MBA in Accounting programs secured 9th places among the top 200 universities in Eurasia and the Middle East, according to the Eduniversal World's Best Masters Rankings



## **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:

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

### **Full Scholarship for Postgraduate Female Students**

In the academic year 2022-23, 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.

### **Promoting Gender Equality**

The Psychology Department at Khazar University has made a meaningful contribution to promoting gender equality through various initiatives and active participation in discussions addressing gender stereotypes. In the academic year 2022-23, through seminars such as "Gender Stereotypes in Marital Relations," supported by organizations like the European Union and the UN Population Fund, Khazar University's Psychology Department has engaged with the broader community to address critical issues around gender inequality. These efforts

emphasize the need for men to play active roles in advocating for women's rights, supporting the education and personal development of their daughters, and rejecting harmful practices such as early marriage.

### **Promoting the Empowerment and Recognition of Women**

Khazar University contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5: Gender Equality by highlighting and honoring the historical achievements of Azerbaijani women through its book series, "Women Who Made a Mark in History and Contributed to Azerbaijani Culture." The sixth book, dedicated to Sara (Saray) Khatun — Azerbaijan's first female diplomat—celebrates her influential role in diplomacy during the 15th century, showcasing her successful negotiations with regional powers such as the Ottomans and her efforts in fostering peace. By bringing visibility to pioneering women like Sara Khatun, Khazar University promotes the empowerment and recognition of women, aligning with SDG 5's focus on achieving gender equality and empowering women and girls. The book not only preserves cultural heritage but also inspires future generations to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of women in leadership and diplomacy.



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

### **Research**

In the year 2022-23, the Environmental Research Center at Khazar University, under the guidance of Abbasov, Karimov, and Jafarova published the research results examining the ecological, cultural, and socioeconomic importance of Azerbaijan's ecosystems and provide essential insights into sustainable management strategies for key resources, including the Caspian Sea and mountain regions.

- Abbasov, R., Karimov, R., & Jafarova, N. (2022). The Caspian Sea and Its Values in Azerbaijan. In *Ecosystem Services in Azerbaijan* (pp. 1-28). Springer, Cham.
- Abbasov, R., Karimov, R., & Jafarova, N. (2022). Mountain Ecosystem Values. In *Ecosystem Services in Azerbaijan* (pp. 29-69). Springer, Cham.
- Abbasov, R., Karimov, R., & Jafarova, N. (2022). The Caspian Sea and Its Values in Azerbaijan. In *Ecosystem Services in Azerbaijan* (pp. 1-28). Springer, Cham.
- Abbasov, R., Karimov, R., & Jafarova, N. (2022). *Ecosystem Services in Azerbaijan: Value and Losses*. Springer Nature.
- Abbasov, R., Karimov, R., & Jafarova, N. (2022). Environmental Migration and Cultural Losses. In *Ecosystem Services in Azerbaijan*(pp. 123-179). Springer, Cham.

### **Responsibility of Climate Change**

On December 12, 2022 Khazar University hosted a seminar entitled "Water Security and the Armenia-Azerbaijan Conflict".



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

### **Training Sessions on Enhancing Energy Efficiency and Promoting Clean Energy Practices**

On November 5, 2022, Khazar University hosted training sessions for local industries and entrepreneurs aimed at enhancing energy efficiency and promoting clean energy practices. The event's goal was to raise public awareness and support for 100% renewable energy beyond the university.

During the event, action plans were presented to boost energy efficiency and encourage the adoption of clean energy practices. Industries and entrepreneurs attending the training got insights on strategies to minimize energy consumption. In the end, a mutual agreement was reached between the companies and the university, establishing a commitment to ongoing collaboration in the transition to 100% renewable energy.

### **Seminar on Future Energy Source: lithium and research of lithium minerals in Azerbaijan**

On November 29, 2022, the department of Physics and Electronics organized a scientific seminar titled Future Energy Source: Lithium and Research of Lithium Minerals in Azerbaijan. The seminar addressed the ecological benefits of renewable energy as an alternative to traditional sources, stressing the importance of researching renewable energy origins, efficient usage methods, and environmental impacts. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the significance of lithium-based batteries as a promising solution for future energy needs, aligning with the global transition toward sustainable and eco-friendly energy alternatives.

## **Natural Resources for Sustainable Development Multi-mode Course**

The Eurasia Extractive Industries Knowledge Hub affiliated to Khazar University continued to offer the "Natural Resources for Sustainable Development" course in the 2022-23 academic year. Designed as a multi-mode program, this comprehensive course provided a strong foundation in the theories and practices essential for effective resource governance. The program's overarching goal was to foster robust dialogue about global best practices and their applicability to countries in the region, thereby promoting valuable insights and lessons for sustainable development.

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

An analysis of research outcomes revealed that Khazar University researchers contributed approximately 25 % of the research outputs linked to Sustainable Development Goal 7.

Lecturer of the Department of Political Sciences and Philosophy of Khazar University Dr. Farid Guliyev's article "Renewable Energy Targets and Policies in Traditional Oil-Producing Countries: A Comparison of Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan" was published in "Journal of Eurasian Studies" (2023, Vol. 0 (0) 1-15).

In 2022, the textbook "Introduction to the use of renewable energy resources" co-authored by Rovshan Abbasov, head of the Geography and Environment Department, was published with the financial assistance of BP.



## **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**

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

### **Research**

An analysis of research outcomes indicates that approximately 30% of Khazar University's research outputs are linked to Sustainable Development Goal 8. Researchers at the university focus on areas such as development models for resource-rich countries, macroeconomic policy frameworks for oil-rich nations, the resource curse, economic diversification, poverty reduction, migration, and sustainable development.



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

Khazar University demonstrates its commitment to SDG 9, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, by pursuing innovative solutions that strengthen robust infrastructure and promote sustainable innovation.

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

In the year 2022-23, 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**

In 2022-23, Khazar University actively contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by fostering a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship among students. Through initiatives such as the Big Idea Challenge 2022, an annual pitching competition organized by the British Council in collaboration with London Metropolitan University, students from Khazar University showcased pioneering solutions that promote sustainable industry practices and social impact.

These innovative solutions reflect the university's commitment to nurturing students' technical skills and entrepreneurial capabilities, encouraging them to address critical industry and infrastructure needs within Azerbaijan.

[Khazar University students win another Country Championship within the Creative Spark Big Idea Challenge 2022](#)





## **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 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.

The University hosts over 70 public performances each year

[Khazar University Chamber Orchestra at "Uzeyir Hajibeyli XV International Music Festival"](#)

### **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.

Khazar University's Sustainable Procurement Policy is designed to ensure responsible, transparent, and efficient procurement practices that benefit the university, its partners, and the environment. The policy prioritizes goods and services with low environmental impacts and encourages partnerships with suppliers committed to ethical practices and resource sustainability. Covering all university, the policy outlines a step-by-step process for assessing needs, conducting market research, evaluating sustainable suppliers, and formalizing agreements. Decisions are made to maximize social, economic, and environmental benefits, with continuous improvements encouraged across the supply chain, aligning with the university's commitment to sustainable development goals.

[Sustainable Procurement Policy](#)



## **SGD 13 Climate Action**

### **Education, Research and Cooperation on Climate Change**

Khazar University has demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing climate change through education, research, and collaboration. In the academic year 2022-23, as the host of the 3rd International Conference on "One Health: Problems and Solutions," Khazar University provided a platform for global experts to discuss the intersections of climate change, health, and food safety, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue on solutions to environmental challenges. The university's Department of Geography and Environment, led by Dr. Rovshan Abbasov, actively contributes to research on climate change impacts, while students from the Architecture and Design department promote environmental awareness through initiatives like poster presentations on ecosystem health. By engaging in projects like the joint animal welfare and sustainability initiative with the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU) and establishing a partnership with Shenzhen University's School of Medicine, Khazar University is advancing climate-focused academic and practical efforts. This commitment positions the university as a key player in regional and international efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and foster sustainable development.

### **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.



## **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.

### **Research on Perceptions of Animal Welfare in the Regions**

On September 1-4, 2022, within the framework of the project, Javid Ojagi, associate professor of the Khazar University Life Sciences Department and Ayaz Mammadov, Ph.D. in Biology, coordinator of Veterinary Medicine, Associate Professor Mahammad Eldarov, deputy dean of the Graduate School of Science, Art and Technology visit Ganja city, Neftchala, Barda and Agjabadi regions.

The main purpose of the visit was to conduct a survey among modern farmers operating in the field of animal husbandry in those regions to learn about the perceptions of animal welfare.

During the visit, the welfare of animals and existing problems were discussed with the heads of fisheries, poultry, livestock farms managed by modern technologies in the mentioned areas.



## **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.

### **Research**

Khazar University actively contributes to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15: Life on Land through its initiatives in soil science and environmental sustainability. By co-organizing the international conference "Soil Science: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow" alongside the Institute of Soil Science and Agrochemistry on December 5, 2022, Khazar University has fostered significant dialogue on soil health, land degradation, and sustainable land use. This event, held on "World Soil Day," brought together experts to address the pressing challenges of soil degradation, land reclamation, and ecological mapping, emphasizing sustainable solutions for land and water resource management in Azerbaijan. Through these efforts, Khazar University promotes knowledge-sharing and research focused on preserving terrestrial ecosystems, combating desertification, and improving land productivity—core aspects of SDG 15.



## **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**

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, 21 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 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.

#### **Major Events held in 2023**

The most updated information can be found on the [www.khazar.org](http://www.khazar.org) website.

[The 3rd International Conference on One Health](#)

[The 7th Azerbaijan International Psychology Conference](#)



Conference on From the EU's Eastern Partnership to the EU's Central Asia Policy:  
Continuity and Change

Research Conference on Soil Science: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Eco Architecture and Design Perspectives Congress

3rd International Conference on the Philosophy of Language, Literature and  
Linguistics

International forum on Interdisciplinary aspects of sustainable development

Workshop on EU for journalists and students majoring in Journalism

International seminar on Electronic waste and global trends

Educational Training Organized by Animal Welfare Club

Seminar on Hot Topics in Engineering Sciences

"Creative Spark" Project