2025 / ANNUAL SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

SDG 16 | Peace, justice, and strong institutions

Khazar University · Baku, Azerbaijan

REPORTING PERIOD JANUARY–DECEMBER 2025

Institutional Approach

Khazar University promotes transparent governance, ethical conduct, academic freedom and public dialogue through its institutional structures, legal education, research and engagement with external partners. During 2025, the University held Student Council elections, published governance information and brought students, researchers and public-sector representatives together to discuss rights, institutions and policy challenges.

54%	**49**	**41**
Student Council voter turnout	Khazar University Forum presentations	Ethics cases in 2024–2025 academic year

16.1 Research on peace and justice

In 2025, the supplied Scopus dataset recorded **8 publications associated with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions)**, including five research articles, one review article, one book chapter, and one letter. Additional Khazar University publications addressed political institutions, civil society, conflict, and national sovereignty. These studies reflect interdisciplinary research on governance, institutional accountability, human rights, and social protection.

Institutional quality and governance

Mukhtarov and Aliyev (2025), in *The Role of Institutional Quality in the Transition to Renewable Energy Consumption in the Case of an Oil-Rich Country*, examined how governance quality, corruption-related indicators, and economic conditions influence renewable energy consumption in Russia. The findings highlighted the importance of effective institutions for sustainable policy implementation.

İşbilir (2025), in *Governing with Populism, Governing Against Populism: The Cases of Morocco and Algeria*, explored populism and political governance in North Africa. In another book chapter, *The Role of Civil Society Organizations in Libya's Political and Social Life*, the researcher examined the contribution of civil society organisations to political and social development.

Conflict, sovereignty and political transformation

Valiyev and Huseynov (2025), in *Post-Conflict Transformation in Azerbaijan: Rethinking the Politics of Nationalism and Rewriting History*, explored changes in national identity, sovereignty, and historical interpretation following the Second Karabakh War. Published in the *Eurasian Research Journal*, the study contributed to academic discussions on post-conflict political transformation.

Additional scholarly work examined the geopolitical and governance challenges surrounding the Trans-Caspian Pipeline, multicultural concepts in school textbooks, and Azerbaijan's foreign-policy development. These studies contributed to understanding regional cooperation, political institutions, and civic education.

Violence prevention and social protection

Maran et al. (2025), including Khazar University-affiliated researcher Murat Yıldırım, examined the consequences of stalking among students and workers. The study involved 561 participants who had experienced stalking and identified differences in psychological consequences and coping strategies, providing evidence relevant to prevention and victim support.

Korkmaz et al. (2025), also involving Murat Yıldırım, investigated cyberbullying and psychological resilience among 591 adolescents. The findings showed associations between cyberbullying, anxiety, and stress, highlighting the potential role of resilience in reducing stress among affected young people.

Research participation and institutional dialogue

Alongside scientific publications, Khazar University supported activities promoting human rights, accountable governance, and civic participation.

On 15 May 2025, the Law Department organised a Human Rights in Education seminar, discussing educational rights, non-discrimination, and students' participation in academic life.

On 30–31 May 2025, the University hosted the Khazar University Forum on Navigating Sovereignty in the Digital Age. The international forum featured **49 presentations** examining sovereignty, artificial intelligence, governance, and international cooperation.

On 9–12 December 2025, Student Council presidential elections were conducted across four campuses, with **54% student voter turnout**, providing students with an opportunity to participate in institutional representation.

These research and institutional activities contributed to knowledge exchange on governance and justice while creating opportunities for civic education, dialogue, and student participation.

Selected Research Publications (2025)

1. **Mukhtarov, S., & Aliyev, J. (2025).** The role of institutional quality in the transition to renewable energy consumption in the case of an oil-rich country. In *Renewable Energy Projects and Investments* (pp. 227–242). Elsevier. DOI
2. **Valiyev, O., & Huseynov, E. (2025).** Post-conflict transformation in Azerbaijan: Rethinking the politics of nationalism and rewriting history. *Eurasian Research Journal, 7*(4), 393–408. DOI
3. **Maran, D. A., et al. (2025).** Consequences and coping strategies among students and workers experiencing stalking. *Iranian Rehabilitation Journal, 23*(2), 217–232. DOI
4. **Korkmaz, Z., Çiçek, İ., Buluş, M., Şanlı, M. E., & Yıldırım, M. (2025).** The role of resilience in the relationship between cyberbullying and depression, anxiety, and stress in adolescents. *Brain and Behavior, 15*(10), e70916. DOI
5. **İşbilir, C. (2025).** Governing with populism, governing against populism: The cases of Morocco and Algeria. In *Otherness Between East and West: Populism in the Middle East* (pp. 355–380). İdeal Kültür Publishing. Publication details
6. **İşbilir, C. (2025).** The role of civil society organizations in Libya's political and social life. In *Civil Society in Africa: Opportunities and Limitations* (pp. 85–106). Kadim Publishing. Publication details

16.2 University governance measures

The Academic Council is Khazar University's main collegial governing body. It addressed doctoral research, examination results and teaching arrangements in its 28 February 2025 meeting, while the 4 July meeting considered graduate matters, appointments and academic procedures. Its published regulation provides for representation from the Student Council and elected faculty members.

On 9–12 December 2025, the University held a Student Council presidential election across four campuses. Three candidates took part and voter turnout was 54%. Lala Imanzade was elected with 60% of votes. The election gave students a documented opportunity to select their representative leadership.



Khazar University also maintains published Anti-Bribery and Anti-Corruption, Academic Freedom and Code of Ethics and Conduct policies, together with an Ombudsman service for confidential assistance with concerns. The 2024–2025 Ethics Committee report records 41 anonymised cases during the academic year, including employee and student matters. These policies and reporting arrangements support accountability and institutional integrity.

16.3 Working with government

On 30–31 May 2025, the Khazar University Forum on digital sovereignty brought together researchers, diplomatic representatives, government-related experts and students. Its 49 presentations explored governance, technology and international cooperation. The forum provided a setting for academic and public-sector perspectives on questions of growing importance to institutions.

Legal and civic learning also formed part of the year's activities. The Law Department held a Human Rights in Education seminar on 15 May, addressing access to education, non-discrimination and students' rights. A Tax Code Amendments seminar in January brought regulatory information to finance professionals and entrepreneurs, while faculty and students attended the Diplomacy Spring School in March.





Khazar staff took part in policy-oriented exchanges, including the September think-tank conference and a November sovereignty roundtable at the Center for the Analysis of International Relations. The University also hosted data collection for the EUROSTUDENT survey on 7–8 April: 104 students shared information about educational experience, social conditions and well-being as part of a nationally commissioned research initiative.



16.4 Proportion of graduates in law and civil enforcement

The University's Law Department contributes to legal education through instruction in civil and criminal law and related subjects. Its teaching supports students' understanding of legal principles, civic responsibility and the role of institutions in society.

Selected Activities in 2025

2025	ACTIVITY
25 Jan	Tax Code Amendments 2025 seminar
28 Feb	Academic Council meeting
24–28 Mar	Diplomacy Spring School
7–8 Apr	EUROSTUDENT student survey
15 May	Human Rights in Education seminar
30–31 May	Khazar University Forum: Digital Sovereignty
4 Jul	Academic Council meeting
29 Sep	International think-tank conference
11 Nov	AIR Center sovereignty roundtable
9–12 Dec	Student Council presidential election
17 Dec	Legal and constitutional sovereignty book event

2025 Overview

In 2025, Khazar University combined elected student leadership, Academic Council decision-making, rights education, public dialogue and governance-related research. Its published policies and ethics-reporting arrangements provided an institutional framework for these activities and continued engagement with the wider community.