NAKHCHIVAN State University **20** 23

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6 CLEAN WATER 7 AFFORD

15 LIFE ON LAND

AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY

16 PEACE, JUSTIC

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES





Message from the Rector

Nakhchivan State University makes me proud in advocating such comprehensive detailed report regarding the role of our university towards achievement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with all its strengths. Education at NSU considers the advancement of society and its global challenges through the prism of education, science, and community work as a priority and a commitment of higher education institutions. Within this strategic perspective, the SDGs are integrated into our primary objectives to ensure that whilst equipping students with professional knowledge and skills, they are also empowered to contribute effectively to sustainable development in their communities and toward the global society as a whole.

This report highlights the progress made by NSU institutions in their various activities in support of the substantial integration of the SDGs. Our agitations in climate action and advocacy against non-responsible consumption, action for gender dependency, call for fostering institutional integrity and quality education, show the bi-directional approaches of NSU towards a sustainable development. The attainment of each of the milestones that we have reached is simply an expression of the unlimited resolve of our faculty, the staff and the students whose synergy works both within the campus and the society to bring about change.

While thanking everyone involved in this important job, I would like to motivate everyone at our university.

Elbrus Isayev

Table of Contents

| INTRODUCTION | 04 |
|---|----|
| EXECUTIVE SUMMARY | 05 |
| SDG 1: No Poverty | 07 |
| SDG 2: Zero Hunger | 13 |
| SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being | 15 |
| SDG 4: Quality Education | 19 |
| SDG 5: Gender Equality | 25 |
| SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation | 29 |
| SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy | 32 |
| SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth | 37 |
| SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure | 42 |
| SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities | 49 |
| SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities | 52 |
| SDG 12: Responsible Consumption and Production | 57 |
| SDG 13: Climate Action | 60 |
| SDG 14: Life Below Water | 64 |
| SDG 15: Life on Land | 68 |
| SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions | 74 |
| SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals | 79 |
| CONCLUSION | 93 |
| KEYWORDS | 96 |

Introduction

Nakhchivan State University (NSU) is fully committed to supporting the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which aim to end poverty, protect the environment, and promote peace and prosperity by 2030. Through education, research, and community engagement, NSU integrates each goal into its operations, curriculum, and campus culture. With a comprehensive approach to sustainable development, NSU takes meaningful steps across diverse areas, from combating climate change and promoting responsible consumption to reducing inequalities.

Within each SDG, NSU implements specific projects, policies, and educational programs addressing both local and global challenges. Collaborating with government agencies, local organizations, and international partners, NSU expands the impact of these initiatives to reach a broader community. This report showcases NSU's dedication to fostering a culture of responsibility, inclusivity, and innovation, demonstrating its commitment to sustainable development. By nurturing students as future leaders, NSU prepares them with a socially responsible and sustainabilityfocused perspective.

Executive Summary

The Executive Summary of the 2023 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Progress Report for Nakhchivan State University (NSU) outlines the university's commitment to integrating sustainable development principles across its operations, curriculum, and community activities. NSU's ongoing efforts underscore the university's role in fostering inclusive growth, environmental responsibility, and academic excellence aligned with the global SDG agenda. This executive summary highlights key achievements, strategic partnerships, and collaborative efforts that have contributed to the progress made in advancing the SDGs.

NSU has expanded access to education and financial support through SDG 1 and SDG 4 initiatives, providing over 2,700 scholarships to financially support students and ensuring broader access to higher education. New dormitory accommodations and a loan program have also addressed students' economic needs, helping alleviate poverty barriers within the academic community.

In alignment with SDG 2 and SDG 12, the university has implemented food security programs that benefit over 1,200 students annually. Research in agricultural sustainability, along with food waste reduction initiatives, contributes to responsible consumption on campus and within the local community.

For SDG 3, NSU conducted approximately 30 health campaigns in 2023, addressing preventive care, mental health, and well-being. Medical internships and collaborations with local healthcare providers further NSU's commitment to health advocacy and community support.

In support of gender equality and inclusivity, the university has achieved gender parity in academic admissions and continues to advance women's leadership, with over 50% representation in senior roles. Through SDG 5 and SDG 10 efforts, scholarships and leadership training programs have promoted equal access for female students and faculty.

NSU has also shown its commitment to environmental sustainability and green energy initiatives under SDG 7 and SDG 13. Campus-wide LED lighting, energy-efficient windows, and the addition of a third solar panel in 2023 underscore NSU's dedication to sustainable practices. The university has hosted environmental campaigns and implemented reforestation projects to foster ecological awareness and resilience.

Aligned with SDG 9, NSU's Technopark, robotics programs, and industry partnerships create hands-on learning opportunities in technology and innovation, preparing graduates to contribute to sustainable industrial growth both locally and globally.

For SDG 16, NSU demonstrates a commitment to strong institutional values through a dedicated legal committee, transparent governance initiatives, and the Inclusive Education Center. The university promotes a culture of peace and inclusivity, ensuring that all students have access to necessary support services.

NSU's strategic partnerships and collaborations extend across local, national, and international boundaries. Collaborations with the Nakhchivan Ministry of Ecology, local government bodies, and private organizations have expanded NSU's impact through environmental conservation projects, food security programs, and student internship placements. Internationally, NSU has strengthened ties with universities and organizations worldwide, supporting academic collaboration, research opportunities, and cultural exchange. Community engagement initiatives like "Exchange Waste for Saplings" and "Turn Waste into Value" have raised awareness of responsible consumption and promoted environmental conservation within the local community.

This report provides a comprehensive view of NSU's SDG initiatives and achievements in 2023, reflecting the university's dedication to building a sustainable future through education, innovation, and community engagement. NSU's progress demonstrates its capacity to address both local and global challenges, while preparing its students to become leaders in sustainable development.



NSU actively pursues various financial, social, and educational support programs aimed at poverty alleviation. Over the past year, the university has expanded its initiatives to better address the diverse needs of students, especially those with financial constraints. In alignment with SDG 1, NSU's approach includes direct financial aid, inclusive campus services, awareness programs, and training sessions that equip students with essential skills for managing economic challenges.

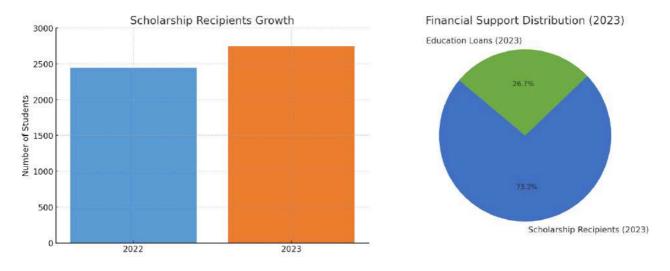
In 2023, NSU awarded scholarships to a total of 2,741 students, reflecting an increase of nearly 300 students compared to the previous year. This growth underscores the university's commitment to reducing economic barriers and supporting students' academic and personal development. Additionally, over 1,000 students received educational loans, which alleviate financial burdens for students from disadvantaged backgrounds. NSU's financial support framework comprises 29 distinct scholarship programs based on academic merit, financial need, and other specific criteria. The introduction of new scholarships, such as the "650+ Score Scholarship," further demonstrates NSU's commitment to fostering inclusive opportunities for all students.



Empowering students through financial support and inclusive opportunities, Nakhchivan State University is committed to reducing economic barriers and fostering equal access to education for all.

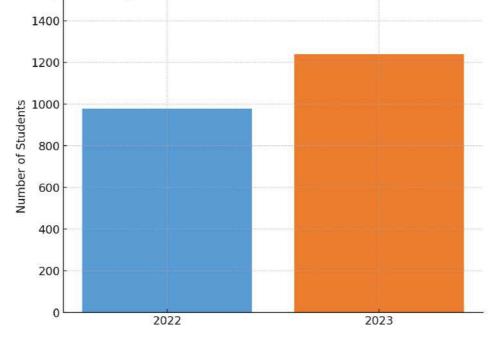


Financial Support Overview at NSU - 2023



NSU implements programs to provide essential support, including food supplies, to low-income and international students during holidays and special events. These initiatives aim to create an inclusive and supportive campus environment, addressing students' fundamental needs and fostering a sense of belonging. In 2023, the number of students benefiting from these programs reached 1,239, marking an increase compared to the previous year, in which 977 students received support. This growth reflects NSU's expanding commitment to supporting students from diverse backgrounds and underscores the university's dedication to enhancing student well-being annually.





Growth in Support Program Beneficiaries for Low-Income and International Students

NSU, in addition to its direct financial support programs, has intensified its efforts to promote a deeper understanding of poverty within the community through training sessions, seminars, and research activities. In 2023, NSU organized 44 training sessions for students on topics such as poverty awareness, financial literacy, and career skill development. These sessions aim to equip students with essential knowledge and skills for overcoming economic challenges and enhancing future financial planning capabilities.

Moreover, to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the root causes and impacts of poverty and to encourage student involvement in community support activities, NSU held 76 seminars and workshops. This approach not only enhances students' academic knowledge but also cultivates a sense of social responsibility, supporting the university's ission of sustainable development. NDU Training and Seminar Sessions on Poverty Awareness and Social Responsibility (2023) 100 r



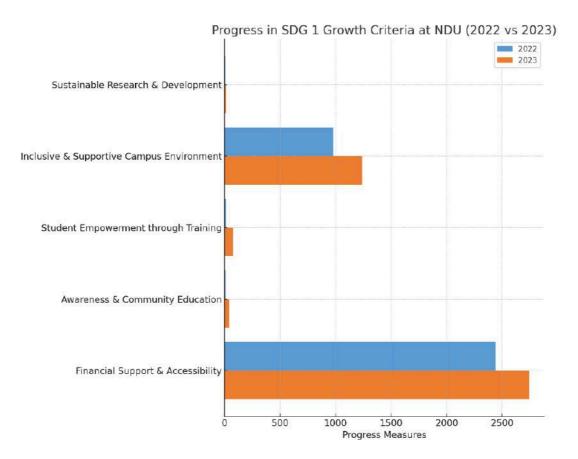
NSU provides dormitory and subsidized housing options to support students' residential needs during their studies, especially for those facing financial challenges. The university's student dormitory, initially opened in 1977 and undergoing minor repairs in 1997, was thoroughly renovated and expanded on February 28, 2011. This facility now consists of two wings with a total capacity of 462 students, offering 200 places for female students and 262 for male students, with rooms accommodating two to three students. Currently, over 40 international students from countries such as Turkey, Iran, Egypt, South Korea, Nigeria, and Bangladesh also reside in the dormitory.

The dormitory offers extensive facilities to support students' well-being and leisure. The basement includes separate areas for male and female students, featuring tennis and chess rooms, a bath, a laundry, storage, and various service rooms (such as for security, locksmiths, and general maintenance). On the first floor, there are study rooms with electronic boards, relaxation rooms with televisions, and separate spaces for both male and female students. The dormitory has a modern heating system, kitchens on each floor, and designated spaces for medical services, administration, and a self-governing student council. To ensure continuous water supply, a 100-ton water tank is installed, along with a transformer for reliable electricity. All rooms are equipped with modern beds, wardrobes, desks, Wi-Fi, heating, gas, lighting, telephone, and internet lines. The facilities at NSU's dormitory create a comfortable and safe environment that supports students' academic and personal development. Additionally, Cambridge International School, located on the university campus, provides high-quality and affordable education, reinforcing NSU's commitment to equal educational access. Through these initiatives, NSU demonstrates its dedication to removing economic barriers and supporting equal access to education for all students.





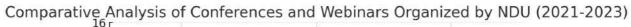
Through these various programs and initiatives, NSU is making significant progress toward achieving SDG 1. By addressing financial needs, raising awareness, and empowering students through education, NSU is building a solid foundation for the sustainable eradication of poverty and creating a supportive and inclusive environment for all students.

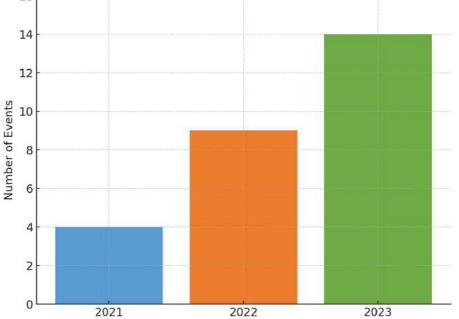




NSU is making remarkable progress toward achieving SDG 2 through various targeted initiatives. The university's agricultural research spans crucial topics such as crop enhancement, sustainable land use, food distribution, and efficient water utilization. Analysis of these research projects indicates that NSU's diverse undertakings in each area are designed to support sustainable agriculture comprehensively.

In recent years, NSU has also significantly increased the number of conferences and webinars it hosts. From 4 events in 2021, NSU expanded to 9 in 2022 and 14 in 2023. These gatherings provide faculty and students with valuable opportunities to discuss advanced practices and sustainable solutions in agriculture, furthering their expertise and contributing to a more sustainable future.









NAKHCHIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) PROGRESS REPORT 2023 Simultaneously, a notable increase has been observed in the number of students benefiting from the university's food security support programs. In 2022, 977 students participated in these programs, while in 2023, this figure rose to 1,239. This growth reflects NSU's strengthening commitment to meeting the essential needs of its students year by year.



By providing financial support to low-income students and fostering inclusive opportunities, Nakhchivan State University is committed to reducing economic barriers and ensuring equal access to education for all.





NSU has approximately 35 research projects in the field of agriculture, with many focused on soil practices, crop management, and efficient water usage. A visual representation of these projects illustrates the university's broad spectrum of agricultural research, covering various critical areas within the agricultural sector.



NSU has undertaken significant initiatives aimed at promoting the physical, psychological, and social well-being of both its academic community and the broader Nakhchivan region, supporting the Sustainable Development Goal 3 (SDG 3). In 2023, NSU organized approximately 30 free health campaigns for students and local residents. The campaigns targeting preventive care and health education were organized by NSU team, which underscores the responsibility of the institution toward the public health.

Moreover, NSU students won the International Forum on Innovative Design in Basic Medical Sciences held in Guangzhou, China, between 21 and 24 August 2024 with exemplary distinction. Three students received bronze medals for research in competition held in several categories, which increased further the scientific image of NSU. The involvement of February NSU in the First Turkish States Medical Congress at Yeditepe University helped share and promote health developments among the Turkish states with NSU establishing itself in the regional health discourse.



On a national level, NSU organized conferences, including the Republican Conference for Medical Students and Young Researchers, where topics such as hormonal changes in adolescent girls with obesity were discussed. This work was later published in the Russian Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology. NSU also collaborated with One for Health and EMSA Nakhchivan on initiatives to support the social integration of young people with autism.



In line with World Tuberculosis Day, NSU organized awareness events on TB prevention and the promotion of healthy lifestyles. The university further expanded its academic partnerships by forming a research group with Finland's Metropolia University, reinforcing NSU's international cooperation in medical sciences.

NSU faculty and students have contributed significantly to scientific literature, with articles published in esteemed journals such as Reproductive Health Eastern Europe, which included a study on hormonal activity in adolescent girls born through assisted reproductive technologies. Additionally, NSU organized multiple health-centered events, such as anti-smoking campaigns, sports competitions, and youth health awareness programs.



Through the Healthy Youth, Healthy Future project, NSU medical faculty organized educational sessions in local schools, promoting awareness of the effects of harmful habits. NSU students also achieved international recognition; for example, third-year medical student Ali Alakbarli won a silver medal at the Belt and Road International Forum on Innovative Research held in Chongqing, China, in 2023.





Nakhchivan State University (NSU) prioritizes quality assurance to uphold educational standards and enhance institutional performance. A dedicated Quality Assurance Unit oversees the university's adherence to the QA standarts including:

- National Accreditation (TKTA) standards
- FIBAA standards
- the European Standards and Guidelines (ESG 2015)

This ensures systematic development in teaching, learning, and administrative processes. The team also supports continuous improvement through training sessions instilling a quality culture across NSU.

NSU conducted comprehensive research to improve its Quality Assurance (QA) system. Following comprehensive research, NSU has modernized its Internal Quality Assurance (IQA) system with a structure resembling the diagram below, establishing new units within departments to enhance its quality framework.

| Quality Assurance Office | Quality Assurance Committee | Sub-committees |
|--|---|--|
| General Coordination Policy Making Training and Awareness Liaise with External Quality Assurance Agencies Data Analysis and Reporting Continuous Improvement and Benchmarking Digital Transformation and Data Management | Policy Analysis Audit and Evaluation Risk assessment Stakeholder Engagement and Feedback | Evaluation of Training Programs Evaluation of student support services Evaluation of academic staff Infrastructure assessment Curriculum Innovation and Compliance |

Defining the technology needed to be used in QA assessments was the main purpose of the research which is completed successfully. Nakhchivan State University QA Office periodically conducts surveys among stakeholders to gather their inputs (suggestions, complaints etc.). The table below lists the titles and links of the surveys conducted in 2023.

| Survey Title (Azerbaijani) | English Title | Link |
|---|---|--|
| NDU kollecləri tələbələrin gözü ilə | NDU Colleges through Students' Eyes | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSch7 OljM2K7f_2BYwJ3Lfvzx_QjuN_Ad1gvy8hEtCRPQz 2XEQ/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Tələbənin fənndən məmnunluğu sorğusu | Student Satisfaction Survey on Subjects | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAIpQLSeioh VfigCeioyULfMH_sTuvjxVykUUXbLWPdiMLoM985 DI7Q/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Tələbənin müəllimdən məmnunluğu sorğusu | Student Satisfaction Survey on Teachers | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAIpQLScgd NxzM52YOW8xITbL5or7rcDRPJgYhtqZIFfAI27nA Mkdkw/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| NDU Tələbələrin gözü ilə (qiyabi) | NDU through Students' Eyes (Distance Learning) | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfDvy <u>9pOjnYzXR26xaTy-</u> UPcV3UY62SjG1n06wJAtzDOZZJew/viewform? usp=sf_link |
| NDU tələbələrin gözü ilə | NDU through Students' Eyes | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScN3 o3MyHb_Zio9EejEnfqaXqmQEi4lhBYiVj9rtDHRXt ikUA/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Universitet rəhbərliyinin qiymətləndirilməsi sorğusu | University Leadership Evaluation Survey | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdiiO XmzHPiBPtTDywoZE0xXGMMYkywRpRC42vBFi2 2PtAsDg/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Rəhbərin əməkdaşlardan məmnunluğu sorğusu | Manager Satisfaction Survey with Employees | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd8c OxljptB_cxq76NwNbIH06gZ4AOagZoupUwTRZL r044FMw/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Keyfiyyət təminatı üzrə ehtiyacların dəyərləndirilməsi sorğusu | Quality Assurance Needs Assessment Survey | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd9zf DkrKLZIgXDDI46mLRfVPmkQgzIINSLHFyEtjMCr9 <u>CT3A/viewform?usp=sf_link</u> |
| Keyfiyyət Təminatı məlumatlılıq sorğusu | Quality Assurance Survey | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScroL TAVIYu6yYHx9m7IPktJ8OxuvSIiYPv0gL4DYH0Qu ceSA/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Əcnəbi müəllimlərdən məmnunluq | Satisfaction with Foreign Teachers | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAlpQLSfASf MMy5fsUvtBK5uaQesbR4gjbp4hYw-2- ogb8CgbQXCP2g/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Təlim ehtiyaclarının dəyərləndirilməsi sorğusu | Training Needs Assessment Survey | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe7K mos34BOFgoCc7CTIQJdbQm1NtKbERulEfawXZs WzO5LjQ/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Texniki kollec memnuniyyet sorgusu | Technical College Satisfaction Survey | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/IFAIpQLSd77 WI3_923ORj15x62Qq6kYKSjHm- pYLcXHQxb7YOQ6tOZaQ/viewform?usp=sf_link |
| Naxçıvan Dövlət Universiteti Strateji İnkişaf Planının dəyərləndirilməsi sorğusu | Evaluation Survey of the Nakhchivan State University Strategic Development Plan | https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScZR K48reMaH4ZeNF2TQ2AkYqQ- VQNrgWgALektuN72PWvdtg/viewform? usp=sf_link |

The students satisfaction surveys conducted accepted high amonnt of responses from the students.

Foreign professors

NSU actively seeks to enhance its academic offerings by inviting foreign professors to teach and collaborate in research. These educators bring diverse perspectives and expertise, enriching the learning environment and exposing students to global best practices in their respective fields. This initiative also fosters international academic relationships, contributing to the university's reputation on the global stage. NSU has invited professors/teachers from Turkiye, Japan, and USA.



Student success

Students from Nakhchivan State University ranked first among Azerbaijani universities for candidates achieving high scores and receiving certificates in the civil service exams. In 2023, the State Examination Center conducted 12 test exams—6 each of types A and B—to fill administrative roles in the civil service. Of the 16,200 candidates who participated, 4,709 successfully passed. Based on the results of the higher education institutions where these certified candidates studied, Nakhchivan State University students earned the top ranking. This great achievement is published by many news agencies. Examples below:

- <u>https://tehsil-press.az/index.php?newsid=85243</u>
- <u>https://naxcivanxeberleri.com/public/index.php/bloq/ndu-nun-telebeleri-azerbaycan-universitetleri-arasinda-ilk-uclukde-qerarlasiblar-40291</u>

Trainer from USA

NSU has collaborated with experts from the USA to enhance its training programs. These trainers provide specialized knowledge and skills that align with current industry standards. Their involvement supports the professional development of both students and faculty, fostering an environment of innovation and excellence. In 2023, a trainer from USA has been invited



Shuay Abdullayev

UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, USA

Department of Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Sciences, Comprehensive Carbohydrate Research Center (CCRC)

Museums

The university's commitment to cultural preservation is reflected in its museums, which showcase historical artifacts, scientific exhibits, and art collections. These museums serve as educational resources for students and the community, promoting an appreciation of history and culture while supporting research and learning initiatives.



Symphony Orchestra

The NSU Symphony Orchestra is a unique ensemble that highlights the university's commitment to cultural enrichment. Composed of talented students and faculty, the orchestra performs classical and contemporary pieces, promoting music education and offering the community access to high-quality musical performances.



Dual-degree programs

Dual-degree programs at Nakhchivan State University (NSU) are strategically designed to meet the changing demands of the global job market. In collaboration with renowned international universities, NSU offers these programs, allowing students to earn degrees from both NSU and a foreign institution. These programs not only enhance students' academic qualifications but also give them a competitive advantage in the workforce. In today's interconnected world, employers increasingly value candidates with international experience and diverse educational backgrounds.



NSU's dual-degree programs reflect the university's commitment to highquality, globally recognized education. These programs foster cross-cultural learning, enabling students to experience different educational systems and perspectives. Such exposure enriches their academic journey while developing essential skills like adaptability, communication, and critical thinking, which are highly valued in the global marketplace.

The current dual-degree programs at NSU include:

| Partner University | Degree Level | Specialization | Country |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------|
| Chankiri Karatekin University | Bachelor | Economy | Republic of Turkey |
| Igdir University | Bachelor | Geography | Republic of Turkey |
| Frederic Chopin Music University | Master | Art | Poland |
| Istanbul Technical University | Bachelor | Computer Engineering (taught in English) | Republic of Turkey |
| Gazi University | Bachelor | Electrical and electronic engineering | Republic of Turkey |
| Rzescow University | Master | Computer engineering | Poland |
| Ankara University | Master | Veterinary surgery | Republic of Turkey |
| Ankara University | Master | Information protection and security | Republic of Turkey |
| John Von Neumann University | Bachelor | Computer Engineering (taught in English) | Hungary |

Scientific-research centers and laboratories

Nakhchivan State University hosts specialized research centers and laboratories dedicated to scientific exploration and innovation across multiple disciplines. These advanced facilities, equipped with cutting-edge technology, promote hands-on learning, support student-led research, and enable pioneering studies that drive academic progress and regional development. Key centers include:

- Scientific Research Laboratory of Optics and Electronics
- Phytotherapy and Apitherapy Scientific Research Center
- Beekeeping Problems Laboratory
- Yusif Mammadaliyev Scientific Research Laboratory
- Research and Training Center for Heart and Blood Pressure Diseases
- Pharmaceutical Science Research Laboratory
- "STEAM" Scientific Research Center















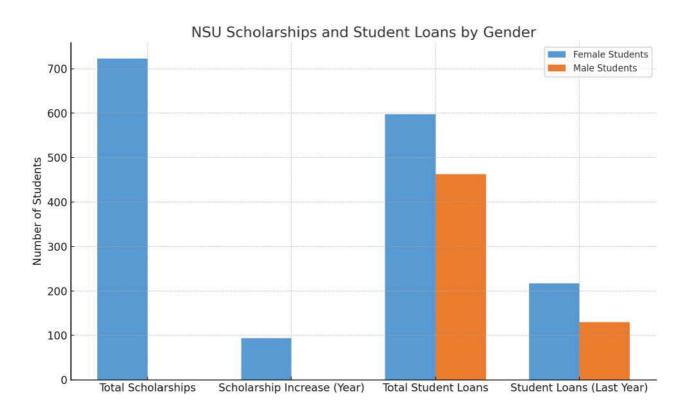






NSU has implemented a series of extensive measures to promote gender equality and increase the representation of women in education, research, and leadership. In alignment with SDG 5 objectives, NSU has demonstrated significant progress in the following areas:

NSU has provided extensive opportunities for women in education through specific scholarship programs. Currently, 723 female students benefit from four dedicated scholarship programs, reflecting an increase of 94 recipients compared to the previous year. Since the 2021-2022 academic year, NSU has also introduced student loan programs, from which over 1,000 students have benefited to date. Of these, 597 are women, compared to 463 men. In the last academic year alone, of the 347 loans awarded, 217 were granted to female students, underscoring NSU's commitment to supporting women's access to higher education.



In the admissions process, NSU has successfully maintained gender balance as part of its policy. This year, out of 2,238 total admissions, 1,297 were female students, affirming the university's commitment to equal educational access.

The representation of women among NSU's faculty surpasses that of men, with women holding 53.0% percent of senior staff roles. Additionally, one of NSU's vice-rectors is female, which highlights NSU's dedication to promoting women in leadership positions and fostering an inclusive governance environment.

This year, 25 female academics participated in leadership training programs within the university. These initiatives support women in acquiring decision-making and management skills, thus broadening their representation in leadership roles.



NSU has allocated a significant portion of its research budget to support female researchers, with 72 percent of the funds directed to women-led research projects. This financial support has enabled female researchers to publish studies in high-impact journals, further strengthening their academic contributions. In 2023, NSU supported the publication of 39 research articles focused on gender topics, many of which were published with waived fees. This commitment underlines NSU's dedication to advancing gender-based research and supporting female researchers.

To further professional growth and career advancement, NSU has collaborated with various institutions, organizing seven major training sessions throughout the year. These sessions saw over 2,400 participants, providing opportunities for women to expand their professional networks, develop their skills, and enhance their career paths within and beyond academia.





NSU organized two marketplaces in 2023 to support women's economic independence and showcase their skills. These events featured handmade crafts created by women, offering them a platform for sales and greater visibility. This initiative not only provides social and economic support for women but also encourages their engagement in the community. Through such efforts, NSU is actively promoting gender equality and empowering women to participate more fully in economic activities.

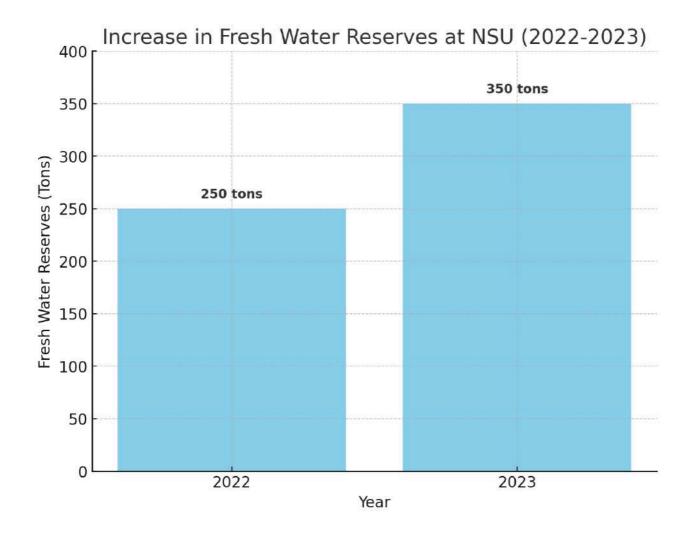
Through these comprehensive initiatives, NSU has made substantial strides in achieving SDG 5, demonstrating a strong commitment to gender equality. The university's programs for female students, researchers, and faculty have paved the way for increased access to education, representation in leadership, and growth in research, fostering an inclusive environment that empowers women across all academic and professional fields.





In 2023, NSU made significant strides in enhancing water supply systems. The installation of water recycling equipment marked an essential improvement, facilitating more efficient water usage. To increase the supply of clean water, an additional 50-ton water tank was installed at the student residence, along with additional treatment systems.

This increase raised NSU's fresh water reserves from 250 tons in 2022 to 350 tons in 2023, reflecting the university's commitment to enhancing water resources and securing a sustainable water supply.





NAKHCHIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) PROGRESS REPORT 2023 NSU has also conducted extensive awareness-raising activities on the importance of water resources among students. Training sessions on topics such as "Sanitary Protection of Water Sources and Pipelines," "Hygienic Fundamentals of Residential Sanitation," and "Types, Composition, and Properties of Wastewater" were organized. These sessions, which engaged 1,003 students, aimed to increase understanding of water safety and sanitation.



Additionally, NSU held its first "Earth Hour 2023" environmental event to draw attention to the dangers of climate change. Organized by the NSU Student Union, the initiative encouraged energy conservation and environmental protection awareness among the community.

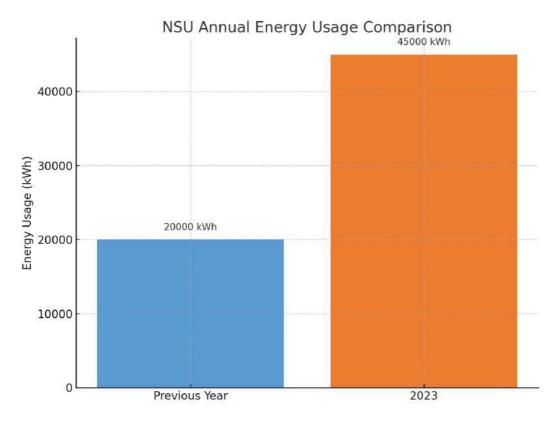
Through these measures, NSU makes a substantial contribution to SDG 6 objectives, supporting water resource conservation, improved sanitation services, and sustainable water management, thereby promoting environmental sustainability.



NSU has made significant strides toward achieving SDG 7 through substantial initiatives aimed at sustainable energy use and efficiency. NSU's efforts encompass green energy production, energy efficiency measures, scientific research, and awareness activities.

To enhance energy efficiency, NSU has equipped all campus buildings with energy-friendly windows and replaced lighting in all rooms with LED alternatives. These measures have greatly contributed to the university's efforts to conserve energy and reduce overall consumption. In green energy production, NSU currently operates one wind turbine and two solar panels. In 2023, a third solar panel was added, underscoring the university's commitment to green energy progression. This addition has strengthened NSU's renewable energy capacity and furthered its goal of transitioning to sustainable energy sources.

To ensure energy use is managed responsibly, NSU conducts quarterly monitoring to review adherence to the university's energy policy. The monitoring results have shown a significant increase in energy usage; while NSU previously consumed 20,000 kWh, the total energy usage reached 45,000 kWh in 2023, indicating an additional 25,000 kWh. This rise reflects the expansion of NSU's infrastructure and its commitment to meeting the energy demands of its growing academic and operational activities.



NSU has also taken steps to raise awareness and foster educational opportunities in renewable energy. Faculty members published a research article titled "Solar Energy Resources in Nakhchivan" in an international journal, contributing to the global discourse on green energy. Additionally, NSU researchers participated in training sessions at the "Pure Energy Development" SARL facility in Wismar, Germany, focusing on solar panel production and alternative energy technologies.



To engage students and the community, NSU invited local school students to an open lesson on green energy at the university. NSU also organized research activities and open classes at the Julfa and Shahbuz Solar-Wind Hybrid Power Stations, offering students practical insights into energy efficiency and renewable technologies. Furthermore, NSU hosted a webinar on "The Key Directions of Azerbaijan's Energy Diplomacy" and arranged an international internship for energy engineering students in Italy, promoting cross-border learning.



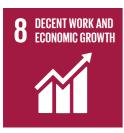
Nakhchivan State University actively promotes SDG 7 by engaging students in sustainable energy education. Through open lessons, practical sessions at local solar-wind hybrid power stations, and international internships, NSU equips students with essential knowledge in energy efficiency and renewable technologies, fostering a campus dedicated to a sustainable energy future.



Through these diverse measures, NSU has demonstrated a strong commitment to SDG 7 by expanding its renewable energy resources, optimizing energy efficiency, and engaging in local and international collaborations to raise awareness about sustainable energy. NSU's efforts underscore the university's dedication to addressing global energy challenges and advancing sustainable energy solutions in education and research.







NSU undertakes numerous initiatives to prepare its students for professional life and foster economic development. In alignment with SDG 8, NSU creates job opportunities, supports entrepreneurial ventures, and establishes both local and international partnerships to ensure that students have ample opportunities to pursue successful careers.

The university's expansive career fair provides valuable employment and internship opportunities to students and graduates, presenting over 2,000 job and internship positions. The event hosted 32 government organizations and 8 private companies offering a range of professional opportunities. The fair attracted more than 4,000 young participants, and NSU itself offered 48 open positions to its students. This initiative has contributed to the employment of more than 75% of NSU graduates in their respective fields, with 1,600 students graduating this year.



NSU students and faculty achieved success in international forums and entrepreneurship projects. Students competed in the 10th International Forum on Innovative Design in Basic Medical Sciences in Guangzhou, China, where three NSU students received bronze awards for their research presentations. Additionally, three of NSU's startup teams participated in the "From Idea to Reality" project fair hosted by Karadeniz Technical University in Turkey, where NSU was awarded "Best International Project." Participation in these international events has enabled NSU students to gain global experience and further develop their innovative thinking.

NSU emphasizes practical training and job placement opportunities for students. During the 2023-2024 academic year, NSU facilitated hands-on experience for 1,101 students in state institutions and schools, including 359 engaged in teaching practice and 742 in industrial internships. The Faculty of Medicine also organized clinical internships for students at Farabi Hospital in Trabzon and EGE University in Izmir, Turkey. In total, approximately 1,008 students are currently engaged in teaching and industrial internships across 44 different institutions, including 17 general education schools and 27 state organizations. Of these, 790 are bachelor's and 218 are master's students.











NSU also supports students through training sessions and seminars. A workshop titled "New Trends, Innovations, and Tax Management in Business" was organized in collaboration with APF Group LLC, and a cybersecurity camp in Sharur focused on enhancing digital security skills for youth. NSU actively collaborates with international education programs, including a project funded by the Azerbaijan Youth Fund, which led to the "First Regional Conference of Student Youth Organizations." NSU's Enactus team also participated in the Enactus program in Egypt, gaining valuable insights into social entrepreneurship.



NSU offers specific support to low-income and talented students. Through a partnership with Roof Academic Training, high-quality preparatory courses are offered to help talented, low-income students pursue higher education at leading international universities. Umico, a corporate partner, has also launched a project in NSU regions to identify and develop young talent and expand job opportunities, enhancing the professional experience for students and recent graduates.

NSU makes significant strides in advancing SDG 8 by supporting professional development, expanding economic opportunities, and ensuring sustainable employment conditions. These initiatives contribute to the empowerment and economic independence of NSU students and graduates, preparing them to excel in the competitive job market.







NSU has made significant strides in advancing Sustainable Development Goal 9 (SDG 9) — "Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure." Through extensive initiatives, the university is not only enhancing its infrastructure but also providing hands-on learning and development opportunities for students in fields like architecture, engineering, and technology.

Among the university's standout projects is the Technopark, with its concept developed by Ismayil Ismayilli, a young faculty member in the Architecture Department. Recognized with a Presidential Award on Youth Day, this project underscores NSU's commitment to fostering technological advancement and supporting emerging talent. NSU has also organized numerous online seminars and exhibitions for architecture and engineering students, including events on Independence Day (May 28), where students showcased designs for the reconstruction of Karabakh, allowing them to gain creative experience in alignment with the nation's infrastructure goals.



NSU's support for robotics and STEAM education has led to prominent involvement in national and international events. The university represented itself at the "SAF 2022 – International STEAM Azerbaijan Festival," and, as a key participant in the opening of the Robotex Eurasian Championship, underscored its emphasis on developing students' technological skills. Through its English-medium Gymnasium, NSU facilitated student participation in global competitions, such as the World Robot Olympiad, strengthening its role in fostering international achievement in technology.

Collaborating with various local and international partners, NSU provides students with startup and internship opportunities. In partnership with "Construction Business Group" LLC, NSU has undertaken essential renovations across its educational facilities. In 2023, the university secured a contract valued at 336,000 AZN for ongoing maintenance projects, reflecting NSU's dedication to creating functional learning spaces for students and faculty.



NSU's involvement extends to fostering startup initiatives and entrepreneurial skills. Student and faculty startup teams participated in the Project Bazaar festival hosted by Karadeniz Technical University, where NSU had the chance to learn from European universities about effective university-industry collaboration. Projects such as "AgroChat," a finalist in Enterprise Azerbaijan's "Startup School 2," have allowed students to engage in the region's largest innovation summits. Additionally, the university has organized cybersecurity camps, partnered with APF Group for training on business trends, and collaborated with Umico to support employment opportunities for young talent across the regions.

The university has further expanded its impact through collaborations with entities like Roof Academic Training, offering high-quality preparatory courses for underprivileged yet talented students, enabling them to pursue advanced studies at leading international universities.



These comprehensive initiatives place NSU at the forefront of SDG 9, effectively advancing industry, innovation, and infrastructure within the nation and creating valuable international connections. NSU's efforts in educational infrastructure and partnerships with industry leaders foster a progressive academic environment, reinforcing the university's reputation as a strong center of learning, research, and technology in the region and beyond.

















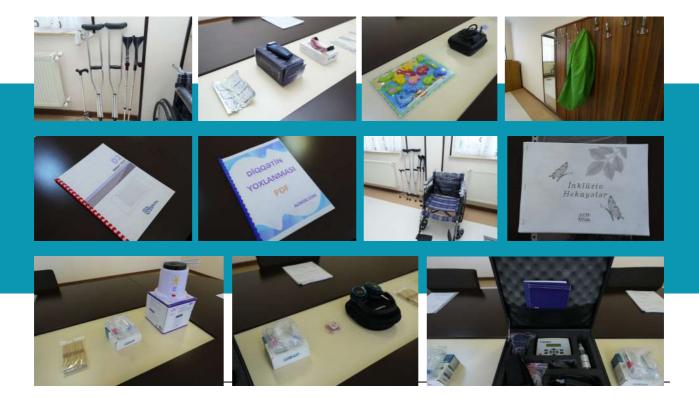






NSU actively supports Sustainable Development Goal 10 (SDG 10) by implementing a range of initiatives to reduce inequalities and ensure full inclusion for all students within the university community. For students with physical disabilities, NSU provides significant support through its inclusive policies. Students with first- and second-degree disabilities are offered free accommodation in the student residence hall and have access to all campus services at no cost.

NSU's Inclusive Education Center plays a crucial role in integrating students with disabilities by providing adapted learning materials and ensuring that their examination process receives additional care. In collaboration with its industry partners, NSU has secured scholarships for 200 students with disabilities, underscoring its commitment to supporting equitable access to education. Volunteer student groups are organized within NSU to assist students with disabilities in their academic and social activities. Additionally, customized study materials, including Braille, audio formats, and sign language support, are made available to these students. Free medical consultations and check-ups are provided through NSU's health facilities, enhancing their well-being on campus. Awareness campaigns, such as informational posters and social media videos, promote inclusivity and educate the community on integrating students with disabilities into university life. Furthermore, NSU organizes various competitions, training sessions, and seminars to showcase and develop the talents of students with disabilities.



One such initiative is the training titled "Barrier-Free Thinking: The Beginning of Happiness," organized by NSU's Student Union in collaboration with the "We Are One Family" Support Society for Individuals with Disabilities. This training emphasizes inclusion and the importance of respect and mutual support, aiming to empower students with disabilities and foster a supportive campus environment.

For international students, NSU provides a wide range of support services to facilitate their academic and social integration. Events such as "Introduction to Voluntary Health Insurance," legal seminars on the "Legal Status of Foreigners," and excursions to cultural sites like the Qarabaghlar Mausoleum and the Heydar Aliyev Museum enrich the educational experience of international students and help them integrate into the university and local community. NSU's international students also actively participate in campus sports events, with a dedicated basketball team winning a regional championship and contributing to university life. Additionally, international students organized the "Karabakh is Azerbaijan" concert, engaging in cultural expression and community building.



NSU consistently engages with its international students to provide updates on the university's efforts to enhance internationalization, establish new partnerships, and develop dual-degree programs with top universities worldwide. Preparatory course students are introduced to NSU's campus and services, gaining insights into the resources available to support their academic journey.

Through these diverse programs, NSU demonstrates its commitment to creating an inclusive academic environment that promotes equal opportunities and supports all students in reaching their full potential. NSU's initiatives align with its dedication to reducing inequalities and fostering a supportive, inclusive university community.





NSU has taken significant steps to advance Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) - "Sustainable Cities and Communities." Through targeted efforts to enhance infrastructure sustainability, promote environmental cultural responsibility, and preserve heritage, NSU demonstrates a strong commitment to building a resilient and inclusive campus and contributing positively to the broader community.

In 2023, infrastructure safety improvements were implemented across six of NSU's 13 academic buildings, the student residence, and other campus facilities. Renovations included the installation of modern LED lighting systems to improve energy efficiency and reduce consumption. Additionally, the student residential areas were upgraded to create a more comfortable and sustainable living environment for students, with updated plumbing and enhanced security measures.

NSU has also undertaken extensive initiatives to increase green spaces on campus. During 2023, 231 new trees were planted, and ongoing care of existing greenery has been intensified. These efforts underscore NSU's commitment to environmental stewardship, providing a healthier and more inviting atmosphere for students, faculty, and visitors alike.







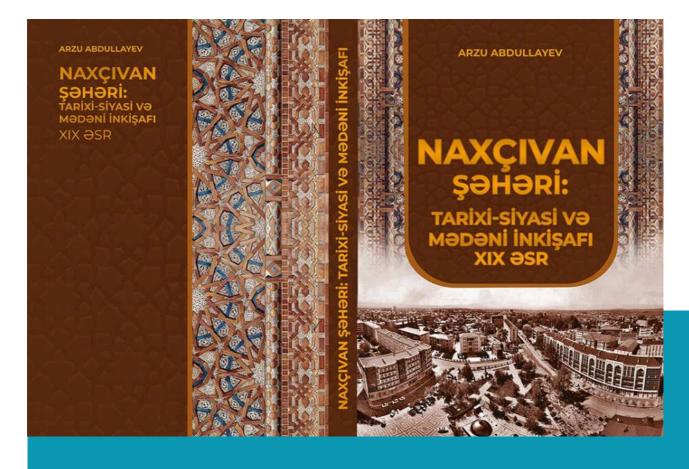
NSU has been actively engaged in cultural preservation and promotion. As part of the International Medical Forum, NSU organized site visits for international delegates to Nakhchivan's notable cultural and natural landmarks, including the Duzdag Physiotherapy Center and the Momine Khatun Mausoleum. Delegates were introduced to Duzdag's unique therapeutic properties, attracting visitors globally, especially those seeking treatment for asthma. The UNESCO-listed Momine Khatun Mausoleum, a masterpiece of Eastern architecture and a symbol of respect for women, was also highlighted as a significant historical monument.

In further efforts to celebrate Nakhchivan's rich cultural heritage, NSU introduced the "Nakhchivan Carpets and Embroidery" textbook and curriculum, expanding students' understanding of traditional arts. The university also hosted the first International Symposium on "Islam and Culture in the Caucasus" and commemorated the "International Day for Monuments and Sites" with a series of events. Additionally, NSU's International Congress on Duzdag Research provided a platform for exploring Nakhchivan's natural and scientific significance.



In conjunction with the "Heydar Aliyev Year" designation in Azerbaijan, NSU organized a special exhibition on "Heydar Aliyev and Urban Heritage." Students from the Faculty of Architecture and Engineering excelled in all categories, showcasing their talent and gaining a deeper appreciation for the region's urban and architectural heritage.

Through these diverse initiatives, NSU's SDG 11 activities actively support the creation of sustainable, safe, and inclusive campus spaces. By fostering environmental awareness, preserving cultural heritage, and enhancing infrastructure sustainability, NSU stands as a model for sustainable development, benefitting both its academic community and the broader society.





NSU is dedicated to advancing Sustainable Development Goal 12 (SDG 12) — "Responsible Consumption and Production" — through diverse environmental and sustainable practices. Across the university's student dormitories and other facilities, infrastructure improvements have been implemented to enhance ecological sustainability and safety. Energy-efficient

LED lighting systems have been installed in residence areas, reducing energy consumption, while innovative natural lighting and ventilation solutions help lower the university's carbon footprint. In addition, NSU has expanded its green spaces with 231 newly planted trees, contributing to a healthier environment on campus.

NSU, in collaboration with the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic's Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, organized initiatives such as the "Turn Waste into Value, Make Eco-Bags a Habit" campaign, promoting waste management and recycling within the community. Citizens who brought plastic and glass bottles or used batteries received eco-friendly bags, raising awareness of recycling's importance and encouraging responsible behavior toward waste.



Furthermore, the "Exchange Waste for Saplings" campaign aims to foster an appreciation for green spaces, allowing citizens to receive saplings in return for waste, thus promoting community involvement in expanding green areas. Another joint project with the Ministry of Ecology involved a cleanup event in Rustam Forest along the Nakhchivanchay Valley in the Shahbuz district, supporting conservation efforts and reinforcing NSU's role in protecting natural resources.

NSU has adopted a sustainable procurement policy prioritizing recyclable materials. In campus dining facilities, measures are in place to reduce food waste by sourcing local produce, which not only supports food security but also promotes responsible consumption practices among students. Additionally, the university is committed to efficient water and energy management, with systems designed to optimize resource use across campus.



Through cleanup initiatives like "Protect Nature Together" and various ecocampaigns, NSU promotes environmental awareness among students and the public alike. Resource-efficient practices in NSU's dining services, transport management, and building operations directly support SDG 12 objectives. By cultivating respect for natural resources and promoting environmental values, NSU is fostering a culture of sustainable consumption and production on campus and in the community.









NSU is actively committed to addressing climate change and environmental challenges through a range of initiatives and academic programs that align with Sustainable Development Goal 13 (SDG 13). These efforts aim to not only raise awareness but also provide practical solutions through research, scientific projects, and curriculum development to combat the impacts of climate change.

One of NSU's significant contributions to this goal includes the ECOLEAD project, implemented with the participation of the leadership from the Prosecutor General's Office of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Within this initiative, NSU hosted a scientific-practical conference on "Environmental Protection: The Role of Awareness and Law Enforcement Measures," where experts discussed "The Role of Environmental Water Violations in Accelerating Climate Change." This project emphasizes the importance of integrating environmental education with legal awareness to address ecological issues. The university's faculty also developed and published the book "Climate Map of Nakhchivan", along with supplementary educational resources like "Nakhchivan's Water Tunnels" and "Organisms and Ecosystems", which provide valuable data for climate studies.





NSU's environmental initiatives also include awareness-raising events such as the "Earth Hour 2023" campaign, where students, faculty, and volunteers participated to emphasize the dangers of climate change. Organized by the Student Union Committee, the event included turning off lights for one hour at 8:00 PM, with participants symbolically lighting candles to form "60+," demonstrating their commitment to energy conservation and climate action.

NSU's faculty contribute significantly to the academic discourse on climate change. For instance, Associate Professor Huseyn Imanov's article on environmental perspectives in art was published in Penza, Russia, and another study of his appeared in The Scientific Heritage journal in Hungary. This research aimed to understand youth perspectives on climate change and environmental consciousness in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Findings showed that 90% of participants felt that existing environmental laws were inadequate, highlighting the importance of educational and legislative reforms for effective climate action.



The university offers specialized academic programs that promote ecological knowledge. Bachelor's programs in "Ecology Engineering" and "Reclamation Engineering," alongside master's programs in "Solid Waste Management," prepare students to address environmental challenges with a scientific approach. Additionally, courses on "Environmental Law" in the Law faculty introduce students to legal aspects of environmental protection, promoting a holistic understanding of climate responsibility.

Further efforts to instill climate awareness include roundtable discussions, such as the "COP29: A Green World for Unity" event organized at NSU's Music College, focusing on community-driven climate solutions. The annual Earth Day celebration at NSU is another platform where students engage in discussions and activities centered on protecting our planet and fostering environmental stewardship.

To reduce its carbon footprint, NSU restricts vehicle access to the campus, with only essential vehicles allowed entry with special permission. This measure not only minimizes emissions on campus but also supports a cleaner, healthier environment for the university community.



NSU has actively engaged in environmental sustainability initiatives as part of its commitment to combating climate change. To enhance green spaces on campus, NSU has planted 231 new trees within its grounds, contributing to the university's dedication to ecological sustainability and green campus initiatives. Additionally, NSU has expanded its efforts beyond the campus by supporting a large-scale tree-planting project in the Nakhchivan region. In collaboration with local communities and partner organizations, NSU facilitated the planting of 3,000 trees in the surrounding area. This initiative reflects the university's broader mission to support environmental conservation and raise ecological awareness, aiming to provide a greener, healthier environment for the city and future generations.

Through its diverse initiatives and educational programs, Nakhchivan State University contributes significantly to SDG 13, fostering environmental awareness and sustainable practices among students and the community. These efforts are critical to preparing the next generation to tackle climate change and advocate for ecological resilience in a rapidly changing world.





NSU is actively engaged in efforts to preserve clean water resources and strengthen environmental water rights through various impactful initiatives. Notably, NSU hosted a scientific-practical conference titled "Strengthening the Environment: The Role of Awareness and Law Enforcement Measures" as part of the ECOLEAD project. This conference highlighted

"Environmental Water Violations Accelerating Climate Change" and discussed the impact of ecological rights violations on water resources. According to the presented data, environmental damage due to land occupation from 1988 to September 2023 has resulted in approximately 13.4 billion manats in losses to Azerbaijan's ecology.

To increase awareness among students and environmental specialists, NSU organized a series of workshops covering topics such as "Sanitary Protection of Water Supply Sources and Pipelines," "Controlling Water Losses in Canals," "Types, Composition, and Properties of Polluted Water," and "Hygienic Aspects of Water Supply Sources." These workshops enhanced participants' knowledge about ecological water supply, sanitation, and the protection of water ecosystems.



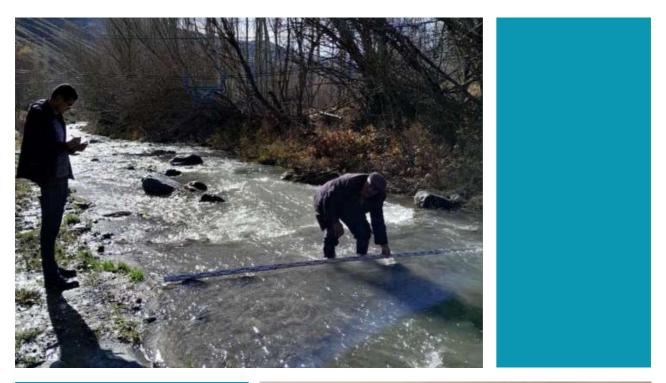
Empowering students with knowledge of water conservation and sustainability, Nakhchivan State University champions SDG 14 by integrating responsible water practices into campus life. Through water monitoring projects, educational workshops, and collaborations with environmental organizations, NSU fosters a culture of stewardship for aquatic ecosystems. These initiatives prepare students to protect and manage water resources effectively, equipping them to contribute to environmental resilience locally and globally.





In collaboration with the Nakhchivan Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry, NSU launched monitoring and research projects focused on assessing water quality and levels in the region's main rivers. Water samples were taken from Nakhchivanchay, Alinjachay, Nurgutchay, and Paragachay rivers, with measurements taken at hydrological stations. These were among the findings:

- Nakhchivanchay: Water flow rate 1.9 m³/sec, level 50 cm
- Alinjachay: Water flow rate 0.495 m³/sec, level 27 cm
- Nurgutchay: Water flow rate 1.2 m³/sec, level 34 cm
- Paragachay: Water flow rate 0.238 m³/sec, level 18 cm





Additionally, NSU and the Ecology Ministry undertook a comprehensive project to map and record private sub-artesian wells across districts like Shahbuz, Sharur, Julfa, Ordubad, and Kangarli. This data has been digitized using ArcGIS software and aims to facilitate effective management of underground water resources by identifying the precise number and locations of private wells.

The monitoring scope extended to areas within Nakhchivan City, Qaraquch, Qaraxanbeyli, Heydarabad, Sadarak, Garaagach, Diza, Ashagi Yayji, Yukhari Yayji, Shakhbuz, Mahmudoba, and Nursu. Analyses of drinking water and river water were conducted, and assessments were made of anthropogenic impacts on the environment. Additionally, the condition of agricultural areas undergoing agro-technical care was evaluated.



An additional noteworthy initiative in which Nakhchivan State University (NSU) participated is the release of 20000 juvenile carp into the Heydar Aliyev Reservoir in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. This project, co-organized by NSU, aimed at enhancing biodiversity, enriching aquatic ecosystems, and increasing fish populations in the reservoir. Representatives from the Ecology and Natural Resources Ministry of Nakhchivan and eco-volunteers were present at the event, underscoring a collaborative commitment to preserving the region's natural resources and promoting environmental sustainability.

These initiatives demonstrate NSU's dedication to sustainable water resource management and active measures to combat climate change impacts.



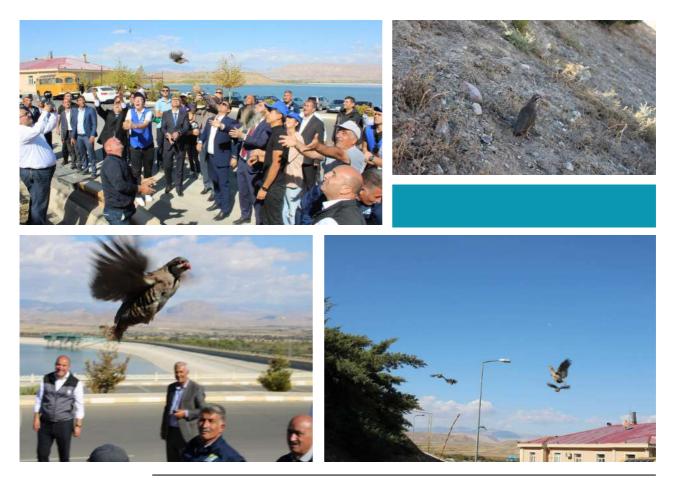




NSU has implemented various initiatives to protect environmental resources and biodiversity within the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. As part of these efforts, NSU recently held a scientific-theoretical seminar titled "Forms of Anthropogenic Impact on Nature in the Lowlands Along the Aras River in the Nakhchivan

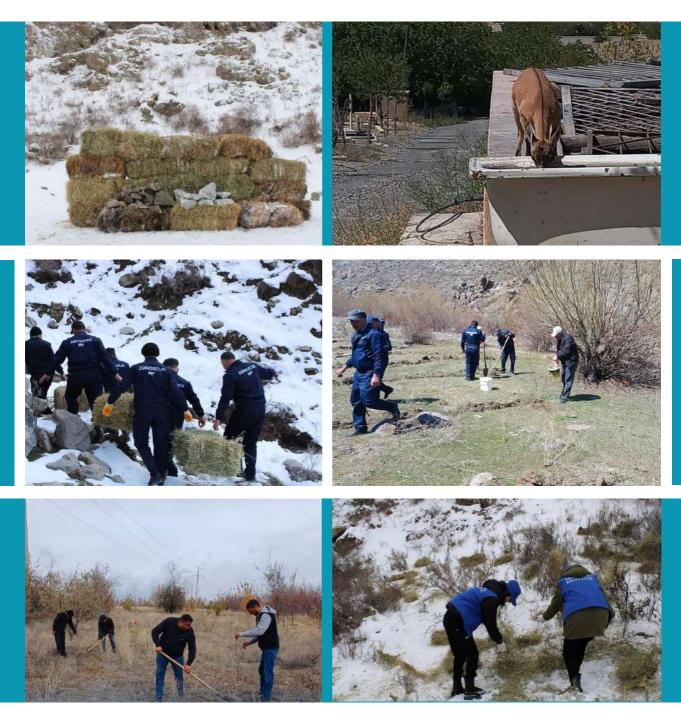
Autonomous Republic," addressing the human impact on local ecosystems. Additionally, a training session on "Water, Soil, and Forest Resources" was conducted to raise awareness of environmental sustainability.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, NSU contributed to reintroduction projects across the region, releasing 40 partridges, 15 pheasants, and two ducks back into their natural habitats. This effort aims to protect biodiversity and strengthen the populations of native species. Given the diverse natural conditions of the region, NSU has also focused on supporting wildlife during harsh winter months by carrying out biotechnical measures in wildlife habitats, such as distributing fodder and providing additional resources to prevent migration and ensure a stable food supply.



To further enhance reforestation efforts, NSU supported the restoration of two hectares within the Uzunoba State Forest. In another project, NSU and the Zangezur National Park planted 150 fruit saplings across 0.9 hectares in the park's buffer zones.

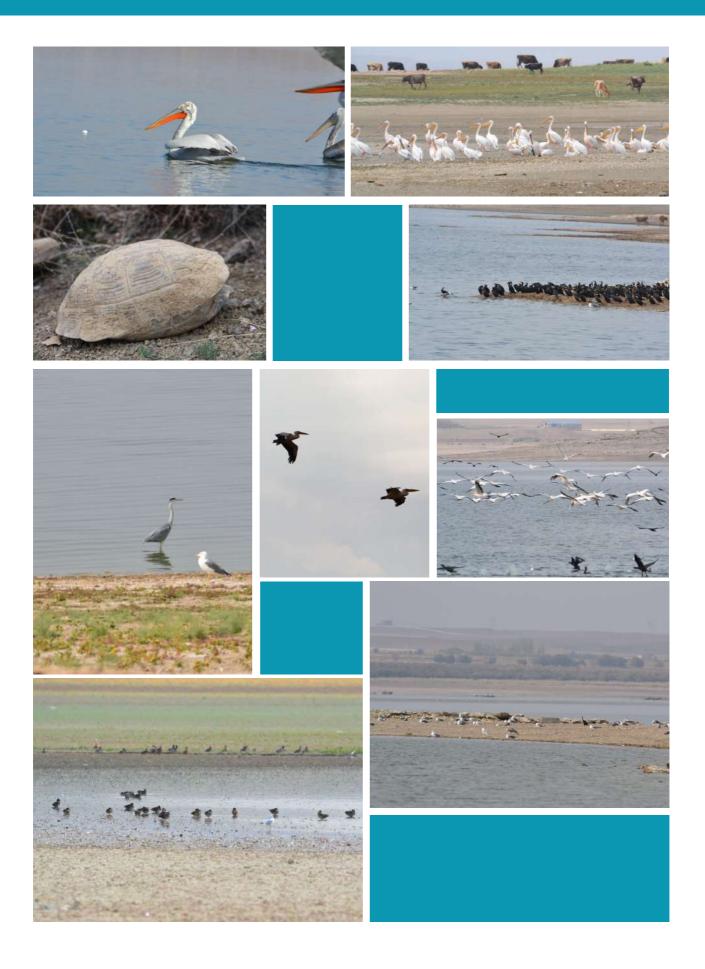
In an effort to address the water needs of wildlife during hot summer months, NSU worked with the Ministry of Ecology to provide eight tons of water in a reservoir near Ordubad. By ensuring adequate water supply, the university has helped prevent animal migration in search of water, thus preserving local biodiversity and reducing environmental stress.



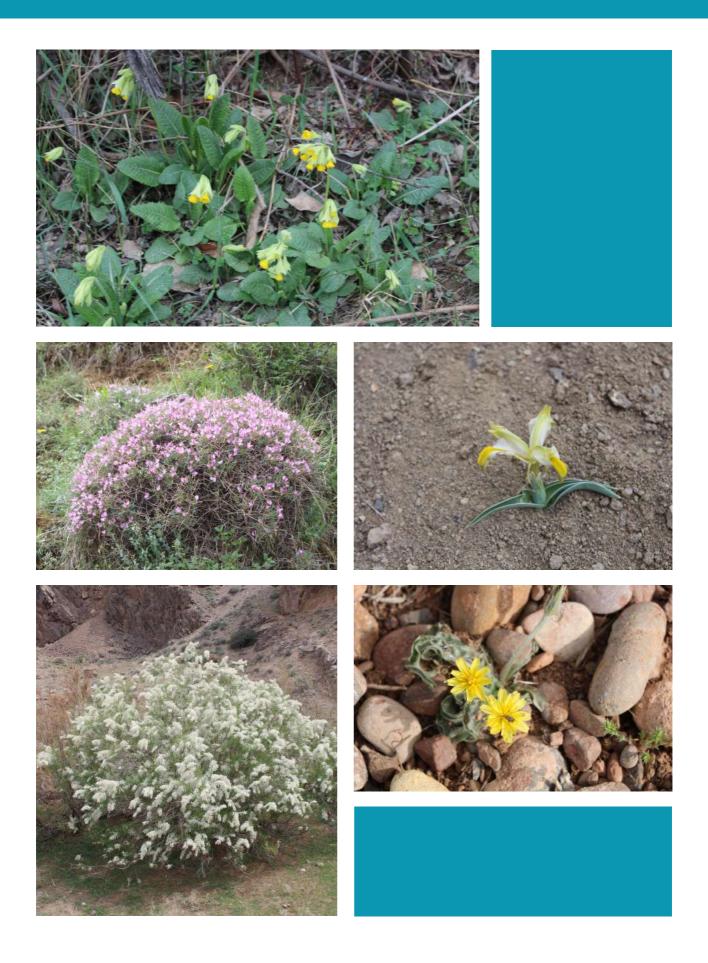
NAKHCHIVAN STATE UNIVERSITY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) PROGRESS REPORT 2023 NSU researchers conducted field studies along the Aras River, including areas like Garachug settlement and Kotam village in the Ordubad region. These studies included the monitoring of flora and fauna, particularly Red Book-listed species, which allowed the team to determine population levels and take measures to support conservation.

Through all these activities, NSU is actively supporting the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity within the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. These actions reflect NSU's dedication to responsible environmental stewardship and its commitment to educating future generations on sustainable ecological practices.











NSU has actively contributed to Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16) — "Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions" through various initiatives and projects aimed at fostering transparency, inclusiveness, and legal awareness within the university community. NSU emphasizes transparent governance and efficient

communication between administration and university members. A messaging section on the rector's website allows students and staff to confidentially reach out directly to the rector, enhancing communication and ensuring that concerns are addressed swiftly and effectively.

The university's legal structure includes a dedicated legal committee staffed by three specialists, who work on resolving legal issues and listening to concerns from students and staff. This approach underscores NSU's commitment to upholding transparency and responsiveness in its management practices.

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NSU's academic offerings include a robust curriculum in law designed to instill a strong legal foundation in students. Courses cover a wide array of topics, including Legal Theory, Constitutional Law, Human Rights, Civil Law, and Criminal Law, providing students with both theoretical knowledge and practical skills. These courses are instrumental in preparing students for careers in the legal field, equipping them with a deep understanding of legal principles and ethical practices.

The Inclusive Education Center at NSU plays a pivotal role in promoting social equality and inclusiveness. The center ensures that education is accessible to all students, regardless of their social, cultural, or personal characteristics. Programs, methods, and materials are tailored to meet the individual needs and interests of each student, and the center's primary goal is to provide equitable access to quality education while reducing potential discrimination. For students with special needs, the center offers a comprehensive support system, including individualized education and rehabilitation programs that facilitate their integration into the university environment. The Inclusive Education Center also collaborates closely with faculties and departments to enhance the quality of support provided to students with special needs.



In supporting international students' integration, NSU has prepared an "Azerbaijani Language Textbook for Foreign Students," enabling international students to gain language proficiency and access a range of resources throughout their studies. The university also enhances practical legal education through activities such as "Mock Court" sessions, allowing law students to apply their knowledge in realistic legal scenarios.

NSU's Department of Law Sciences hosts both scientific and practical events to strengthen legal awareness. Events such as the international symposium on "Media Ethics and Law in the Modern World" and seminars on national values aim to deepen students' understanding of legal ethics and societal values. The publication of research articles by faculty and participation in legal writing competitions by students further underscore NSU's commitment to legal education.

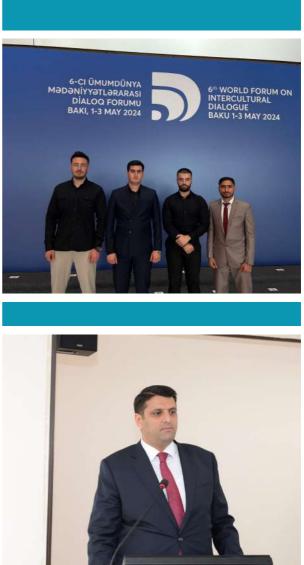


The university also prioritizes awareness and action in the field of international security. In celebration of International Information Security Day on November 30, NSU organizes training sessions on information security, cyber threats, and defense mechanisms. These sessions provide students with essential knowledge on information security, equipping them with both legal and technical understanding of current digital challenges.

NSU is engaged in peace and security efforts on the international stage as well. University representatives, including staff and international students, participated in the 6th World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue under the theme "Dialogue for Peace and Global Security: Cooperation and Connectivity." This involvement highlights the university's dedication to fostering international cooperation in the realms of peace and security.







Promoting national and moral values is a key objective at NSU, and events such as the seminar on "Our National and Moral Values, the Concept of National Identity, and the Role of National Values in the Development of Society" help students gain a deeper appreciation for cultural heritage and ethical standards.

Through its initiatives under SDG 16, NSU continually contributes to the advancement of peace, justice, and strong institutions. By promoting transparency, enhancing legal education, and fostering an inclusive approach to learning, the university demonstrates its commitment to sustainable development and its dedication to the betterment of society.





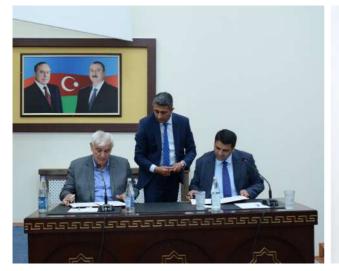
NSU has made significant strides in advancing Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17 — "Partnerships for the Goals." Through its broad network of international collaborations, regional integration efforts, and research initiatives, NSU has strengthened its role in Azerbaijan's higher education landscape, providing students and faculty with access to a variety of educational and research opportunities. The

university's collaborative projects span across numerous fields, including technology, social sciences, medicine, and environmental conservation, positioning NSU as a vital contributor to educational and social progress in Azerbaijan and beyond.

International Collaboration: Partner Universities and Strategic Protocols

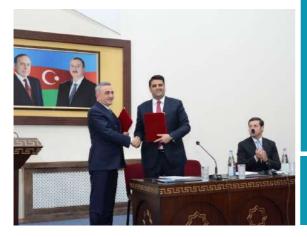
NSU maintains close relationships with many foreign higher education institutions through bilateral agreements. In Turkey alone, NSU has established partnerships with universities such as Kapadokya, Çankırı Karatekin, Erzincan Binali Yıldırım, Karadeniz Teknik, and Van Yüzüncü Yıl. These collaborations facilitate student and faculty exchanges, joint research projects, and conference organization, fostering intellectual growth and international connectivity. NSU has extended its partnerships to universities and companies in Ukraine, Austria, and Serbia, enabling the institution to engage in diversified research and practical training. Notable collaborations with global organizations, including IBM, Robotex, and Abis Technology, have further strengthened NSU's expertise in technology and digital innovation, offering students and faculty hands-on experience in fields such as artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and cybersecurity.

















Erasmus+ Projects and Enhanced Global Learning Experiences

NSU participated in numerous Erasmus+ projects, which serve as a cornerstone for enhancing global learning experiences. The Erasmus+ LMQS Sante project, for instance, facilitated the management board's meeting at NSU with representatives from 13 institutions, including the University of West Attica (Greece), South Kazakhstan Medical Academy, Kazakh-Russian Medical University, and Al-Farabi Kazakh National University. This four-day meeting addressed project management, budget allocation, and the financial status of partner universities, with each institution presenting their progress and challenges.

As part of the Erasmus+ initiative, NSU also inaugurated a "Mastery Center" at its Faculty of Medicine to support advanced training in healthcare education, a step NSU's leadership affirmed would make a lasting impact on medical training quality. Additionally, NSU's academic advisor, Rajab Jafarli, participated in Erasmus+ Engage project training in Poland. Organized by Mingachevir State University (MSU) with European Commission support, this project gathered representatives from 11 Azerbaijani universities for training sessions hosted by Bydgoszcz University of Economics, one of Poland's entrepreneurial universities, from December 4–9.

Further extending NSU's Erasmus+ engagements, university staff joined training sessions in Spain, where topics included quality assurance, institutional policies, and pilot testing standards. The sessions highlighted the Erasmus+ DIRNA project, which aims to advance open access to scientific research and foster collaboration among Azerbaijan's higher education institutions.

Comprehensive Training and Exposure to Global Best Practices

NSU representatives participated in extensive training and exchange programs under the Erasmus+ Engage initiative. For instance, training sessions in Spain at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya covered strategies for strengthening entrepreneurship ecosystems in Azerbaijani higher education. NSU's representatives also attended trainings in Sweden's Stockholm University, exploring entrepreneurship education, university-industry collaboration, and Sweden's startup ecosystem, which highlighted how entrepreneurial frameworks can be integrated within Azerbaijan's academic institutions. Through these sessions, NSU delegates engaged with best practices in entrepreneurship from Tallinn University of Technology in Estonia, where they learned about Estonia's digital governance and e-management. This exchange included visits to innovation and business centers, where NSU faculty familiarized themselves with Estonia's largest startup incubator and digital advancements.

Strengthening Research Collaboration and Expanding Academic Horizons

NSU continuously strives to expand its research collaborations, notably through the Erasmus+ DIRNA project, which enhances the university's openaccess research capabilities. NSU's delegation attended the project's inaugural training at Izmir Institute of Technology, focusing on developing a national research repository network and strengthening scientific output and quality standards in Azerbaijan. Similarly, faculty from NSU's Scientific Library joined the project, underscoring NSU's commitment to fostering a cohesive academic research community within Azerbaijan.

Collaboration with Jagiellonian University in Poland

NSU's rector and administrative advisors visited Jagiellonian University's Tech Park and Nanotechnology and Biotechnology Centers in Poland to observe and exchange insights on advanced research practices and facilities. This collaboration marks a significant step in NSU's goal to enhance its scientific research infrastructure and capacity for innovative studies.

Exposure to Swedish Educational Practices

NSU's academic staff visited Sweden under the Engage project to gain insights into Swedish higher education methodologies. This engagement promoted mutual understanding of best practices between NSU and Swedish academic institutions, leading to valuable discussions on implementing similar approaches within Azerbaijan's education system.

Bilateral Cooperation with Hungarian Universities

In line with Azerbaijan's 2023-2027 State Program, NSU has been expanding its international partnerships, notably with Hungary's John von Neumann University. NSU representatives visited Hungary to explore joint degree

programs in computer engineering and discuss collaborative research initiatives, with a focus on artificial intelligence and business management. This cooperation reinforces Azerbaijan's educational diplomacy and expands NSU's offerings in internationally recognized degree programs.

Regional and Cultural Partnerships with Turkish Institutions

NSU's commitment to strengthening regional ties was further demonstrated by a collaborative concert hosted by NSU's Symphony Orchestra in Turkey's Van province. The event, commemorating the centenary of both Heydar Aliyev's birth and the Republic of Turkey, celebrated cultural unity and academic collaboration between NSU and Van Yüzüncü Yıl University.

Advancements in Environmental Conservation and Biodiversity

Aligned with its environmental sustainability mission, NSU, in collaboration with the Nakhchivan Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources, took significant steps to promote biodiversity. The university participated in releasing 200,000 young carp into the Heydar Aliyev Reservoir. This initiative, aimed at enhancing aquatic biodiversity, demonstrated NSU's commitment to environmental sustainability and resource conservation. The project involved government officials and ecological volunteers, underscoring the collective dedication to preserving regional ecosystems.

Fostering Cross-Cultural Learning and Preservation of Heritage

NSU places great emphasis on promoting Azerbaijan's cultural heritage and national values. The university hosted a scientific conference on "The Achievements of Azerbaijan's Cultural Diplomacy," along with seminars on national identity and cultural heritage. These events contribute to a broader understanding and appreciation of Azerbaijan's rich cultural history among students and faculty, fostering a sense of pride and belonging.









Erasmus+ Project titled ENHANCING SUSTAINAL ENTREPRENEURIAL ECOSYSTEM IN HIGHE EDUCATION OF AZERBAI and coordinated by pachevir State Univer

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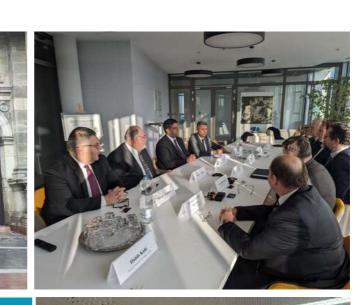












Partnerships with Government and Public Organizations

NSU has cultivated productive relationships with government and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) within the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. Each faculty maintains partnerships with relevant state and NGO organizations, which organize training, seminars, and conferences for students. These collaborations offer students valuable exposure to real-world professional environments and help bridge academic theory with practical experience. Moreover, NSU's partnerships with institutions like the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences' Folklore Institute, the Azerbaijan Bar Association, the Azerbaijan University of Languages, and the Azerbaijan National Conservatory facilitate knowledge exchange in law, humanities, and cultural studies.

Technological and Research Development with Global Leaders

NSU's commitment to technological advancement is reflected in its collaboration with IBM, which led to the establishment of the Software Engineering Institute on campus. The institute provides training and research opportunities in cutting-edge fields like artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, and quantum computing. NSU faculty members have also joined IBM's "SkillsBuild for Academia" program, where they gain specialized training in digital competencies, enhancing the university's capability to deliver advanced technical education. This partnership empowers NSU students to acquire expertise in high-demand fields, positioning them for successful careers in an increasingly digital world.

Hosting and Participating in International Conferences and Symposia

NSU serves as a platform for knowledge exchange by hosting numerous international and regional conferences and symposia. The international scientific conference on "Food Safety: Realities and Prospects," for example, fostered in-depth discussions on food security and global health challenges. In honor of the 100th anniversary of national leader Heydar Aliyev's birth, NSU organized conferences focusing on "The Contract of the Century: Economic Independence and Development" and "Innovative Economy: Realities and Strategic Goals." These gatherings contribute to Azerbaijan's economic independence narrative and highlight the country's commitment to sustainable development and technological progress.

Inclusive Education and Social Support Systems

In line with inclusive education principles, NSU provides equal access to education for all students, ensuring that individuals with special needs are fully integrated into the academic environment. The Inclusive Education Center at NSU is dedicated to addressing the unique social, cultural, and personal needs of each student. Tailored educational programs, psychological support, and rehabilitation services are provided, enabling students with special needs to participate fully in the university's academic life. The center also engages in outreach to raise public awareness about inclusivity, organizing events and informational campaigns to promote positive attitudes towards students with disabilities.

Scholarship Programs and Educational Support for Disadvantaged Students

NSU actively supports low-income and talented students through scholarship programs, offering them the means to pursue educational opportunities at an international level. Partnerships with organizations like Roof Academic Training help NSU finance high-quality preparatory courses abroad, specifically tailored for underprivileged but gifted students. Through these initiatives, NSU strengthens its role as a socially responsible institution that prioritizes equal educational opportunities.

Regional Development Initiatives and Broad Partnerships

NSU's activities extend beyond Nakhchivan and include collaborations with various state agencies and private sector partners across Azerbaijan. Collaborations with SOCAR and Baku Higher Oil School enable NSU students to gain practical experience in the oil and gas industry, while offering essential training in the country's energy sector. These partnerships also facilitate career placement for students and graduates, ensuring they contribute effectively to Azerbaijan's workforce in regions beyond the capital.

Internationally Inspired Approaches to Education and Training

NSU collaborates with prestigious international institutions such as BOKU University and the Austrian Federal Research Center. These partnerships facilitate knowledge exchange in agriculture, organic production, and environmental research, enabling NSU to adopt innovative methodologies. During recent discussions in Austria, the Ambassador of Azerbaijan also expressed strong support for expanding such partnerships. By participating in cutting-edge research programs, NSU students and faculty gain valuable exposure to global advancements in their fields of study.

Promoting Cultural Diplomacy and Heritage

NSU emphasizes the promotion of Azerbaijan's cultural and national values. Events like the "Achievements of Azerbaijan's Cultural Diplomacy" conference, as well as seminars on national identity and heritage, underscore the university's commitment to cultural preservation. NSU organizes conferences marking significant national anniversaries, such as the 100th anniversary of Heydar Aliyev, to reinforce the importance of heritage and instill pride in younger generations.

Biodiversity and Environmental Initiatives

NSU actively contributes to biodiversity conservation projects, reflecting its commitment to ecological preservation. In collaboration with the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, NSU participated in the release of 20,000 young carp into the Heydar Aliyev reservoir. This project aimed to enrich the aquatic ecosystem, increase fish populations, and sustain biodiversity in the region. NSU's involvement in such environmental initiatives highlights its dedication to sustainable practices and ecological awareness, ensuring that future generations benefit from healthy, vibrant ecosystems.



CONCLUSION

Throughout 2023, NSU has demonstrated significant advancements in its alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The university's initiatives in areas like poverty alleviation, quality education, gender equality, and climate action underline NSU's deep commitment to sustainable development. From extensive support in financial aid and scholarships for economically disadvantaged students to initiatives in health, gender equality, and environmental sustainability, NSU has not only addressed immediate needs but also laid a foundation for long-term impact.

Each SDG has been approached with a tailored strategy:

- Economic and Social Support: NSU's extensive financial aid, accommodation support, and employment initiatives have played a pivotal role in fostering inclusive educational opportunities. With over 2,700 scholarships and a growing loan program, NSU has substantially contributed to alleviating poverty barriers within its academic community.

- Environmental Stewardship and Resource Management: The university's investments in sustainable energy infrastructure, waste reduction, and water conservation align closely with SDGs 6, 7, 12, and 13. From energy-efficient buildings and solar panels to awareness campaigns and tree-planting initiatives, NSU's environmentally conscious approach emphasizes both ecological balance and resource conservation.

- Health and Well-being: Through SDG 3 initiatives, NSU has strengthened community health awareness, organized numerous preventive health campaigns, and facilitated practical health education for students. Collaborations with local healthcare providers have further enriched students' academic experiences while supporting local health needs. - Commitment to Equality and Inclusion: Reflecting its dedication to SDGs 5 and 10, NSU has established policies and programs that support gender equality and accessibility for all students, including individuals with disabilities. The university's Inclusive Education Center, gender balance in faculty, and dedicated support for women in leadership highlight NSU's efforts to build an equitable academic environment.

Ongoing Commitments to Sustainability

As NSU looks toward the future, its commitment to sustainable development remains steadfast. Key goals include:

1. Strengthening Partnerships: Expanding local, national, and international partnerships is critical to NSU's future strategy. Through collaborations with ministries, environmental agencies, and international universities, NSU seeks to leverage shared expertise and resources to drive impactful change.

2. Enhancing Curriculum and Research: NSU plans to further integrate sustainability topics across all fields of study, enhancing student exposure to sustainable practices and research opportunities. Interdisciplinary approaches will encourage students to think critically and contribute to solutions addressing global challenges.

3. Investing in Green Infrastructure: NSU is dedicated to increasing its renewable energy capacity, improving waste management, and adopting sustainable procurement policies to reduce its environmental footprint.

4. Empowering the University Community: Building on current successes, NSU aims to intensify its outreach and engagement programs, including training, workshops, and seminars focused on sustainable development, peace, and justice. By empowering students, faculty, and local residents with knowledge and skills, NSU is cultivating a community ready to contribute to a sustainable future.

This progress report underscores NSU's role as a leader in sustainability within the region. As NSU advances, its strategy will continue to evolve, reflecting emerging global needs and ensuring that NSU remains a driving force for positive change in Azerbaijan and beyond. The university's ongoing commitment to the SDGs aligns with its vision to nurture responsible, knowledgeable, and impactful leaders for the challenges of tomorrow.

KEYWORDS

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| No. | Keywords | Description | | |
| 1 | Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) | Clobal framework guiding NSU's initiatives | | |
| 2 | Nakhchivan State University (NSU) | Institution committed to sustainable goals | | |
| 3 | Education Access and Equity | Efforts to ensure inclusive education | | |
| 4 | Financial Support and Scholarships | Financial aid to support student access | | |
| 5 | Poverty Alleviation (SDG 1) | Programs to reduce economic barriers | | |
| 6 | Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture (SDG 2) | Initiatives for food support and agriculture | | |
| 7 | Health and Well-being Initiatives (SDG 3) | Campaigns and healthcare programs | | |
| 8 | Quality Education (SDG 4) | Access to quality educational resources | | |
| 9 | Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (SDC 5) | Support for equal opportunities | | |
| 10 | Clean Water and Sanitation (SDG 6) | Water conservation and sanitation programs | | |
| 11 | Affordable and Clean Energy (SDG 7) | Creen energy and efficiency projects | | |
| 12 | Decent Work and Economic Growth (SDG 8) | Job and internship support for students | | |
| 13 | Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9) | Technopark and infrastructure development | | |
| 14 | Reduced Inequalities and Inclusivity (SDG 10) | Programs for diversity and inclusion | | |
| 15 | Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11) | Urban planning and green campus initiatives | | |
| 16 | Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) | Recycling and waste reduction practices | | |
| 17 | Climate Action and Environmental Awareness (SDG 13) | Environmental campaigns and research | | |
| 18 | Life Below Water and Water Conservation (SDG 14) | Water conservation and sustainable usage | | |
| 19 | Life on Land and Biodiversity Conservation (SDG 15) | Ecosystem protection and reforestation | | |
| 20 | Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions (SDG 16) | Covernance and legal framework for equality | | |
| 21 | Partnerships for the Goals (SDG 17) | Local and international collaborations | | |
| 22 | Environmental Sustainability | Campus-wide sustainable practices | | |
| 23 | Green Campus and Renewable Energy | LED lighting, solar panels, and wind turbines | | |
| 24 | LED Lighting and Energy Efficiency | Energy-saving infrastructure upgrades | | |
| 25 | Ecosystem Conservation | Programs to protect local flora and fauna | | |
| 26 | Inclusive Education Center | Support for diverse student needs | | |
| 27 | Legal and Governance Transparency | Transparent communication and governance | | |
| 28 | Technological Innovation and Technopark | Hands-on tech and innovation experience | | |
| 29 | Robotics and STEAM Education | Student engagement in science and technology | | |
| 30 | Student Internships and Career Development | Practical work experiences for students | | |
| 31 | Strategic Partnerships (Local, National, International) | Collaborative projects for SDG goals | | |
| 32 | Cultural Heritage Preservation | Initiatives to protect local culture | | |
| 33 | Community Engagement and Volunteerism | Student involvement in community projects | | |
| 34 | Resource Management and Recycling | Waste reduction and recycling initiatives | | |
| 35 | Tree Planting and Reforestation | Tree planting to support green spaces | | |
| 36 | Climate Change Mitigation | Measures to combat climate impacts | | |
| 37 | Sustainable Procurement Policies | Sourcing practices that support sustainability | | |
| 38 | Sustainable Urban Planning | Planning for resilient and green infrastructure | | |
| 39 | Water Quality Monitoring | Projects to ensure clean water resources | | |
| 40 | Biodiversity Protection | Protection of native species and habitats | | |
| 41 | Academic Excellence and Research | Promoting academic contributions to SDGs | | |
| 42 | Environmental Law and Awareness | Educating on environmental regulations | | |
| 43 | Digital Security and Information Protection | Cybersecurity training and resources | | |
| 44 | SDG Education and Integration | Curriculum aligned with SDG principles | | |
| 45 | Youth Empowerment and Leadership | Student leadership and empowerment programs | | |
| 46 | Inclusivity in Higher Education | Accessibility and equity in education | | |
| 47 | International Collaboration and Exchange | Erasmus+ and global partnerships | | |
| 48 | Student Health Campaigns | Initiatives for student health and wellness | | |
| 49 | Waste Management Initiatives | Programs to reduce and repurpose waste | | |
| 50 | Agricultural Research and Development | Research in sustainable farming and food security | | |
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