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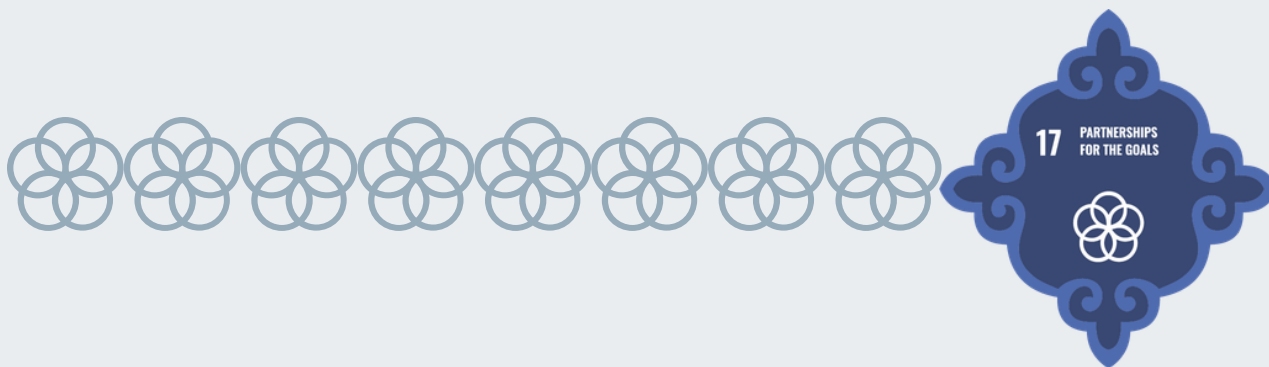
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**STRENGTHENING
PARTNERSHIPS
FOR A BETTER
FUTURE**

17 PARTNERSHIPS
FOR THE GOALS



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Conclusion

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) strengthened its commitment to SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals by expanding national and international collaborations, promoting knowledge exchange, and fostering multi-stakeholder partnerships to advance sustainable development. Recognizing that global challenges require coordinated efforts, NSU focused on leveraging institutional expertise, academic networks, and community engagement to contribute to the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17), Partnerships for the Goals, serves as a cornerstone for achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Nakhchivan State University (NSU) recognizes that meaningful and inclusive partnerships are essential to advancing education, research, innovation, and community development.

In 2025, NSU strengthened its commitment to SDG 17 by expanding institutional cooperation, enhancing internationalization, mobilizing resources, and promoting knowledge exchange across sectors. Through collaboration with government institutions, academic partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations, Nakhchivan State University has reinforced its role as a regional hub for sustainable development.

This report outlines NSU's progress, challenges, and future priorities related to SDG 17 in 2025.

Strategic Alignment with SDG 17

NSU's approach to SDG 17 focused on:

- Strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships
- Supporting policy coherence for sustainable development
- Mobilizing financial and non-financial resources
- Enhancing institutional capacity and knowledge sharing

Nakhchivan State University emphasize collaboration as a key mechanism for educational quality, research excellence, and social impact.

Dual Degree Programs and MoUs

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University (NSU / NDU) significantly expanded its dual diploma (also called dual degree) agreements with reputable foreign universities. These programs allow students to study part of their education at NSU and part at a partner institution abroad, earning diplomas from both universities upon successful completion. This initiative aligns with NSU's strategic internationalization goals and enhances academic mobility, quality, and global competitiveness

John von Neumann University (Hungary) – Bachelor's Dual Diploma in Computer Engineering

Programme Overview

- NSU initiated a dual diploma program with John von Neumann University in Hungary, especially in the field of Computer Engineering (English-taught).
- The program arrangement follows an agreement between the universities and is supported by regional development planning.

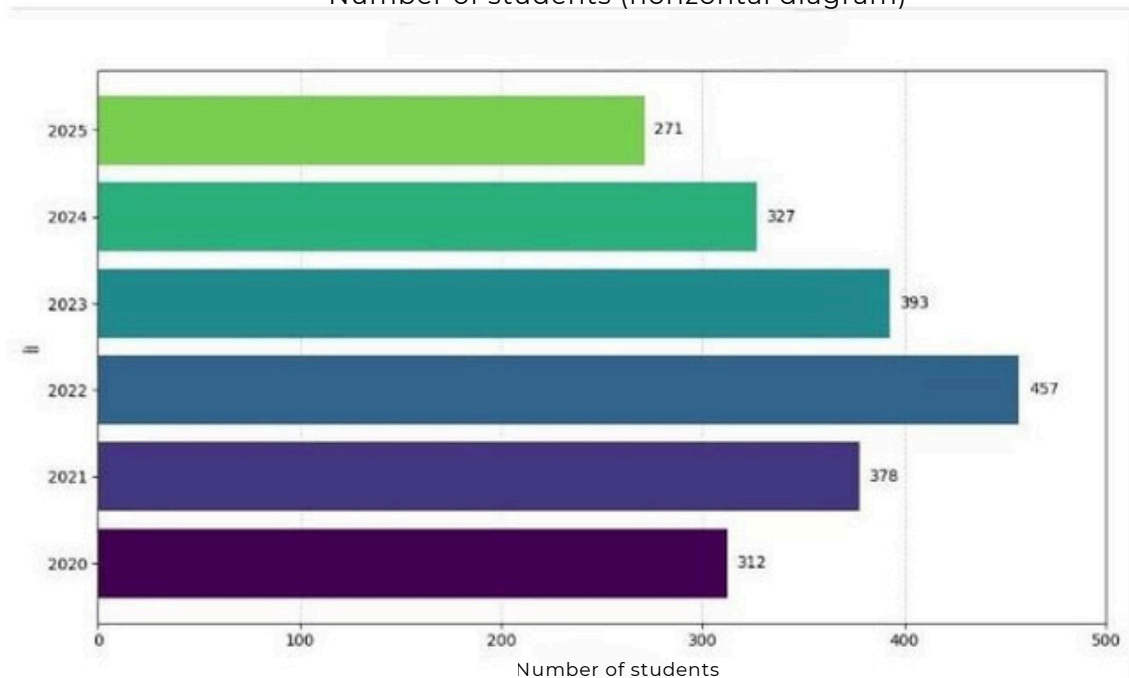


Key Achievements Implemented by the International Relations Department in 2025

- A total of 40 cooperation agreements were signed, including 14 with local institutions and 26 with foreign institutions.
- NDU was elected as a member of TÜRKÜNİB.
- The country diversity of international students increased from 14 to 22.
- 12 international students were admitted through the “Heydar Aliyev International Education Grant” Program.
- For the first time, an international student was admitted through the Intergovernmental Scholarship Program.
- 97 candidates took exams at the NDU IELTS Registration and Examination Center.
- 68 candidates took exams at the SAT Registration and Examination Center.
- 56 students participated in exchange programs.
- 252 students and faculty members participated in internship / traineeship programs.
- Through the TIES International Scholarship Program, a one-semester exchange of 10 students to Hacettepe University was carried out.
- Through the EMSA student organization, an exchange of 26 students was implemented.

ADMISSION DYNAMICS OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BY YEAR

Number of students (horizontal diagram)









Global Research Projects and Cooperation

NSU pursues a variety of global research partnerships and activities that support the development of knowledge, international collaboration, and contribution to regional development and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Notable Research Collaboration Areas:

- International Scientific Conferences
- NSU serves as a host and organizer of international scientific events. For example, the 1st International Scientific Conference on “Innovation and Sustainable Development: New Ideas and Solutions” held in October 2025 brought together researchers and institutions from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Russia, Uzbekistan, and other countries to exchange research findings and address thematic areas such as innovation, artificial intelligence, and sustainable development.
- Memoranda of Cooperation with Research Organizations
- NSU deepened national research cooperation through a memorandum with the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) in June 2025. This agreement supports joint research projects, exchange of scientific personnel, cooperation in organizing scientific conferences and seminars, and shared access to academic resources, strengthening both national and international research links.
- Bilateral and Multilateral Academic Agreements
- Beyond Erasmus+ projects, NSU signed cooperation memoranda and research agreements with international universities such as Istanbul University — that include provisions for joint research, faculty mobility, and scientific projects. These partnerships enhance academic networking and facilitate collaborative research initiatives with global partners.
- Regional Research Collaboration Networks
- NSU’s linkages within regional research consortia — including connections with Hungarian institutions like John von Neumann University — create opportunities for coordinated research efforts, joint training programs, and research forums that support innovation and international academic exchange.

Future Directions for SDG 17

As the implementation period of the 2030 Agenda progresses, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) recognizes the necessity of transitioning from partnership expansion to partnership consolidation, quality enhancement, and measurable impact. Future directions for SDG 17 at NSU will therefore prioritize strategic depth, sustainability, and alignment with national and global development frameworks.

1. Strategic Deepening of International Partnerships

NSU aims to move beyond traditional bilateral cooperation toward long-term, mission-oriented international partnerships. Future collaborations will emphasize:

- Multilateral research consortia addressing cross-border challenges such as climate adaptation, food security, and digital transformation.
- Joint doctoral supervision and co-funded research laboratories with international universities.
- Increased participation in global university networks aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

These initiatives will enhance NSU's global academic integration while ensuring reciprocal knowledge exchange.

2. Integration of SDG Metrics into Partnership Governance

To strengthen accountability and transparency, NSU plans to embed SDG-aligned performance indicators into all new partnership agreements. This includes:

- Explicit alignment of partnership objectives with SDG 17 targets (particularly Targets 17.16 and 17.17).
- Annual monitoring and evaluation of partnership outcomes using quantitative and qualitative indicators.
- Systematic reporting aligned with international frameworks such as the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

This approach will enable evidence-based decision-making and continuous improvement.

3. Expansion of Private Sector and Innovation Partnerships

Recognizing the role of the private sector in sustainable development, NSU will expand engagement with industry partners by:

- Establishing innovation and entrepreneurship hubs that connect students, researchers, and businesses.
- Developing co-funded applied research projects focused on regional economic priorities.
- Enhancing internship and work-based learning opportunities through public-private partnerships.

Such initiatives will support knowledge transfer, graduate employability, and regional innovation ecosystems.

4. Strengthening Regional and Cross-Border Cooperation

Given its geographic and socio-economic context, NSU will intensify partnerships that address regional development challenges. Future efforts will include:

- Cross-border academic and research collaboration with neighboring regions.
- Joint initiatives with local authorities to support evidence-based policymaking.
- Community-focused partnerships addressing education access, environmental sustainability, and public health.

These actions will reinforce NSU's role as a regional development catalyst.

5. Digitalization and Virtual Partnerships

To overcome geographic and logistical constraints, NSU plans to expand digital cooperation mechanisms, including:

- Virtual mobility programs and online joint courses.
- Digital research collaboration platforms.
- Hybrid international conferences and knowledge-sharing forums.

Digital partnerships will ensure inclusivity, resilience, and continuity of collaboration.

6. Capacity Building and Institutional Learning

Future SDG 17 implementation will emphasize internal capacity building through:

- Professional development programs on partnership management and grant acquisition.
- Training in international project administration and compliance.
- Strengthening the role of the Center for Sustainable Development as a coordination and knowledge hub.

This will enhance institutional readiness for complex, multi-stakeholder initiatives.

7. Student and Youth Engagement in Partnerships

NSU will continue to empower students as active contributors to SDG 17 by:

- Expanding student-led SDG initiatives and international youth networks.
- Embedding partnership-based learning into curricula.
- Supporting student participation in international forums and collaborative projects.

Student engagement ensures the sustainability and intergenerational impact of partnerships.







Conclusion

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) made significant progress in advancing internationalization, research, and partnerships through Erasmus+ programs, dual diploma initiatives, and global research projects. These efforts align closely with SDG 17 — Partnerships for the Goals, highlighting the importance of collaboration across borders, sectors, and disciplines.

Through dual diploma agreements with institutions like Istanbul University and John von Neumann University, NSU offered students unique opportunities to gain international exposure, earn multiple qualifications, and develop skills for a competitive global environment. Participation in Erasmus+ initiatives further strengthened mobility, professional development, and institutional capacity, while engagement in global research projects expanded collaborative research, publications, and contributions to sustainable development priorities.

These initiatives enhanced academic quality, research output, and institutional infrastructure, while providing students and staff with valuable international experience. Challenges such as financial limitations and administrative complexities remain, but NSU's strategic focus on expanding partnerships, interdisciplinary collaboration, and SDG-aligned research positions the University as a regional leader and global partner in education and sustainable development.

