

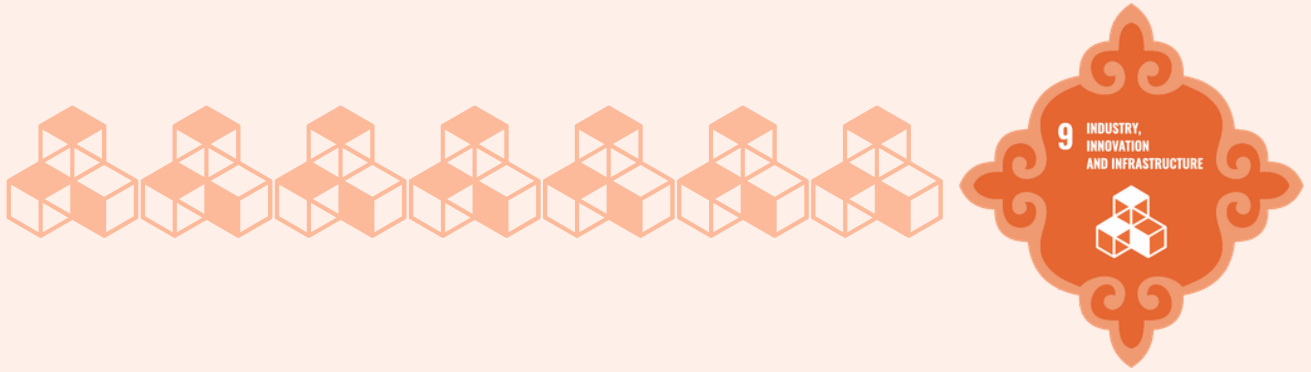
9 G D S

**A COMMITMENT
TO A
SUSTAINABLE
AND INNOVATIVE
INDUSTRY**

**9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**



THE GLOBAL GOALS



Introduction

SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) emphasizes the development of resilient infrastructure, the promotion of inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and the advancement of innovation.

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) further strengthened its position as a regional hub for science, technology, and applied research by:

- Expanding innovation-oriented infrastructure
- Deepening industry and international research partnerships
- Enhancing student engagement through technology-driven and entrepreneurial learning
- Advancing applied education in engineering, architecture, digital technologies, and robotics

These initiatives continue to equip students with future-ready skills while supporting regional economic resilience and sustainable development.

These efforts aim to prepare students for the demands of a rapidly evolving technological landscape while also contributing to regional economic resilience and sustainable growth.

Technopark and Infrastructure Development

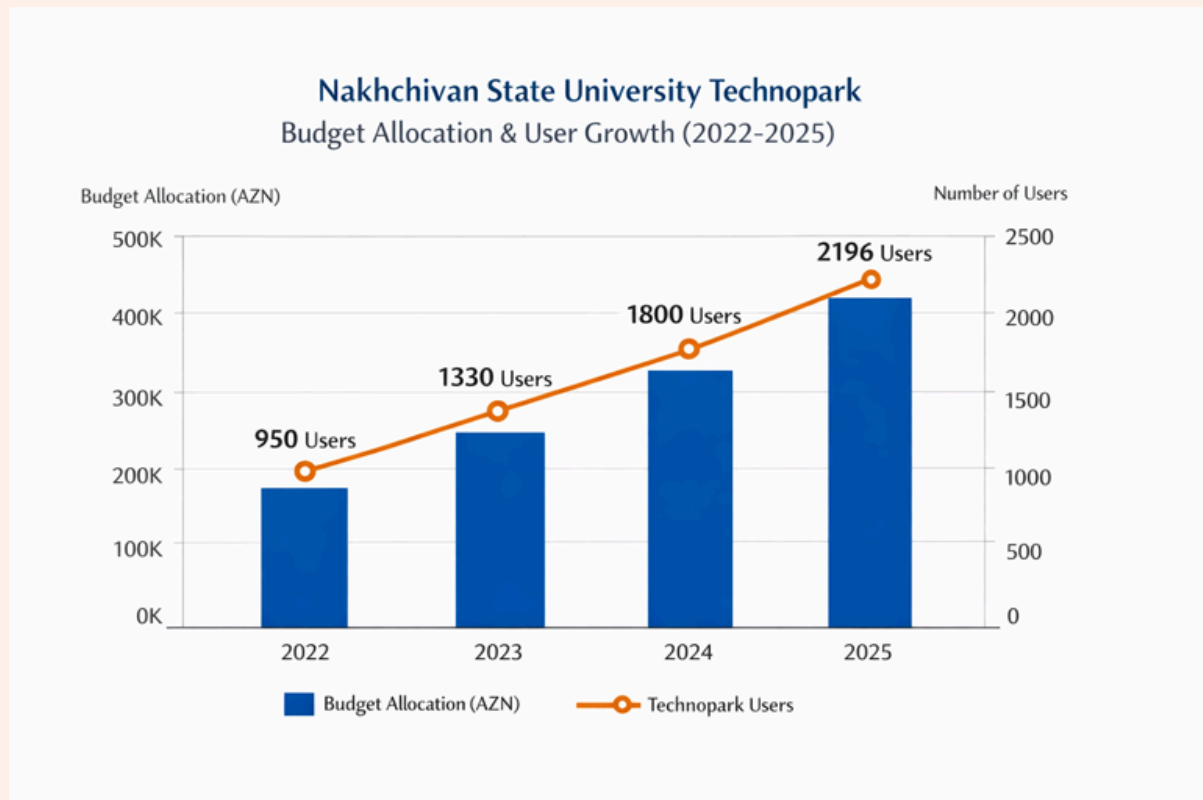
In 2025, NSU continued strategic investments in physical and digital infrastructure to support innovation, research commercialization, and student entrepreneurship.

NSU Technopark Development (2025)

- Additional expansion: +800 m² (total expansion since 2023: 2,000 m²)
- New facilities added:
 - 2 interdisciplinary co-working and innovation studios
 - 1 advanced AI & data analytics laboratory
 - 1 upgraded materials testing and electronics workshop
- Annual budget allocated: 480,000 AZN
(2024: 420,000 AZN)

- Usage growth:
 - Visitor and user numbers increased by 22% compared to 2024
 - Over 2,200 students and academic staff utilized Technopark facilities in 2025

These improvements strengthened NSU's capacity for applied research, startup incubation, and industry-linked innovation.





Research, Innovation, and Publications

In 2025, NSU expanded its academic research footprint, with increased participation in international research networks and a growing emphasis on interdisciplinary and technology-driven scholarship.

Verified Research Output (2025)

- Peer-reviewed publications indexed across regional and international platforms focused on:
 - Digital and intelligent education systems
 - Innovation in pedagogical methodologies
 - Quality assurance in higher education
 - Applied information and communication technologies

Notable faculty research included studies on:

- Artificial intelligence in education
- Technology-enhanced learning environments
- Student engagement through active and hybrid learning models

Intramural research funding supported new cross-faculty projects, with several initiatives transitioning into externally funded collaborations.

Nakhchivan Innovation Center (2025)

Opened October 1, 2025 at the administrative building of Nakhchivan State University in cooperation with the Innovation and Digital Development Agency (IDDA) of Azerbaijan.

It includes:

- Hardware & Software Laboratory for developing and testing tech solutions.
- Technology & Engineering Lab for transforming ideas into prototypes and practical projects.
- Coworking and event spaces for collaboration among students, startups, and innovators.

Aims to support startup incubation, mentorship, investor engagement, and innovation culture growth in the Nakhchivan region.





Innovation in Curriculum and Laboratories

In 2025, NSU further modernized academic programs and research facilities in alignment with SDG 9 targets on technological upgrading and innovation capacity.

Curriculum Innovation Highlights (2025)

- Expansion and consolidation of newly introduced programs:
 - Information Security
 - Nanoelectronics
 - Medicine (English-taught program)
 - MBA in Healthcare Management
- SABAH Excellence Program (Faculty of Medicine):
 - Student intake increased to 28 students in 2025
- Active participation in:
 - National and regional innovation forums
 - Student startup competitions
- Organization of:
 - “Innostart 2025” Hackathon, with multidisciplinary student teams developing technology-based solutions

Research and Laboratory Infrastructure Enhancements

New and upgraded facilities in 2025 included:

- Expansion of the Zarifa Aliyeva Biomedical Research Laboratory with diagnostic and simulation equipment

- Enhanced capacity of the Psychological Services and Research Laboratory
- Further development of the IBM Center at NSU, supporting:
- AI, cloud computing, and software engineering training
- Applied certification-oriented learning pathways

Verified Research Output

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University (NSU) continued to strengthen its verified research output, with faculty publications indexed and validated through international academic platforms such as Multijournals and other peer-reviewed databases.

NSU academic staff published research papers addressing contemporary challenges in education and innovation, including studies focused on transformative approaches in science education, learner engagement, and evidence-based teaching methodologies. These publications reflect NSU's commitment to improving educational outcomes through research-driven innovation.

During the reporting year, NSU researchers actively contributed to international journals and scientific conferences, with thematic emphasis on:

- Pedagogical and curricular innovation
- Quality assurance in higher education
- Intelligent and digital educational technologies
- Technology-enhanced learning environments

Internal (intramural) research funding in 2025 supported a growing number of departmental research initiatives, many of which evolved into interdisciplinary and interfaculty projects, encouraging collaboration across academic units and strengthening the university's research ecosystem.

Global Research Assistance

In 2025, NSU maintained and expanded its role in international research cooperation, building on previous Erasmus+ experience and participation in global academic networks. Academic staff continued engagement in capacity-building initiatives and collaborative research activities aligned with innovation, digital transformation, and quality assurance in higher education.

NSU sustained active participation in regional and international exchange and publication networks, fostering academic collaboration with partner institutions across Europe and the wider region, including cooperation links involving Hungary, Türkiye, and Poland.

Research activities in 2025 emphasized capacity development, digital transformation, and innovation-driven educational models, reflecting NSU's alignment with the principles of SDG-oriented innovation, particularly SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure).

Partnerships for Innovation & Industry Collaboration — NSU (2025)

Innovation Ecosystem Partnerships

Nakhchivan Innovation Center with IDDA

- In October 2025, NSU and the Innovation and Digital Development Agency (IDDA) jointly launched the Nakhchivan Innovation Center at the university campus.
- This center serves as a collaboration hub for startups, students, and innovators and offers facilities such as hardware/software labs, prototype development spaces, and coworking zones.
- It connects NSU with regional innovation networks, mentors, and potential investors, helping bridge academic knowledge with practical industry applications.

“Digital Leadership” Program Sessions

- NSU hosted sessions of the Digital Leadership program with support from IDDA, bringing together IT leaders, government agencies, and industry partners to discuss digital transformation and implementation of digital roadmaps in public and private sectors.

University–Industry Collaboration Agreements

Local Industry and Entrepreneurship Collaboration

- NSU strengthened ties with the Nakhchivan Confederation of Entrepreneurs and Jahan Holding, signing a cooperation agreement aimed at enhancing university-industry collaboration, joint applied research, and innovation initiatives.
- This agreement outlines cooperation in areas such as personnel training, research projects, startup support, and regional development programs, embedding industry engagement in NSU’s innovation strategy.

Memorandum with ASAN Service Innovation Projects

- In January 2025, NSU and ASAN Service signed an innovation environment development memorandum, promoting collaborative efforts to build and expand innovation culture within academic settings.
- The agreement focuses on creating innovation programs that link academic learning with real-world innovation challenges.

Industry and Entrepreneurship Engagement

NSU continued to enhance university–industry collaboration through agreements with local enterprises, entrepreneurship organizations, and regional development partners.

Key areas of collaboration include:

- Applied research and innovation projects
- Workforce development and skills training
- Student internships and practical learning opportunities
- Startup support and entrepreneurship development

Through its Technopark and innovation platforms, NSU acts as a bridge between academic research and industry needs, contributing to regional economic development.

Education, Skills Development, and Innovation Capacity

In 2025, NSU integrated SDG 9 principles into academic programs and capacity-building activities, ensuring that graduates are equipped with skills relevant to innovation-driven economies.

Key initiatives include:

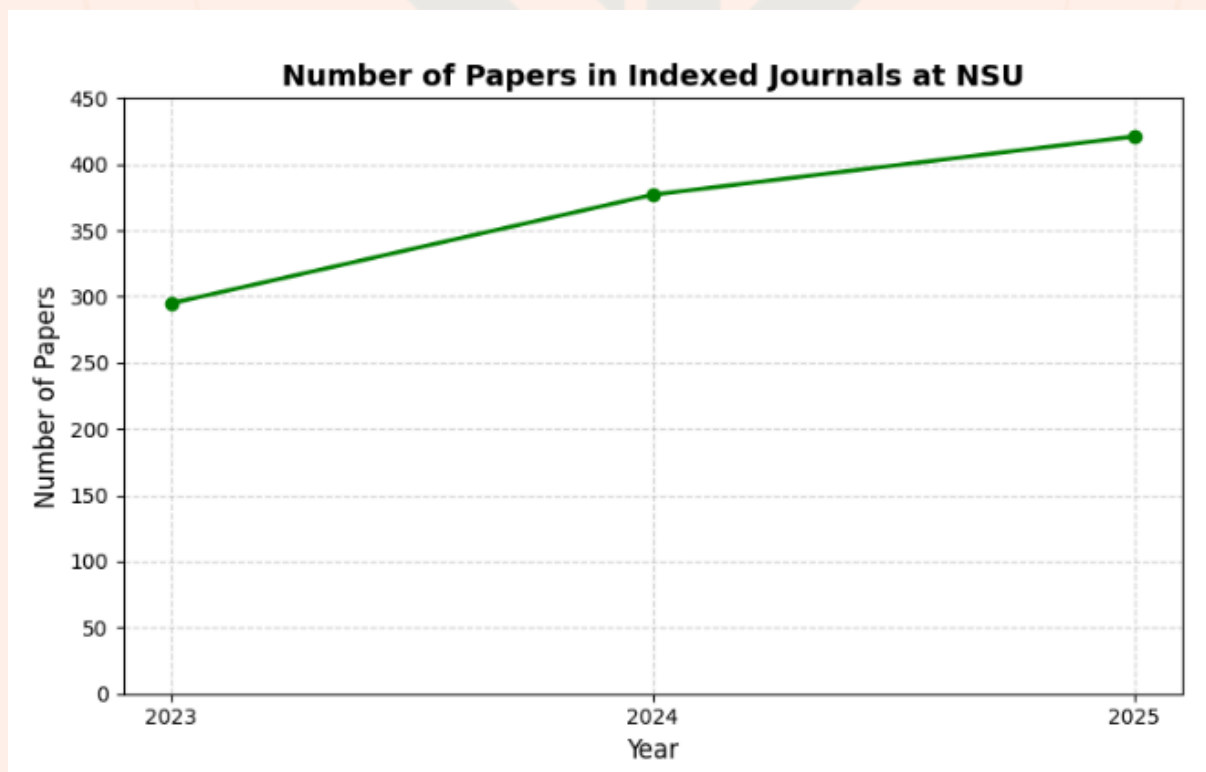
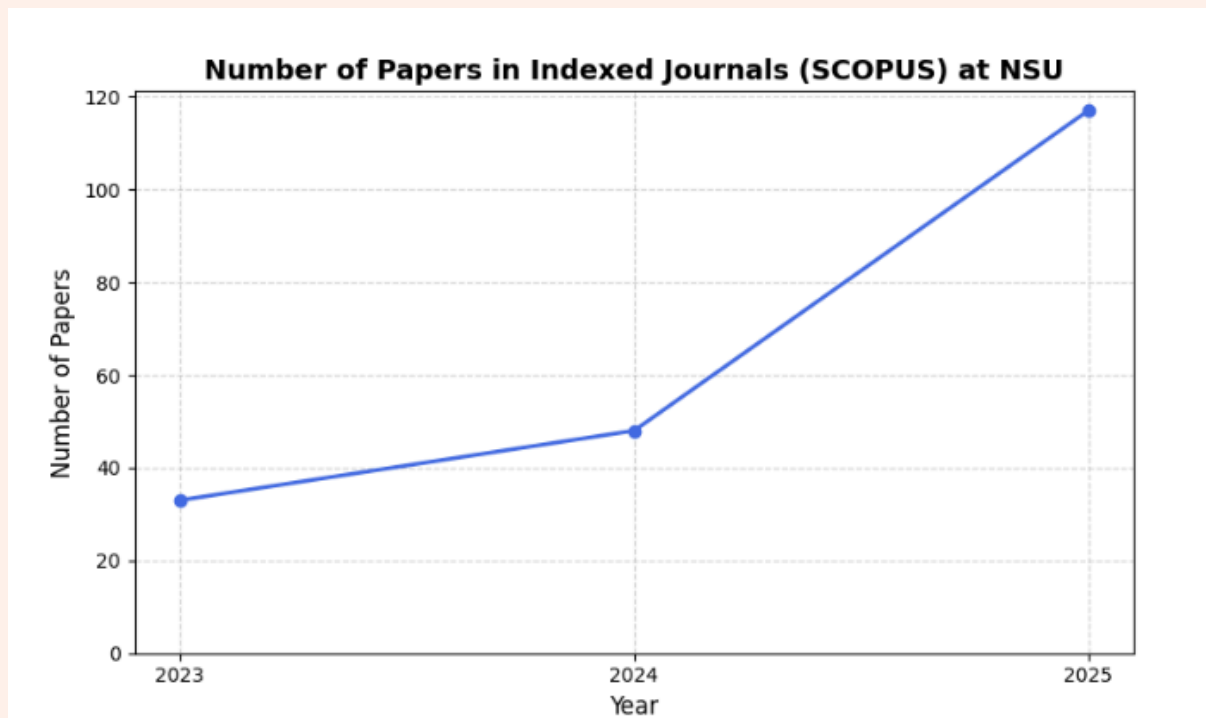
- Integration of innovation, digital tools, and applied research into curricula
- Support for student innovation projects, startup initiatives, and research competitions
- Professional development activities for academic staff in digital transformation and innovative teaching methods

These actions contribute to building a skilled and adaptable workforce aligned with sustainable industrial and technological development.



International and Indexed Journal Publications

In 2025, faculty, researchers, and postgraduate students affiliated with Nakhchivan State University continued actively publishing research articles in peer-reviewed and internationally indexed scientific journals across multiple disciplines



Conclusion

In 2025, Nakhchivan State University demonstrated a strong and consistent commitment to Sustainable Development Goal 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure) through the strategic development of modern infrastructure, the promotion of innovation-driven research, and the strengthening of partnerships with industry, government, and international institutions.

The expansion of innovation facilities, effective utilization of Technopark resources, and the integration of the Nakhchivan Innovation Center into the university's ecosystem have enhanced NSU's capacity to support applied research, entrepreneurship, and technology development. These advancements have created an enabling environment for students, researchers, and industry partners to collaborate on solutions that contribute to sustainable industrialization and regional development.

NSU's growing research output, international collaboration, and interdisciplinary initiatives in 2025 reflect the university's role as an active participant in the global knowledge economy. Through targeted partnerships and capacity-building efforts, NSU continues to align education and research with innovation and infrastructure needs, supporting skills development and digital transformation.

Overall, NSU's SDG 9 initiatives in 2025 reinforce its contribution to building resilient infrastructure, fostering inclusive innovation, and promoting sustainable economic growth. The university remains committed to strengthening these efforts in the coming years, ensuring that innovation and collaboration remain central to its mission and its contribution to sustainable development at regional, national, and international levels.

