



Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

SDG 16

Report on SDG 16

- ▶ Introduction
- ▶ Governance System of BSU
- ▶ Ethical Governance and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms
- ▶ Teaching, Learning, and Quality Assurance
- ▶ Government Collaboration and Policy Advice
- ▶ Policy-Focused Research
- ▶ Neutral Platform for Public Dialog
- ▶ Student Participation in Governance
- ▶ Public Engagement and Community Partnership
- ▶ Future Priorities (2025-2027)
- ▶ Conclusion

16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS





Introduction

The year 2025 has been declared the “Year of Constitution and Sovereignty” in the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Presidential Decree issued on 28 December 2024. This declaration represents a historic milestone in the nation’s statehood journey, reaffirming constitutional values, national sovereignty, the rule of law, and the importance of strong and fair public institutions. In this context, higher education institutions hold a unique responsibility: to build a civic culture based on justice, transparency, ethical governance, and public trust. Baku Slavic University aligns itself with the spirit of this significant year, strengthening democratic practices and institutional integrity within its academic environment and contributing to Sustainable Development Goal 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.



BSU's Commitment to SDG 16

Baku Slavic University recognizes that SDG 16 is a foundational pillar of sustainable development. Without justice, transparency, accountability, public trust, and effective governance, neither education quality nor social progress can be fully achieved. This report reflects the University's institutional commitment to advancing peace, ethical governance, accountability, participatory decision-making, academic freedom, and anti-corruption principles. The report also outlines how BSU upholds these values through its governance structure, ethical standards, public engagement, and student participation mechanisms, while demonstrating its alignment with the national priorities of 2024.

National Democratic Governance Context

The national context of the Sovereignty Year emphasizes the consolidation of democratic statehood, institutional responsibility, and civic participation. As Azerbaijan strengthens its constitutional identity, universities serve as strategic actors shaping citizens who respect the law, uphold justice, and value public trust. In this national mission, BSU acts as an educational, cultural, and moral pillar by promoting institutional transparency, ethical behavior, and lawful governance in university life. The University sees strong institutions not only as state entities, but as every structure that ensures fairness, responsibility, accountability, and equal rights – including academic institutions.



Governance System of Baku Slavic University

The governance system at Baku Slavic University is grounded in the principles of collegiality, academic freedom, transparency, participation, and accountability. The Scientific Council serves as the highest collegial decision-making body, approving strategic plans, managing academic policies, overseeing regulations, and ensuring that key institutional decisions are made in a transparent and documented manner. Faculty-level governance, departmental structures, and academic committees support the internal coordination of educational processes, curriculum development, and quality enhancement. This multi-level governance structure ensures that decision-making is based on legal norms, ethical standards, and academic responsibility rather than individual discretion.

Transparency is central to institutional trust. At BSU, decisions of the Scientific Council and other administrative bodies are recorded, formally communicated, and archived to guarantee accountability and institutional memory. This practice strengthens public trust, ensures predictability in university management, and prevents arbitrary decision-making. Governance is understood not as authority over students and staff, but as responsibility toward them.



Ethical Governance and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms

An essential component of SDG 16 is the prevention of corruption. BSU upholds a zero-tolerance approach toward any form of unethical behavior, favoritism, informal payments, or misuse of authority. The University fosters a culture of integrity through ethical norms, internal regulations, and awareness of institutional responsibilities. The Ethics Commission plays a central role in safeguarding justice and dignity. It reviews ethical violations, discrimination claims, and misconduct cases while ensuring objectivity, confidentiality, and fairness. Its work reinforces ethical norms and cultivates a responsible and respectful institutional culture. Parallel to this, the Appeals Commission provides students and staff with a formal mechanism for justice. When academic or administrative decisions are disputed, individuals have the right to a fair review. This mechanism protects students' academic rights, strengthens legal culture on campus, and ensures that justice is not an abstract value but a functioning institutional tool.



**BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY**

Government Collaboration and Policy Advice

Baku Slavic University also provides direct expert advice, analytical input, and policy-focused evidence to local and national government authorities. BSU academic staff participate in ministerial working groups under the Ministry of Science and Education, contribute expert assessments on curriculum development, language policy, multicultural education, and youth-related reforms, and prepare analytical reports upon formal governmental request. The University also collaborates with municipal bodies and public agencies to support evidence-based policymaking in cultural governance, social development, educational planning, and community engagement. Through these activities, BSU strengthens institutional cooperation and ensures that its academic expertise contributes to transparent, accountable, and informed public administration.

Policy-Focused Research

Baku Slavic University undertakes policy-focused research in collaboration with government departments. BSU researchers conduct joint analytical studies and thematic investigations requested or supported by public institutions, including studies on education policy, language planning, multicultural governance, migration and integration, youth development, and climate-related public policy.



These collaborations involve the preparation of evidence-based reports, comparative analyses, thematic research papers, and policy briefs that directly inform ministerial decision-making and municipal programme design. Through these research partnerships, BSU contributes substantively to evidence-based governance and supports national strategic priorities in public administration, social development, and cultural policy.

Neutral Platform for Public Dialog

Baku Slavic University provides a neutral, academically protected, and politically impartial platform where diverse political, civic, governmental, and community stakeholders can come together to openly discuss national and societal challenges.

BSU hosts forums, public dialogues, policy roundtables, and thematic discussions involving representatives of government bodies, municipal authorities, civil society organizations, youth structures, cultural institutions, migration and social agencies, as well as independent experts. These meetings are conducted in a strictly neutral academic environment that ensures respectful dialogue, equal representation of viewpoints, and the protection of participants' rights to express differing opinions without intimidation or political pressure.



BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY

By facilitating open and safe dialogue on issues such as legal reforms, public administration, youth policy, multiculturalism, language and identity, social challenges, climate governance, and COP29-related priorities, BSU fulfills its mission as an impartial convening institution. These platforms promote transparency, civic participation, and evidence-based public discourse, directly advancing SDG targets, while strengthening societal trust in academic institutions as safe and neutral spaces for public engagement.

Academic freedom, protected decision-making processes, and an impartial appeals system create a governance environment based on trust, merit, and fairness. BSU understands that ethical governance is not a single policy, but an institutional mindset that must be continuously cultivated. The University advocates for open communication, clarity of rules, and equal access to information, ensuring that the academic environment is governed by law, ethics, and transparency.



Student Participation in Governance

Student participation is a fundamental dimension of democratic governance at Baku Slavic University. The University believes that students must not be silent beneficiaries of education, but active contributors to institutional life, campus culture, and collective decision-making. Through its student structures, including the Student Youth Organization (TGT), the Student Trade Union Committee (THİK), and the Student Scientific Society (TEC), BSU cultivates youth leadership, critical thinking, civic consciousness, and participatory governance. These organizations ensure that students' voices are heard, their concerns are represented, and their initiatives are supported. By engaging students in governance processes, BSU strengthens the values of responsibility, dialogue, respect, and inclusion – values directly aligned with SDG 16 which calls for responsive, inclusive, and participatory decision-making at all institutional levels.

The Scientific Council is explicitly defined in the university's governance system as "the highest collegial decision-making body, approving strategic plans, managing academic policies, overseeing regulations, and ensuring that key institutional decisions are made in a transparent and documented manner." This establishes the Scientific Council as BSU's top-level governance authority.



BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY

Within this governance structure, BSU ensures student participation through its student-led bodies, particularly the Student Scientific Society (TEC). According to the official Student-Led Society Policy, the TEC Council is an elected body of student members, “The TEC Council elects its Chairperson, who represents TEC at the University Scientific Council and leads implementation and reporting”. This statement confirms that the Chairperson of the Student Scientific Society (TEC) is chosen through a democratic election process and then formally sits as a member of the University Scientific Council, participating in deliberations, contributing to decisions, and representing the collective academic interests of students. This demonstrates clear and formal student representation at the university’s highest governance level.

Additionally, the university’s governance narrative emphasizes that student participation is a fundamental dimension of democratic governance at BSU. Students are described as “active contributors to institutional life, campus culture, and collective decision-making.” Through structures such as the Student Youth Organization (TGT), the Student Trade Union Committee (THİK), and TEC, BSU ensures that student voices are heard and incorporated in governance processes, fully aligning with SDG 16 on responsive, inclusive, participatory decision-making. Taken together, the governance framework and the Student-Led Society Policy provide clear evidence that BSU recognizes elected student representation on its highest governing body and embeds student participation in formal institutional decision-making mechanisms.



BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY

Public Engagement and Community Partnership

BSU also reinforces its commitment to open society principles through collaboration with governmental institutions, municipalities, cultural organizations, and civil society platforms. These partnerships enhance legal awareness, civic responsibility, ethical culture, and public trust. As the country deepens its statehood vision in the Sovereignty Year, BSU contributes by educating a generation that upholds justice and respects institutional legitimacy. Through conferences, public lectures, social projects, and awareness events, the University supports a governance culture where dialogue, public accountability, and transparency become social norms.

BSU's commitment to SDG 16 also creates natural connections with other Sustainable Development Goals. Just governance strengthens the quality of education and advances SDG 4, as transparency and ethical leadership directly improve learning environments. Inclusive participation supports SDG 5 by encouraging equal opportunities for women in student governance and academic leadership. Zero-tolerance toward corruption reinforces SDG 8, as fair ethical systems improve motivation, productivity, and institutional well-being. Appeals mechanisms and anti-discrimination norms complement SDG 10 by reducing inequalities within the campus community. Public engagement contributes to SDG 11, as cooperation between the university and broader society helps build more resilient and trusted communities. In this sense, SDG 16 acts not as a single goal, but as a structural backbone supporting all other SDGs.



Future Priorities (2025–2027)

As the University looks to the future, BSU aims to further strengthen ethical governance, transparency, student participation, academic freedom, and institutional accountability. The University will continue promoting legal culture, strengthening justice mechanisms, expanding cooperation with public institutions, and improving internal awareness of ethical norms. It envisions a governance system where every decision is traceable, every voice is respected, and every individual—student or staff—feels protected by law and institutional ethics. In the coming years, BSU will invest in digital transparency tools, expand training on ethics and academic integrity, and foster broader student participation in faculty-level discussions and institutional consulting processes. These steps will ensure that the University sustains and advances SDG 16 targets throughout 2025–2027 and beyond.



**BAKU
SLAVIC
UNIVERSITY**

Conclusion

In conclusion, Baku Slavic University stands committed to advancing peace, justice, and strong institutions within its academic environment. Guided by the national vision of the 2025 Year of Constitution and Sovereignty, BSU reaffirms its responsibility to cultivate ethical citizens, strengthen trust in institutions, protect academic rights, ensure transparency, and uphold justice in all dimensions of university life. By defending rule of law, promoting ethical governance, preventing corruption, and empowering students as democratic actors, the University contributes not only to SDG 16, but to Azerbaijan's long-term sustainable development and sovereign statehood. BSU will continue to serve as a beacon of culture, education, justice, and institutional integrity – nurturing a generation that respects law, values truth, and advances peace.

Approval Authority

Higher Education Center, Baku Slavic University

Responsible Units for Monitoring and Future Updates

Higher Education Center