

# PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

## SDG 17

### Report on SDG 17

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17 PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS





## Introduction

In the 21st century, the globalization of higher education has become a central mechanism for promoting sustainable development, intercultural understanding, and innovation. Universities serve not only as educational institutions but also as platforms for building networks that support global knowledge exchange and capacity development.

Within this global framework, Sustainable Development Goal 17 (SDG 17) – “Partnerships for the Goals” – underscores the importance of cooperation, resource sharing, and joint institutional action in achieving the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Baku Slavic University (BSU) exemplifies this principle through its comprehensive network of academic collaborations, multilingual education system, and commitment to fostering international understanding across regions and cultures.

Originally established to advance Slavic, Turkic, and European studies, BSU has evolved into a leading regional center for intercultural and diplomatic education. Its mission extends beyond linguistic training to preparing globally competent graduates capable of contributing to peace, inclusivity, and sustainable development.

The University’s internationalization policy is deeply intertwined with SDG 17, positioning BSU as an agent of partnership-driven transformation in higher education.



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## BSU's International Engagement Framework

Baku Slavic University provides a comprehensive academic portfolio that includes over ten European and non-European languages, such as Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Czech, Belarusian, Bulgarian, Greek, Turkish, English, French, and German.

BSU expanded its linguistic scope by introducing Uzbek as a new language of instruction, strengthening ties with Turkic-speaking countries. This initiative directly supports SDG 17's emphasis on mutual capacity building and South-South cooperation, positioning BSU as a regional connector within the Eurasian academic landscape.





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## Membership in International Associations and Partnerships

BSU is an active member of several major international academic alliances, which play a vital role in enhancing institutional capacity and collaborative opportunities:

- Black Sea Universities Association
- Union of Turkic Universities (TURKUNIB)
- Caucasus Universities Union
- Silk Road Universities Alliance

Participation in these associations facilitates cross-border cooperation, academic mobility, and participation in global research projects.

The membership of Baku Slavic University (BSU) in the University Alliance of the Silk Road (UASR) opens up extensive opportunities for the university to strengthen its position in the international academic arena, ensure the participation of its student and faculty members in global projects, and enhance its scientific research potential.

It is noteworthy that BSU is the first Azerbaijani university to be admitted as a member of the University Alliance of the Silk Road.





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BSU representatives attended the 8th Assembly of the Union of Turkic States Universities and the International Conference “The Garakhanids: Descendants of Alp Er Tunga – The Turkic and Islamic World during the Garakhanid Era” held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



The event gathered leaders from across Turkic states, including the Secretary-General of the Union of Turkic States, the Minister of Education, Science and Innovations of Uzbekistan, and the President of the International Turkic Academy. Discussions emphasized the growing importance of educational integration and academic exchanges as tools for strengthening unity and quality among Turkic universities.

This participation reaffirmed BSU's role as an active contributor to educational diplomacy in the Turkic world.



## Partnership Agreements

Partnership between Baku Slavic University and the Education Development Fund: "TələbəPlus" Project



A cooperation agreement was signed between Baku Slavic University (BSU) and the Education Development Fund (EDF) within the framework of the "TələbəPlus" project, aimed at strengthening student wellbeing and academic success. Implemented in partnership with EDF, Kapital Bank, and Visa, the project reflects a strong public-private partnership that promotes innovation, financial inclusion, and equitable access to educational resources. The "TələbəPlus" card provides students with multifunctional opportunities such as campus access, payments, discounts, and cashback, supporting social welfare and inclusive development. BSU Rector Anar Naghiyev highlighted that this initiative demonstrates sustained institutional cooperation and contributes to capacity building across sectors, representing an effective model of multi-stakeholder collaboration aligned with SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals.



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## “GreenAgroHack” Hackathon Information Session at Baku Slavic University

Baku Slavic University (BSU) hosted an information session on the “GreenAgroHack” hackathon, organized jointly with the Agricultural Innovation Center under the Ministry of Agriculture. The event highlighted the role of digitalization, innovation, and environmental responsibility in modern education, encouraging students to take an active part in the project.

The initiative is implemented in partnership with the Agricultural Innovation Center, Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU), Bilisim Vadisi, and several acceleration and incubation centers within the framework of the “Year of Solidarity for a Green World - 2024.”

This initiative represents a successful model of partnership that strengthens collaboration among government institutions, higher education institutions, and innovation structures.



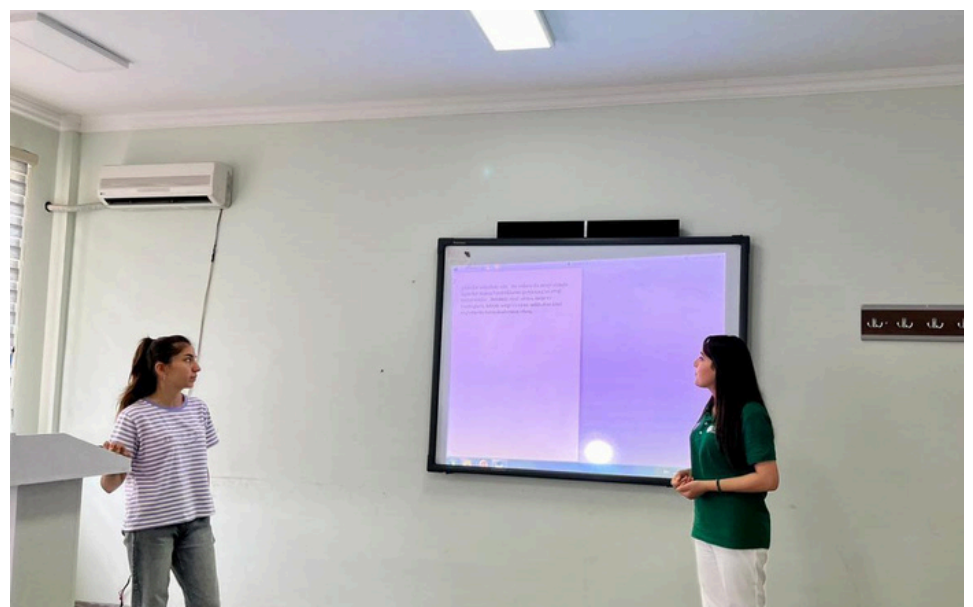


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## SUMMER SCHOOL WITHIN THE “YEAR OF SOLIDARITY FOR A GREEN WORLD

Baku Slavic University (BSU), in partnership with Lankaran State University (LDU), successfully implemented a joint Summer School on climate action and international cooperation within the national initiative “Year of Solidarity for a Green World.” The program strengthened cross-university collaboration, capacity building, and student engagement in sustainability education, directly supporting SDGs 13 and 17.

Throughout the Summer School, students participated in expert-led sessions on “COP29: Azerbaijan’s Growing Role in International Climate Cooperation” and “International Cooperation in Combating Climate Change.”





As part of a project-based learning module, student teams developed practical sustainability initiatives, including a climate awareness campaign for schoolchildren, a planet-focused educational simulation game, and a “Green Information” communication project promoting environmental messages. These activities fostered innovation, teamwork, and youth-led climate action.



The program also included field visits to a tea plantation and Hirkan National Park, where students explored biodiversity, sustainable agriculture, and ecosystem protection. These excursions provided hands-on learning experiences that deepened their understanding of natural resource management and environmental sustainability.

Overall, the Summer School demonstrated BSU’s commitment to multi-stakeholder partnerships, experiential climate education, and strengthening youth participation in sustainability initiatives — fully aligning with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) and SDG 13 (Climate Action).



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BSU maintains more than 80 bilateral and multilateral partnership agreements with universities across approximately 20 countries.

During the 2024-2025 academic years, 12 new or renewed agreements were formalized with institutions from Russia (3), Türkiye (2), Albania (2), Uzbekistan (2), Kazakhstan (1), Bulgaria (1), and North Macedonia (1).



These agreements enable faculty exchanges, joint research initiatives, and student mobility programs. Through these relationships, BSU enhances not only its academic diversity but also its influence as a regional hub for educational collaboration.



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# COP29

## Baku Azerbaijan

Employees of Baku Slavic University participated in an important event held within the framework of COP29.

A significant event on the theme “Human Development, Children and Youth, Health, and Education” was held as part of the 29th Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP29). Representatives of Baku Slavic University (BSU) actively took part in the event, engaging in discussions on the directions for addressing climate change in our country.

BAKI SLAVYAN UNIVERSITETİNİN ƏMƏKDAŞLARI COP29  
ÇƏRÇİVƏSİNDƏ MÜHÜM TƏDBİRDƏ İŞTİRAK EDİBLƏR



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## International Conferences and Academic Events

BSU has actively hosted and participated in numerous international conferences that reinforce its role in global academic discourse:

“From Inclusive Education to Inclusive Society” – 2nd International Scientific-Practical Conference. At the conference, scholars representing Belarus, Uzbekistan, and Poland presented their contributions, with discussions emphasizing the role of inclusive education, disability awareness, and social participation as key pillars of sustainable societies.

International Scientific Conference “Actual Problems of Azerbaijani Studies: Research, Scientific Discourse, and Internationalization”. Attended by participants from Azerbaijan, Türkiye, Uzbekistan, Poland, Moldova, Russia, and Kazakhstan, this event celebrated the academic legacy of Heydar Aliyev, focusing on the role of linguistic and cultural research in national identity.

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**“İNKLÜZİV TƏHSİLDƏN  
İNKLÜZİV CƏMIYYƏTƏ”**

**İTİC 2024**

II BEYNƏLXALQ ELMİ-PRAKTİKİ KONFRANS

- İnküziv təhsil: məzmun və təlim məsələləri.
- İnküziv təhsil beynəlxalq təcrübədə.
- Müasir cəmiyyətlərin inküziv potensialı: təhsil və əmək bazarı.

16 APREL - BAKI  
19 APREL - QAZAX

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AZƏRBAYCANŞÜNASLIĞIN  
AKTUAL MƏSƏLƏLƏRİ

Ümummilli Lider Heydər Əliyevin  
anadan olmasının 101-ci ildönümünə həsr olunmuş

**“AZƏRBAYCANŞÜNASLIĞIN AKTUAL  
MƏSƏLƏLƏRİ:**

**TƏDQIQAT, ELMİ DİSKURS VƏ BEYNƏLMİLƏLLƏŞMƏ”**

**XV BEYNƏLXALQ ELMİ-PRAKTİKİ KONFRANSI**

2-3 MAY BAKI  
20 MAY QUBA **2024**



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“I International Balkan Studies Conference”. Brought together experts from North Macedonia, Serbia, Albania, and Azerbaijan to discuss the evolving cultural and linguistic ties among Balkan nations.



“Issues of Inclusivity and Sustainable Development in Social Sciences” Organized as part of the “Year of Solidarity for a Green World”, this conference highlighted inclusive education and sustainable teaching practices.



The presence of representatives from leading national and international institutions further reinforced BSU’s commitment to SDG 17 by promoting dialogue on sustainable development, inclusion, and cross-sector collaboration. Overall, the event played a significant role in strengthening BSU’s academic partnerships and advancing joint efforts toward the Sustainable Development Goals.



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The international conference “Modern Languages: Teaching, Theory, Practice” gathered scholars from Russia, Bulgaria, and Türkiye to discuss modern linguistic pedagogy, teaching methods, and language policy.

The event highlighted the importance of innovative and inclusive approaches in language education and promoted international academic cooperation and cross-cultural dialogue in higher education.



These events not only strengthened BSU’s international profile but also contributed directly to SDG 17 Target 17.6, which promotes scientific and technological cooperation between nations.



## Academic Mobility and Exchange Programs

Academic mobility forms the core of BSU's internationalization policy, supporting the exchange of knowledge, pedagogical innovation, and cross-cultural understanding. Through student and faculty exchanges, joint training programs, and visiting-scholar initiatives, BSU contributes directly to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), particularly Targets 17.6 and 17.9, which emphasize international scientific cooperation and capacity building.

Baku Slavic University (BSU) actively expands its international academic mobility through participation in major regional exchange initiatives, including the Orhun Exchange Program of the Union of Turkic Universities (TURKUNIB). The program enhances academic partnerships, promotes student and faculty mobility, and supports the advancement of Turkic languages and culture across universities in Turkic-speaking countries.

### The ORHUN Exchange Program





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In the 2024-2025 academic year, BSU further strengthened its mobility framework by welcoming guest students through its exchange collaboration with NAO "Toraygyrov" University of Kazakhstan. This initiative forms part of BSU's broader network of bilateral and multilateral cooperation agreements with universities across Eurasia, fostering intercultural learning, shared academic development, and international exposure for students.

Recognized for its expertise in Slavic studies, multilingual education, and intercultural communication, BSU continues to attract international students seeking high-quality teaching, professional mentorship, and a deeper understanding of Azerbaijan's cultural and academic environment. These mobility programs reinforce BSU's internationalization strategy, expand regional cooperation networks, and contribute to knowledge-based partnerships that support institutional capacity building.

Through these collaborative mobility initiatives, BSU advances its commitment to SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals by strengthening global academic linkages, promoting inclusive and internationally engaged higher education, and contributing to sustainable development through cross-border collaboration.





## Student Exchange Initiatives

BSU has continued to strengthen its student mobility framework through active cooperation with partner universities in Türkiye, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other regions. Through reciprocal exchange programs, BSU welcomes international students in fields such as Philology, Education, and Foreign Languages, while BSU students pursue academic studies abroad at leading partner institutions.

These mobility initiatives enrich the university's academic environment by fostering intercultural dialogue, diversifying pedagogical approaches, and promoting collaborative learning. By expanding cross-border mobility opportunities, BSU advances its commitment to SDG 17 – building strong international partnerships that enhance educational quality, global engagement, and mutual capacity development.





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BSU students have participated in an international summer school in Poland.

From July 6 to 28, students from Baku Slavic University (BSU) participated in the international summer school organized by the Polish National Agency for Academic Exchange (NAWA) at Lublin II John Paul Catholic University and in Cieszyn.

The program aimed to enhance students' scientific and practical knowledge of the Polish language while promoting intercultural exchange through visits to Poland's historical, cultural, and tourist sites. The program also provided students with opportunities to study in an international environment and gain new academic and cultural experiences.





## BSU's International Collaboration on SDG Data Gathering and Measurement

Baku Slavic University (BSU) actively participates in international collaboration on gathering, analysing, and measuring data related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through its global partnerships, academic alliances, and joint research initiatives, the University contributes to shared data systems, comparative SDG indicators, and evidence-based monitoring frameworks used by partner institutions across Europe, Central Asia, and the Turkic region.

BSU's involvement in SDG data work is strengthened by its membership in major international university networks such as the University Alliance of the Silk Road (UASR), the Union of Turkic Universities (TURKUNIB), the Black Sea Universities Association, and the Caucasus Universities Union, all of which promote cross-border cooperation on SDG-related research, data collection, and shared assessment practices. Within these platforms, BSU contributes student mobility statistics, sustainability activity reports, language-education indicators, and joint project outcomes that feed into regional SDG monitoring efforts.

The University also collaborates with partner universities through joint conferences, research collaborations, faculty exchanges, and summer schools, during which SDG-related data—such as climate awareness, inclusion metrics, mobility participation, and environmental behaviour indicators—is gathered, analysed, and compared across institutions. These activities contribute directly to international monitoring and benchmarking efforts that assess progress toward the 2030 Agenda.

Through these coordinated international collaborations, data exchanges, and multi-country research mechanisms, BSU plays an active institutional role in the global measurement, assessment, and reporting ecosystem supporting the SDGs.



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## Faculty Exchange and Academic Collaboration

Within the framework of the ORHUN Exchange Program, Aygerym Konisova, a visiting lecturer from Ahmed Yesevi International Kazakh-Turkish University, taught the course "Business and Academic Communication in a Foreign Language I" (English) at Baku Slavic University (BSU).

A lecturer from BSU's Department of Russian Language participated in the ORHUN Academic Exchange Program. Within the program, they met with members of the Department of Russian Language and Literature at Ahmed Yesevi International Kazakh-Turkish University to discuss academic collaboration, joint research, experience exchange, and methods for teaching Russian as a foreign language.





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Additionally, guest scholars from the Czech Republic (Assoc. Prof. Ivanna Bozdekhova) and North Macedonia (Assoc. Prof. Osman Emin) conducted workshops and joint research sessions at BSU, further enhancing the university's academic diversity. By prioritizing mutual knowledge sharing rather than one-sided assistance, BSU aligns with the SDG 17 principle of equitable partnership, ensuring that cooperation benefits all participants symmetrically.





## Global Recognition and International Rankings

BSU's consistent progress in educational quality, research productivity, and institutional visibility has resulted in notable achievements in international university rankings. These outcomes reflect the university's commitment to transparency, academic excellence, and global engagement.

Baku Slavic University's participation in international ranking and benchmarking systems strengthens its global engagement and contributes to SDG 17 by enhancing transparency, data exchange, and international cooperation. BSU is regularly evaluated in multiple global platforms, including the Higher Education Ranking (2025), where it ranked 230th among 422 universities worldwide, and the Round University Ranking (World, 2025), where it placed 1,098th globally and 6th nationally. The University also appears in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings 2025 within the 1500+ group across SDGs 4, 8, 10, 13, and 17, reflecting its commitment to sustainability-focused international standards. Additional benchmarking frameworks such as the AD Scientific Index (2026), Round University Ranking in Humanities (2025), and Webometrics (2025) further demonstrate BSU's integration into global academic networks, research-impact assessments, and open-access ecosystems. Collectively, these rankings illustrate BSU's growing participation in international evaluation systems that support shared learning, comparative analysis, and global partnership-building—key principles of SDG 17.



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## Institutional Rankings

These rankings represent more than quantitative outcomes; they validate BSU's institutional evolution toward international competitiveness and demonstrate its integration into global academic standards.





## Institutionalization of Quality and Sustainability Standards

BSU's inclusion in global ranking and benchmarking systems demonstrates the university's adherence to internationally recognized quality-assurance mechanisms. The institution continues to align its strategic and operational priorities with sustainable development principles through:

**Implementation of transparent academic assessment frameworks**

**Encouragement of interdisciplinary and SDG-focused research**

**Strengthening of publication standards in international journals**

**Integration of environmental and social responsibility into institutional governance**

Participation in the THE Impact Rankings further illustrates BSU's dedication to the sustainability agenda, reinforcing the notion that academic excellence and global citizenship are mutually reinforcing goals.



## Strategic Priorities for the Future

Looking ahead, BSU will focus on consolidating and expanding its internationalization agenda through the following strategic directions:

Focus Area	Description / Action	Purpose and Expected Outcome
<b>Deepening Regional Partnerships</b>	Strengthen collaboration with universities in Central Asia, the Balkans, and Eastern Europe by launching new joint research centers and regional academic consortia.	Foster academic cooperation, regional knowledge exchange, and joint innovation.
<b>Diversifying Funding Sources</b>	Increase participation in EU-funded projects (such as Erasmus+, Horizon Europe) and bilateral education programs to ensure financial sustainability.	Enhance institutional capacity and ensure long-term financial stability.
<b>Enhancing Digital Internationalization</b>	Develop virtual mobility and online collaborative learning platforms to make international education more accessible and resilient to external disruptions.	Expand global learning opportunities and strengthen digital resilience.
<b>Institutionalizing Impact Assessment</b>	Implement measurable indicators—such as partnership productivity, publication output, and alumni employability—to evaluate the tangible results of BSU’s global cooperation.	Monitor and improve the effectiveness of international partnerships.
<b>Expanding Multilingual Education</b>	Continue introducing new teaching languages and promote Azerbaijani language and culture abroad through BSU’s international branches.	Support cultural diplomacy and global recognition of Azerbaijani language and heritage.



## Strategic Priorities for the Future

Baku Slavic University’s internationalization policy provides a concrete example of how universities can operationalize Sustainable Development Goal 17

(SDG 17) – “Partnerships for the Goals.”

The University’s initiatives span multiple dimensions of partnership, encompassing academic mobility, capacity building, research collaboration, and intercultural engagement.

SDG 17 Target	BSU’s Implementation
17.6 – Enhance North–South, South–South, and Triangular Cooperation	Active membership in the Union of Turkic Universities (TURKUNIB), Silk Road Universities Alliance, and Black Sea Universities Association, facilitating cooperation among Eurasian universities
17.9 – Build Capacity for Implementing SDGs	Implementation of the ORHUN Exchange Program and faculty mobility initiatives that strengthen institutional capacity and teaching standards.
17.16 – Strengthen Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships	Collaboration with national ministries, international organizations, and diplomatic missions in Azerbaijan on education, inclusivity, and sustainable development projects.
17.17 – Promote Effective Public, Private, and Civil-Society Partnerships	Establishment of cultural centers abroad, partnerships with NGOs such as the “Regional Development” Public Union, and active cooperation with the DAAD and other foreign education bodies



## Contribution to Sustainable Development

Baku Slavic University (BSU) has direct, structured, and continuous involvement in national and regional SDG policy development through its collaboration with government bodies, state agencies, and sectoral organizations. The university actively contributes expert input, analytical support, and academic resources to SDG-related national initiatives, including climate action, education, inclusion, and sustainable development planning.

BSU faculty and administrative units regularly participate in policy dialogues, ministerial consultations, and multi-stakeholder working groups coordinated by the Ministry of Science and Education, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Education Development Fund, and other public bodies. Through these engagements, the University assists in identifying SDG-related challenges, shaping strategies and action frameworks, and strengthening evidence-based approaches to sustainability governance.

The University also contributes to modelling policy impacts and future scenarios, particularly in areas connected to SDG 4, SDG 10, SDG 13, and SDG 17, by organizing analytical seminars, expert panels, and research-informed trainings. Its COP29-related engagements, climate-education initiatives, and national-level conferences provide direct input into Government discussions on climate mitigation, youth engagement, green policies, and human development.



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## Contribution to Sustainable Development

In addition, BSU supports monitoring and reporting processes through its research outputs, academic conferences, and multi-stakeholder projects, which feed into national conversations on the advancement of the 2030 Agenda. The University's long-standing partnerships with public institutions and NGOs enable adaptive management, ensuring that SDG priorities are adjusted based on new evidence, research findings, and feedback from the academic and social sectors.

Through these mechanisms, BSU serves as an active institutional contributor to national and regional SDG policymaking, providing expertise, research, and continuous engagement with governmental and nongovernmental stakeholders.



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## Conclusion

Baku Slavic University (BSU), within the framework of Sustainable Development Goal 17 – “Partnerships for the Goals”, has established itself as a key contributor to global academic cooperation and knowledge exchange. Through its growing network of international partnerships, academic mobility, and joint initiatives, BSU continues to advance collaboration, capacity building, and institutional development in higher education.

By engaging in strategic alliances, international conferences, and research cooperation, BSU strengthens intercultural understanding and promotes sustainable development. Multilingual education, innovation-driven learning, and digital partnerships ensure that internationalization serves as a core tool for institutional growth and global engagement.

Looking ahead, BSU aims to sustain a data-driven and impact-oriented internationalization strategy by:

- Expanding partnerships with European and Asian universities;
- Enhancing digital collaboration and virtual learning;
- Supporting research on global challenges; and

Aligning activities with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDGs 4, 10, 13, and 17.

Through these efforts, BSU reaffirms its commitment to inclusive, innovative, and responsible cooperation in support of the United Nations 2030 Agenda.



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## **Approval Authority**

Higher Education Center, Baku Slavic University

## **Responsible Units for Monitoring and Future Updates**

Higher Education Center