Azerbaijan
TECHNICAL
University

Report on Sustainable Development Goal 4

QUALITY EDUCATION

2024

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

Foreword

At Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU), we are committed to advancing the principles of equitable education, lifelong learning opportunities in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4). As a leading engineering university, AzTU supports a world-class education that empowers students, advances research, and fosters an inclusive academic environment. This document showcases AzTU's dedication to quality education, highlighting the university's many programs, initiatives, and resources that contribute to both the academic success of its students and the broader social development of Azerbaijan.

Introduction

SDG 4, which focuses on "Quality education", is crucial to ensuring that everyone has access to quality education, particularly in technical and vocational fields. Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) stands as a beacon of this commitment, embodying the principles set forth by the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. With its innovative programs and community-focused initiatives, AzTU is not only paving the way for individual student success but also contributing to the broader societal development in Azerbaijan and beyond.

References

National Information Portal on Sustainable Development Goals of the Republic of Azerbaijan

AzTU Sustainability

AzTU SDG 4 Report / November 2023

SDG 4 keywords - Quality education

Access to education	Equal access	Inclusion and education	Qualified teachers
Basic education	Equal education	Inclusive	Refugees and learning
Basic literacy	Equitable education	Innovation	Scholarships
Basic literacy skills	Enrolment	International cooperation	School
Cultural diversity	Gender disparities in education	Literacy	Secondary education
Disability	Gender disparity	Literacy skills	Teacher training
Disability and education	Gender equality	Learning opportunities	Universal education
Early childhood	Gender equity	Lifelong learning	Vocational training
Early childhood development	Gender sensitive	Numeracy	Vulnerable
Education	Global citizenship	Preprimary education	Women's rights
Education in developing	Global education	Primary education	Wellbeing

SDG 4 Targets

AzTU actively works towards several targets set by SDG 4:

- **Ensure equal access to affordable and quality technical, vocational, and higher education:** AzTU's diverse student body of 9,118 students (including 2,290 new admissions) reflects its commitment to providing equal access to higher education, especially in engineering and technology, to students from all backgrounds.

- **Increase the number of youth and adults with relevant skills for employment, decent jobs, and entrepreneurship:** AzTU supports this target through its rigorous academic programs in engineering and technology, aligning curricula with industry needs to equip students with relevant skills.

- **Increase the number of scholarships and funding opportunities for higher education students from disadvantaged backgrounds:** AzTU's volunteer and outreach programs provide additional opportunities for students from marginalized communities, including first-generation students (756 first-generation students starting their degree at AzTU).

- **Enhance the quality of teaching and learning through more inclusive curricula and faculty development:** AzTU is committed to improving the quality of education through its open access to lecture materials and resources, supporting faculty development by sharing the latest research and academic resources available globally.

- **Promote the development of skills for sustainable development:** AzTU's educational programs integrate sustainability and STEM education, fostering skills in innovation, critical thinking, and responsible decision-making.

- **Ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development:** Through its outreach activities, including seminars and events such as the "Bibliotherapy" seminar and STEM workshops, AzTU ensures that learners not only gain technical knowledge but also life skills like critical thinking, problem-solving, and a sense of social responsibility.

- **Support the creation of inclusive learning environments that are accessible to all:** AzTU actively promotes equality, diversity, and inclusion with policies that ensure non-discriminatory academic and social environments, enabling equal participation for students of all backgrounds.

SDG 4's Positive Impact on Other SDGs

The initiatives taken by Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) in the realm of Quality Education (SDG 4) have far-reaching positive impacts on various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Here's a detailed analysis of these interconnections:

- **Empowering Communities through Access to Education:** AzTU's commitment to providing free access to educational materials and resources fosters an inclusive educational environment. By offering lecture materials and full-text books online, the university not only supports its students but also extends its resources to the broader community. This accessibility promotes lifelong learning (**SDG 4.3**) and empowers individuals in remote or underserved areas to pursue knowledge and education, thus enhancing community empowerment and resilience (**SDG 11**).

- **Fostering Innovation and Economic Growth:** The partnerships and projects initiated by AzTU, such as the collaboration with TUSAŞ (Turkish Aviation and Space Industry Company) for "AzTU Turkish Aerospace, MGP 2023," create an ecosystem that stimulates innovation and practical learning. This aligns with **SDG 8** (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by equipping students not only with theoretical knowledge but also with hands-on experience that will aid in their employability and entrepreneurship, ultimately contributing to economic development.

- **Strengthening Social Cohesion and Volunteering:** The establishment of the Social Development Center and the active volunteering programs significantly bolster social inclusion and community engagement. Students participating in these initiatives contribute to local schools and communities, fostering an environment of mutual support and collaboration. This work promotes reduced inequalities (**SDG 10**) and helps build peaceful and inclusive societies (**SDG 16**).

- **Promoting Gender Equality and Inclusivity:** AzTU's policies on "Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion" ensure a supportive academic environment free from discrimination. This commitment plays a crucial role in promoting gender equality (**SDG 5**) and addressing disparities that first-generation students and marginalized groups might face in accessing higher education. By focusing on sustaining an inclusive academic culture, AzTU encourages participation from diverse backgrounds, thereby enhancing educational equity.

- **Improving Health and Well-Being:** The awareness seminars, like the one on "Bibliotherapy - psychology of readers," reflect AzTU's holistic approach to education, acknowledging mental health and well-being (**SDG 3**). By promoting reading as a tool for mental wellness, the

university nurtures a culture that values emotional health alongside academic achievement, thereby improving overall community well-being.

- **Building Partnerships for Education:** AzTU's active engagement with other universities, local schools, and international programs exemplifies the importance of partnerships in education (**SDG 17**). Collaborative projects and knowledge sharing enhance the quality of education and research, providing a platform for continued learning and development across institutions and communities.

Current situation

Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) doesn't offer education programs which entitle graduates to teach at primary school level. Azerbaijan Technical University (AzTU) provides free access to lecture materials and presentations related to courses taught on its own website. AzTU offers open access to full-text books, educational materials on the online academic databases of the AzTU Library Information Center.

The digital repository of the AzTU Library Information Center was established within the EU granted project Developing Research Capacity through Institutional Repositories Network in Azerbaijan (**DIRNA**). The platform aims to support the teaching and research mission of the university, form the digital heritage of university, preserve the collected data for a long-term, and make the information permanently accessible via the Internet by indexing the website in international registries and

directories.

The links attached show available access to educational resources:

Lecture materials and presentations

https://www.aztu.edu.az/sub_site/az/department-of-mechanics-56/page/e-kitabxana-229

https://www.aztu.edu.az/sub_site/az/creng-88/page/study-materials-646

Subscription academic bases (accessible via AzTU IP address)

https://library.aztu.edu.az/academic-bases

AzTU profile oriented Open Access databases https://library.aztu.edu.az/openaccess

AzTU Digital Repository

http://openaccess.aztu.edu.az/xmlui/

Interface reflecting our Print Collection

https://libcatalog.aztu.edu.az/client/en_US/default/search/results?te=ILS

Our Online Electronic Catalog

http://classiccatalog.aztu.edu.az/

AzTU holds useful meetings, seminars and events which are open to the public. So the Department of Training and Research Services of the Library Information Center of AzTU held a seminar at the Baku Friend Center within the framework of the "Volunteer Groups" project.

The seminar organized on the topic "Bibliotherapy - psychology of readers" provided detailed information about the history of bibliotherapy, its development, adequate book databases, and free platforms for readers and writers.

https://www.aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-emekdasi-4-sayli-baki-dost-merkezinde-seminar-kecib-8367

AzTU implements different kinds of projects, events and programs at the university for students. One of these projects was "AzTU Turkish Aerospace, MGP 2023" which has been carried out by TUSAŞ (Turkish Aviation and Space Industry Company) at our university. Along with the students of AzTU, the students and young academic staff from other universities participated in this project. The link

attached is about the project.

https://www.aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-maa-ve-tusas-yeni-nesil-muhendis-hazirligi-uzre-xususi-programin-icrasina-start-verdi-8352

AzTU has a Social Development Center (established in 2022) responsible for engaging activities with society, schools, and communities. The Center runs a volunteering programs at the university.

Students actively participate in volunteering activities by supporting various departments and structures in the university. Taking into consideration the importance of educational outreach activities AzTU continues university-school cooperation. Public Relations Department of AzTU with Social Development Center by actively engaging volunteers, continuously visiting local schools and delivering seminars and workshops related to different subjects, such as STEM, career in engineering, etc. Doors open days are also held at AzTU for schoolchildren as every year.

https://www.aztu.edu.az/az/news/aztu-universitet-mekteb-emekdasligini-inkisaf-etdirir-8254

AzTU aims to create favourable academic, work and research environments without discrimination for the people who work or want to work, study or study at our university. In this regard, AzTU has a policy called "Equality, Diversity and Inclusion" and a "Code of Conduct" for students (created in 2022).

https://www.aztu.edu.az/sdg/code-of-conduct/

Number of graduates	2310
Number of students	9118
Number of students starting a degree	2290
Number of first-generation students starting a degree	756

Future Goals

1. Increase Graduate Numbers: Aim to increase the total number of graduates from 2,310 to 3,500 by the year 2028. This will involve enhancing support for students throughout their academic journey and providing additional resources such as tutoring and mentorship programs.

2. Enhance Access to Educational Resources: Expand the range of free access to lecture materials and educational resources on the AzTU website. This includes increasing the number of available courses and materials to promote lifelong learning.

3. Promote Digital Literacy: Implement workshops and training sessions focusing on digital literacy for both students and staff, ensuring that they can effectively utilize the online academic databases and digital repository by the end of 2024.

4. Foster Research and Innovation: Continue to develop the digital repository of the AzTU Library Information Center, ensuring it includes a broader range of academic works and research projects from both students and faculty by 2025.

5. Community Engagement and Outreach: Expand the activities of the Social Development Center, aiming for increased collaboration with local schools and community organizations to facilitate STEM education workshops, seminars, and open days, targeting to reach at least 5,000 community members by 2025.

6. Support First-Generation Students: Implement targeted support programs for first-generation students, aiming to increase retention and graduation rates by 20% over the next three years, particularly focusing on mentorship and academic support initiatives.

7. Promote Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Strengthen policies related to equality, diversity, and inclusion, ensuring that all students and staff feel welcomed and supported at AzTU. This includes regular training for faculty and staff on inclusivity practices.

8. Enhance Collaborations with Industry: Increase partnerships with leading companies and organizations, such as TUSAŞ, to provide students with hands-on training and internship opportunities, aiming to involve at least 50% of the student body in practical experiences by 2025.

9. Monitor and Evaluate Progress: Establish a system for regular monitoring and evaluation of educational programs and initiatives at AzTU, ensuring that the university remains responsive to the needs of its students and the community, with annual reports published to track progress against these goals.

Conclusion

Azerbaijan Technical University's unwavering dedication to quality education, community engagement, and inclusivity positions it as a leader in technical education. By aligning its strategic goals with the broader objectives of sustainable development, AzTU is not just educating future professionals; it is nurturing responsible citizens equipped to tackle global challenges. As the university continues to innovate and adapt, it remains committed to its mission of fostering a sustainable future through quality education and a robust academic community.

This document highlights AzTU's range of initiatives and resources, underscoring its role in advancing quality education aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 4. Through these efforts, Azerbaijan Technical University is shaping a brighter future for its students and the society at large.