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Azerbaijan Technological University

REPORT ON

SDG 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure



Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU) has integrated SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure into its core strategies, focusing on fostering innovation, building industry collaborations, and developing infrastructure that supports sustainable industrialization and technological advancement. This report outlines the key initiatives that demonstrate ATU's contribution to the fulfillment of SDG 9.

1. Encouraging Innovation

Firstly, in order to foster innovation activities ATU has established innovation centre in 2023. Afterwards, innovation centre started to promote innovation through various competitions and research initiatives aimed at solving real-world problems with sustainable solutions. For instance, The "Young Innovators" Startup competition dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the national leader Heydar Aliyev was held at the Azerbaijan Technological University (ATU). The competition was organized by ATU Innovation Center, Education Development Fund, "Huawei" company, and "Bir" Student Volunteer Organization. In the competition, teams of 56 students presented 28 mutually interesting startups covering the fields of food, light industry, ICT, and transport. The winning teams were awarded with cash prizes, certificates and gifts. Furthermore, the GreenTech Startup Competition empowers students from all universities of the Republic to develop projects focused on energy efficiency, pollution reduction, and renewable technologies. Supported by industry partners such as Kapital Bank, Az-granata, ATS food and the government bodies as Ministry of Science and Education of Azerbaijan Republic, Innovation and Digital Development Agency, The Education Development Fund and "Bir" Student Voluntary Organization these events help students turn their creative ideas into viable products and startups. One standout project from a recent competition focused on improving industrial energy use to reduce pollution, demonstrating the university's commitment to fostering innovation for sustainability.

<https://atu.edu.az/xeber/998>

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Additionally, ATU is heavily involved in research focused on automation **and** digital infrastructure, areas crucial for industrial modernization. These research initiatives are designed to provide industries with innovative solutions that align with sustainable practices, which is a key focus of SDG 9.

ATU has established strong partnerships with local and international companies, allowing students to gain practical experience while working on innovative projects that benefit both academia and industry. Some of the key partnerships include:

- **Huawei:** ATU's partnership with Huawei is one of the most significant collaborations in the field of telecommunications and digital innovation. Through Huawei's ICT Academy at ATU, students have access to cutting-edge courses and certifications in key areas like 5G technology, AI (Artificial Intelligence), and cloud computing. This collaboration enables students to gain hands-on experience with the latest technological advancements, helping them prepare for careers in modern industries. Huawei's contribution ensures that ATU's curriculum stays updated with the latest global standards, empowering students to be competitive in the rapidly evolving technology sector
- **Kapital Bank and Azersun:** These companies are vital partners in ATU's strategy of providing students with internships and practical training opportunities. Through these partnerships, students engage in projects related to logistics, digital transformation, and food processing, applying academic knowledge to real-world industry challenges. For example, ATU students have contributed to projects focused on modernizing logistics chains and enhancing automation in local industries, which benefits both the students and the companies involved
- **IST Services:** ATU's collaboration with IST Services focuses on the development of automation and telecommunications technologies. This partnership not only provides students with hands-on experience in these fields but also helps local industries adopt modern solutions that are in line with global sustainability trends. Through this collaboration, ATU is ensuring that students are well-equipped to enter and succeed in technology-driven industries

These partnerships are key to ATU's mission of aligning educational outcomes with industry needs, ensuring that students are prepared to contribute to sustainable industrialization and innovation—core goals of SDG 9.





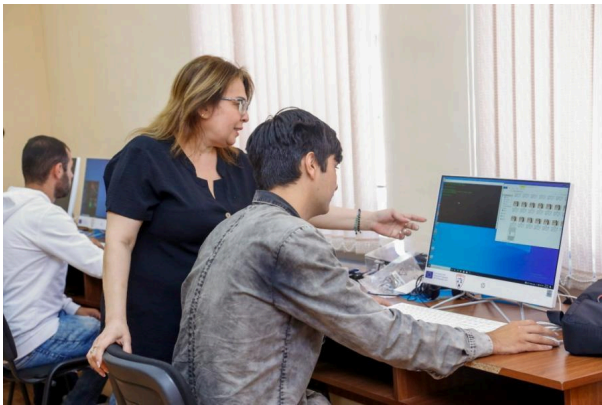
3. Improving Educational and Research Infrastructure

ATU has made significant investments in upgrading its facilities to support both education and research. Recent developments include:

- **Renovation of Classrooms and Research Labs:** ATU has modernized many of its classrooms and research facilities, equipping them with smart technology, projectors, and high-speed internet. These improvements allow students to engage in advanced projects related to telecommunications, green technologies, and automation. For example, in the newly renovated telecommunications labs, students work on projects related to 5G and AI, supported by industry partners like Huawei
- **Newly Renovated Student Spaces:** In addition to upgrading its research facilities, ATU has also invested in creating comfortable and technologically advanced spaces for students to collaborate on projects. These renovated rooms are designed to enhance learning, with modern amenities that enable students to stay connected with industry experts and work on practical projects that address real-world challenges

These infrastructure improvements are vital to providing an environment that fosters innovation and prepares students to contribute to sustainable industries, key aspects of SDG 9.

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Conclusion

Azerbaijan Technological University's commitment to SDG 9 is evident in its efforts to foster innovation, build strong industry partnerships, and continuously enhance its infrastructure. The university's collaboration with global leading company as Huawei and local companies as Azersun, Bakcell, Nar mobile, ATS food, Giltex, Azgranata, Savalan and others in telecommunications and digital technology, along with other industry partnerships, provides students with the tools and experiences needed to succeed in today's fast-changing industrial landscape. Through these initiatives, ATU is not only preparing its students for future careers but also contributing to Azerbaijan's broader goals of sustainable industrialization and technological advancement, further solidifying its role in promoting SDG 9.