



SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

QS Sustainability Report

Reporting Period: January–December 2025

This fully designed report consolidates Azerbaijan Technological University’s partnership evidence for SDG 17 into a submission-ready narrative aligned with QS Sustainability expectations. It integrates institutional strategy, chronological evidence analysis, KPI dashboards, charts, and a complete annex of evidence links.

Ganja, Azerbaijan | 2026 submission cycle

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Structured around executive analysis, chronological evidence sections, and annexes

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Executive Summary

High-level narrative aligned with QS Sustainability expectations

Azerbaijan Technological University demonstrates a broad, institutionalized, and evidence-rich approach to Sustainable Development Goal 17 through formal international partnerships, multilateral project cooperation, university–industry linkages, government engagement, and community-oriented collaboration. Across the 2025 reporting period, the university moved beyond isolated events and developed a partnership ecosystem linked to academic delivery, research development, laboratory infrastructure, student employability, internationalization, digital transformation, and public accountability.

From a QS Sustainability perspective, the significance of ATU’s SDG 17 profile lies not only in the number of collaborations documented, but in the diversity of stakeholders involved, the continuity of engagement across the year, and the measurable outputs attached to those relationships. The evidence shows that partnerships generated concrete results such as dual degree arrangements, staff and student mobility pathways, EU project laboratories, innovation competitions, government-supported training, corporate-funded facilities, employment opportunities for graduates, and platforms for regional and international scientific exchange.

A major institutional strength evident in this report is ATU’s ability to operate simultaneously across multiple levels of partnership. At the international level, the university expanded ties with institutions in Israel, Hungary, Romania, Poland, Spain, France, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan. At the national level, it deepened engagement with public agencies, research institutes, and enterprises. At the local and regional level, it built practice-oriented collaborations that directly affected students, staff, and community stakeholders. This layered approach is highly compatible with the QS understanding of partnership-driven sustainability impact.

The report also demonstrates that SDG 17 at ATU functions as an enabling framework for other goals. Partnerships supported quality education, innovation, employability, digital inclusion, environmental awareness, transparency, and social resilience. In this sense, SDG 17 is not treated as a narrow category limited to memoranda or ceremonial cooperation. Instead, it operates as a strategic mechanism through which the university mobilizes resources, expertise, legitimacy, and external networks in support of sustainable development.

21+

countries represented across academic and scientific interaction

70+

institutional partners across academia, government, and industry

649

accepted papers at the flagship international conference

40+

organizations involved in the Career Festival ecosystem

400+

job opportunities available through employer engagement

100+

international students reported by late 2025

ATU SDG 17 | Partnership Highlights

A snapshot of ATU's partnership-driven sustainability ecosystem in 2025

21

Countries engaged

Academic and scientific interaction reported across Europe, Asia, and beyond

70

Institutional partners

Universities, enterprises, government actors, and innovation organizations

649

Accepted papers

International conference output demonstrating research connectivity

400

Jobs advertised

Employment pathways made available through partner engagement

100

International students

Globalization of the student body by late 2025

Infographic 1. Partnership highlights synthesised from the 2025 SDG 17 evidence portfolio.

Methodology and Reporting Logic

Evidence selection, analytical framing, and compatibility with QS Sustainability

This report uses a structured evidence-based methodology that organizes ATU’s 2025 partnership activities into four chronological blocks and several thematic dimensions. The chronological blocks correspond to January–February 2025, March–April 2025, May–June 2025, and July–December 2025. The thematic dimensions include internationalization, multilateral project cooperation, industry collaboration, government and civil society engagement, innovation ecosystem development, institutional governance, and digital systems integration.

The source base consists of official university news items and social media posts supplied for the present SDG 17 portfolio. Each evidence item was interpreted not merely at the descriptive level, but through an analytical lens consistent with QS Sustainability expectations. In practical terms, this means that every activity was reviewed according to the type of stakeholder involved, the depth of cooperation, the likely duration and institutional significance of the partnership, the outputs generated, and the likely contribution to sustainable development at university and societal level.

A distinction has been made between strong, core, and supporting SDG 17 evidence. Core evidence refers to formal institutional agreements, large-scale multi-stakeholder platforms, externally funded partnership projects, and collaborations that generated visible structural outcomes such as new educational programs, laboratories, or large employment interfaces. Supporting evidence includes seminars, webinars, site visits, and network activities that may not in themselves constitute long-term partnerships but nonetheless strengthen the university’s collaboration capacity and international profile.

The report also incorporates KPI dashboards developed from the evidence set. These indicators should be interpreted as portfolio metrics designed to communicate scale and breadth rather than as audited institutional statistics. They nonetheless provide a useful visual representation of the magnitude, diversity, and operational direction of ATU’s SDG 17 implementation.

Analytical lens	Description	Relevance to QS Sustainability
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Analytical lens	Description	Relevance to QS Sustainability
Stakeholder diversity	How many sectors are represented in the partnership ecosystem	Shows multi-level collaboration rather than a narrow, single-sector network
Institutional depth	Whether cooperation is symbolic, project-based, or structurally embedded	Distinguishes ceremonial engagement from sustained strategic partnership
Output orientation	Whether partnership generated mobility, labs, internships, research, or training	Connects evidence to measurable deliverables and outcomes
Sustainability spillover	Whether SDG 17 activity also supports SDGs 4, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, or 16	Demonstrates enabling role of partnerships across the SDG agenda
Continuity and scaling	Whether cooperation is repeated, expanded, or institutionalized over time	Captures maturity and long-term strategic value

Institutional Profile and Partnership Strategy

Why SDG 17 is central to ATU’s development model

ATU’s partnership strategy in 2025 reflects the profile of a technical university seeking to combine academic modernization with regional relevance and global engagement. The evidence throughout the year shows an institution that uses cooperation not as a peripheral function, but as a mechanism to develop programs, improve laboratories, connect students with employers, strengthen scientific visibility, and expand its international standing. The partnership agenda spans traditional academic cooperation, applied industrial linkages, joint events with government and civil society organizations, and externally supported digital and innovation infrastructure.

This institutional orientation is particularly important in the context of QS Sustainability because it highlights the interdependence between partnership and capacity. A university’s sustainability

profile is stronger when partnerships are not isolated but linked to curriculum quality, research performance, inclusion, student support, and governance transparency. ATU's 2025 evidence reveals precisely this type of interconnected ecosystem. International academic ties supported dual degrees and mobility, company partnerships funded laboratories and employability initiatives, public institutions contributed to transparency, digital access, and civic education, and multi-stakeholder platforms helped align the university with wider national and regional development agendas.

Taken together, the evidence suggests that SDG 17 at ATU is best understood as an institutional operating principle rather than a discrete activity category. The university's capacity to pursue innovation, applied learning, and global visibility depends heavily on the density and quality of its collaborations. Accordingly, the report treats partnership as the enabling infrastructure through which much of the university's broader sustainability mission is carried out.

Partnership Portfolio by Stakeholder Group

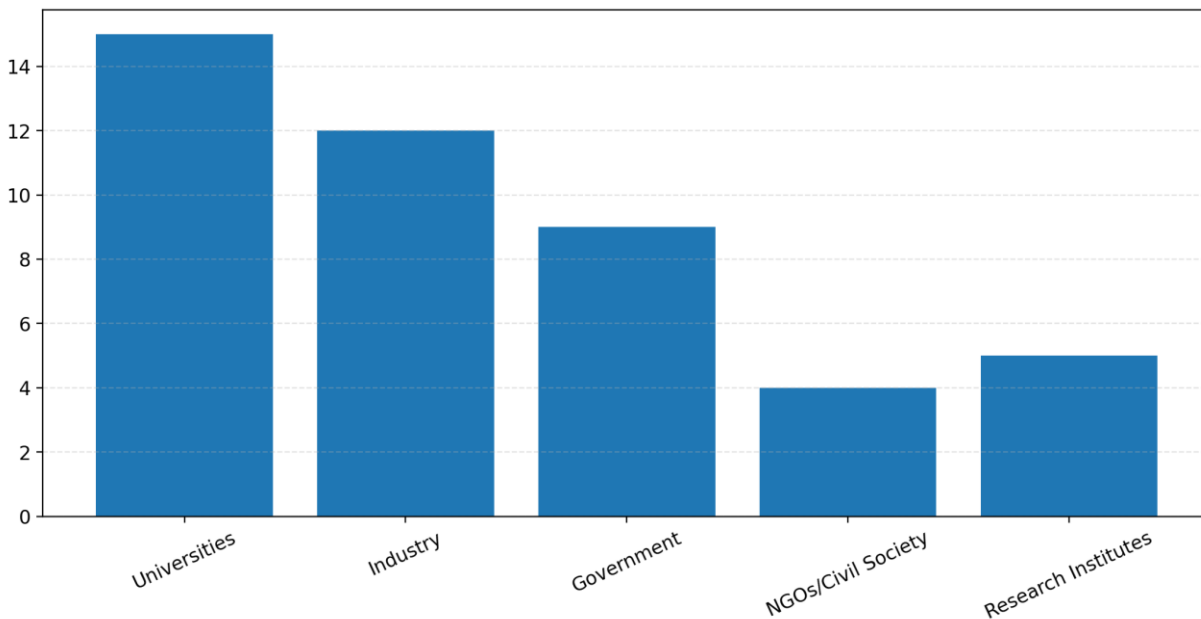


Figure 1. Partnership portfolio by stakeholder group based on the 2025 SDG 17 evidence base.

Part I. January–February 2025

Foundation phase of the 2025 partnership portfolio

The first two months of 2025 established a strong baseline for ATU’s SDG 17 performance. The evidence from this period is particularly important because it shows a rapid concentration of formal international agreements, consortium-based project activity, cross-border scientific engagement, and university–industry cooperation. In other words, the year began not with isolated internal events but with multiple outward-looking initiatives that immediately positioned partnership at the center of the university’s agenda.

From a reporting perspective, January–February is one of the strongest segments of the annual evidence base because many of the activities documented in this period have structural significance. They include memoranda with foreign universities, an EU-funded project coordination meeting, a dual degree model, an externally supported laboratory, and a detailed industry action plan. These are not short-lived symbolic contacts. They represent institutional commitments that can potentially shape teaching, research, infrastructure, and international profile over the medium and long term.

7 January 2025 — Cooperation with Holon Institute of Technology (Israel)

The memorandum with the Holon Institute of Technology constitutes a high-value SDG 17 item because it formalizes a bilateral international academic relationship. Its importance lies in the fact that the agreement explicitly includes academic and administrative staff exchange, student mobility, and joint scientific research, thereby covering the core functions of an internationally engaged university.

For QS Sustainability, this cooperation is valuable because it evidences formalized transnational partnership rather than one-off communication. It broadens ATU’s international network, supports future joint outputs, and strengthens the credibility of the university’s internationalization strategy by linking it to mobility and research activity.

Partnership outputs	Description
Mobility	Framework for staff and student exchange
Research	Basis for joint scientific collaboration
Institutional value	Strengthens ATU’s international academic footprint

13 January 2025 — First meeting within the OPTIFY project

ATU’s participation in the OPTIFY project is highly relevant to SDG 17 because it situates the university within an EU-funded, multi-country, capacity-building consortium. The initiative is partnership-intensive by design, as it relies on shared expertise, coordinated implementation, academic staff training in Europe, and collaborative program development.

This project demonstrates the strongest form of multilateral cooperation: partnership linked to funding, curriculum creation, and laboratory development. It therefore offers high-value evidence for QS in terms of knowledge transfer, international project cooperation, and institutional capacity strengthening through external networks.

Partnership outputs	Description
Funding logic	EU-supported collaborative framework
Academic output	Development of a new master’s program
Capacity building	Training and laboratory modernization

15 January 2025 — Dual degree partnership with the University of Sopron (Hungary)

The dual degree arrangement with the University of Sopron is a strategically significant SDG 17 case because it translates international partnership directly into educational architecture. Rather than limiting cooperation to exchange or ceremonial agreement, the initiative creates a shared academic pathway that is jointly delivered and internationally recognized.

In QS terms, dual degree evidence is particularly persuasive because it combines institutional trust, curriculum coordination, and student mobility in a single model. It signals a deep level of inter-university cooperation and reflects ATU’s intention to embed global partnership in teaching practice.

Partnership outputs	Description
Educational integration	Shared delivery model across two universities
Mobility	Students spend semesters at both institutions

Partnership outputs	Description
International value	Dual qualification enhances global relevance

18 January 2025 — PLMO 2025 co-organization

ATU’s role as co-organizer of the international conference on logistics and management problems in the East–West Transport Corridor demonstrates a robust form of academic diplomacy. Co-organization implies responsibility, visibility, and networked institutional participation rather than passive attendance.

The evidence is especially relevant for SDG 17 because it shows ATU convening or co-convening a multi-stakeholder scientific platform that includes foreign universities, research institutes, and government-linked actors. This strengthens its profile as a node in transnational research and dialogue networks.

Partnership outputs	Description
Scientific collaboration	Cross-border conference platform
Institutional networking	Engagement with universities and public actors
Visibility	Raises ATU’s profile in international academic circuits

22 January 2025 — Expansion of relations with AzerGold CJSC

This case is a strong example of structured university–industry partnership. The joint action plan extends beyond general cooperation language and includes concrete components such as internships, curriculum alignment, collaborative research, guest teaching, and student exposure to industrial facilities.

For QS Sustainability, this is valuable because it shows industry engagement as a mechanism for applied learning, employability, and research relevance. It reflects a partnership model in which the private sector is not external to the university mission but actively integrated into educational and innovation processes.

Partnership outputs	Description
Employability	Internship and practical learning pathways
Academic relevance	Curriculum alignment with sectoral needs
Research	Potential for joint projects and expert engagement

6–7 February 2025 — Cooperation and operationalization with Technical University of Iași (Romania)

The MoU with the Technical University of Iași and the subsequent visit to its material and technical base together represent both formalization and operationalization of international partnership. The first step establishes the framework; the second demonstrates active movement toward practical collaboration.

This pairing is analytically important because many institutional partnerships remain at a declarative level. Here, however, the evidence shows immediate follow-up, suggesting that the cooperation is intended to become functional rather than symbolic. For SDG 17 reporting, this strengthens claims of continuity and seriousness.

Partnership outputs	Description
Formal basis	MoU covering exchange and research
Operational follow-up	Institutional visit and exploration of laboratories
Strategic effect	Builds confidence for future joint projects

11 February 2025 — Participation in international multidisciplinary congress in France

Although participation in a congress is not equivalent to a formal institutional agreement, it is still useful SDG 17 evidence because it demonstrates ATU’s presence in international scientific exchange spaces involving scholars from multiple countries.

The relevance of this item lies in the way it enlarges research networks and raises visibility. Such participation can strengthen future collaboration, expose staff to new methods and agendas, and contribute to the outward orientation expected in a partnership-rich university environment.

Partnership outputs	Description
Scientific networking	Engagement with researchers from ten countries
Visibility	International representation of ATU staff
Knowledge exchange	Participation in cross-border academic discussion

18 February 2025 — REFRESH laboratory launched at ATU

The establishment of a new laboratory through the REFRESH project is a particularly strong SDG 17 example because it demonstrates how partnership can produce tangible infrastructure. The project is implemented through inter-institutional collaboration and external support, converting cooperation into a physical asset that benefits teaching and research.

This form of evidence is highly persuasive for QS because it shows partnership outcomes that are durable, visible, and capacity-enhancing. It also reinforces the principle that effective collaboration is not only dialogic but also productive in terms of institutional modernization.

Partnership outputs	Description
Infrastructure	Laboratory established through partnership project
Inter-institutional value	Coordination with UNEC and project consortium
Educational impact	Supports improved learning and research environment

18 February 2025 — Online meeting with PashaPay LLC and regional career centers

This initiative reflects an emerging regional partnership model focused on employability and student support. It is analytically important because it brings together a private company, multiple universities, and a public fund around student development and project coordination.

The multi-stakeholder nature of the event makes it relevant to SDG 17 even though it is not a full institutional agreement. It demonstrates networked problem solving and shared commitment to practical outcomes in the higher education ecosystem.

Partnership outputs	Description
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Partnership outputs	Description
Stakeholders	Private sector, universities, and public support structures
Focus	Career development and coordinated student support
Regional value	Strengthens inter-university collaboration around employability

20 February 2025 — Cooperation with the University of Siedlce (Poland) and 24 February webinar with Harvard researcher

The cooperation agreement with the University of Siedlce is a direct and formal international partnership, while the webinar featuring a Harvard researcher serves as complementary evidence of global academic networking and knowledge exchange. Together, these items show both institutional and intellectual dimensions of ATU’s partnership ecosystem.

In QS terms, the memorandum demonstrates structured collaboration in mobility and research, whereas the webinar signals the university’s capacity to attract and engage international expertise. This combined evidence suggests a partnership environment that is both formalized and academically active.

Partnership outputs	Description
MoU impact	Exchange and joint scientific research
Academic networking	International expert contribution through webinar
Strategic implication	Broadens both institutional and knowledge partnerships

Volume of SDG 17 Partnership Evidence by Reporting Period

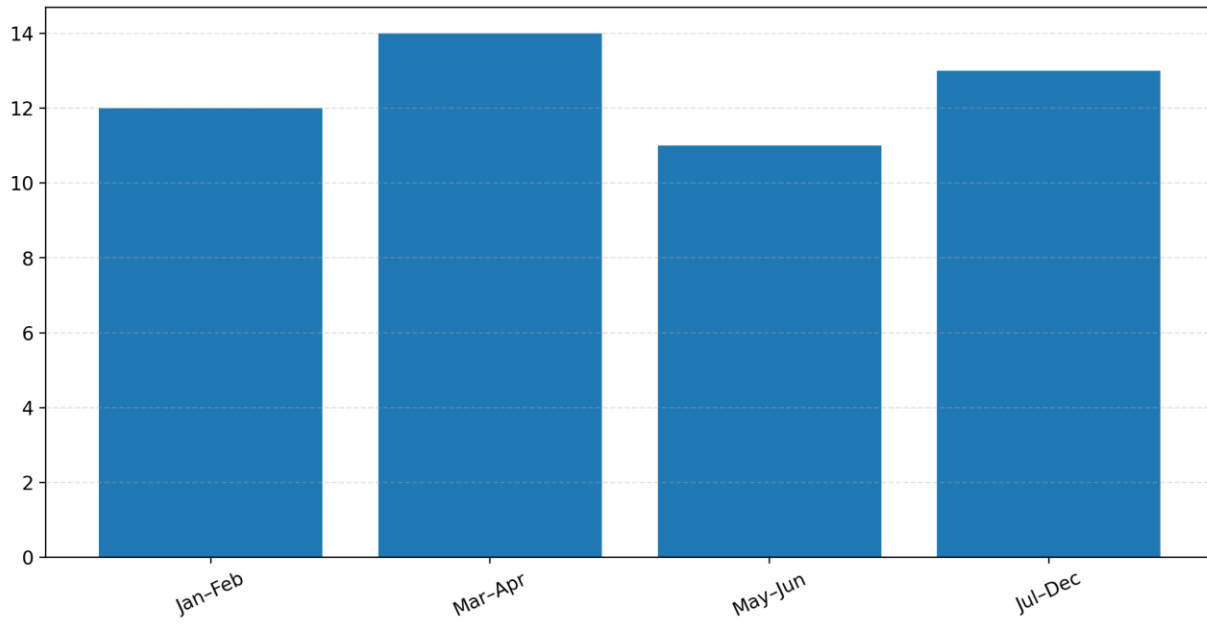


Figure 2. Volume of SDG 17 evidence by reporting period.

Part II. March–April 2025

Diversification of partnerships and growth of multi-sector collaboration

The March–April period is characterized by diversification. Whereas January–February emphasized international agreements and project-based cooperation, March–April shows ATU extending its partnership ecosystem into innovation platforms, public bodies, research institutes, environmental institutions, and private sector actors concerned with digital access, sustainability, and practice-based education.

This period is particularly relevant for QS because it demonstrates that the university’s understanding of SDG 17 is broad and ecosystem-oriented. The evidence is not confined to traditional academic cooperation. Instead, it illustrates a quadruple-helix environment in which university actors collaborate with government, industry, civil society, and innovation-support institutions.

1 March 2025 — 'Training to Career – 2' information day with Synergia Academy and Tabia Group

This initiative shows ATU participating in a partnership model that connects education, training, and employment pathways. Although not an international agreement, it is a meaningful SDG 17 case because it demonstrates functional collaboration between the university and private-sector actors oriented toward workforce development.

The relevance lies in the project’s practical orientation. It uses partnership as an instrument to improve transition from education to employment, a dimension that enhances ATU’s contribution to student opportunity and graduate readiness.

Partnership outputs	Description
Private-sector linkage	Direct engagement with external training and hospitality actors
Student benefit	Pathway from training to employment
QS significance	Partnership contributes to employability outcomes

5 March 2025 — Joint event with the Western Azerbaijan Community

The collaboration with a community organization broadens the social base of ATU’s partnership ecosystem. It is relevant because it demonstrates that the university works not only with firms and academic institutions but also with public-facing and civic organizations.

For QS Sustainability, such evidence is useful because it positions the university as a participant in broader community dialogue and social partnership. This increases the institutional scope of SDG 17 beyond academic or economic activity.

Partnership outputs	Description
Civil society engagement	Partnership with a public/community organization
Institutional reach	Expands ATU’s societal partnership profile
Supporting value	Useful supplementary evidence of civic collaboration

6 March 2025 — GreenTech II competition and partner expansion

GreenTech II is one of the strongest SDG 17 items in the entire March–April block. Its value lies in the breadth of the stakeholder coalition: government-linked innovation bodies, youth-focused organizations, and numerous private companies. This is not merely sponsorship; it is a visible innovation ecosystem with the university as a convening platform.

The initiative is highly compatible with QS expectations because it reflects multi-actor engagement in entrepreneurship, technology, and youth innovation. It also suggests that ATU can mobilize partnerships not only around formal agreements but around national innovation platforms with scalable impact.

Partnership outputs	Description
Stakeholder breadth	Government, private companies, youth and innovation actors
Innovation logic	Supports startup culture and applied problem solving
Strategic value	Illustrates quadruple-helix partnership model

14 March 2025 — Cooperation meeting with Toyota Ganja Center

This case is a strong example of corporate–academic partnership with sustainability relevance. The discussion of joint training, internships, sustainability awareness, and future project design suggests that the relationship is oriented toward practical outcomes rather than symbolic association.

Its SDG 17 importance is magnified by the link to wider themes such as environmentally informed innovation and skill development. It therefore represents a cross-SDG case where partnership functions as an enabler of sustainable industrial and educational outcomes.

Partnership outputs	Description
Internships	Potential practical pathways for students
Training	Prospective sustainability-related educational cooperation
Industry interface	Builds a structured relationship with a major corporate actor

17 March 2025 — Cooperation with Mingachevir Textile LLC

The site visit and cooperation with Mingachevir Textile LLC reflects practice-oriented industry engagement. While its direct SDG 17 weight is moderate, it remains useful because it demonstrates that the university actively connects students and staff to production environments and sector expertise.

In analytical terms, it expands the range of industries with which ATU collaborates, supporting the claim that the university’s partnership portfolio is diversified rather than concentrated in one field.

Partnership outputs	Description
Knowledge exchange	Exposure to industrial processes and specialists
Applied learning	Supports practical understanding of the textile sector
Portfolio value	Adds sectoral diversity to the partnership ecosystem

2 April 2025 — Cooperation with Göygöl National Park

The partnership with a public environmental institution is an important example of cross-sector sustainability cooperation. It shows ATU collaborating with an authority whose primary mandate concerns environmental stewardship, thereby extending the university's partnership logic into ecological awareness and public environmental education.

This kind of evidence is valuable because it reveals that partnerships at ATU are not restricted to economic or academic advantage, but also support sustainability literacy, environmental engagement, and public institutional cooperation.

Partnership outputs	Description
Public-sector collaboration	Engagement with a governmental environmental institution
Educational dimension	Supports awareness and learning around ecology and biodiversity
Sustainability relevance	Links partnership to environmental responsibility

6 April 2025 — Cooperation with Bakcell and Education Development Fund

This is a strong SDG 17 case because it combines a private telecommunications company, an educational development fund, and the university around the issue of digital inclusion. Partnerships that widen access to connectivity and educational opportunity are especially relevant in a sustainability framework.

For QS, the importance lies in the practical societal effect of collaboration. Rather than remaining at the level of policy rhetoric, the partnership responds to a concrete need and helps reduce barriers to participation in education.

Partnership outputs	Description
Public-private partnership	Telecom actor and education fund working with the university
Student support	Improved digital access and educational equity

Partnership outputs	Description
Impact logic	Partnership addresses a material access challenge

10 April 2025 — Joint seminar with Plant Protection and Technical Plants Research Institute

The seminar with a national research institute represents academic–research institutional partnership in an applied field. It is relevant because it connects ATU to external expertise and demonstrates knowledge exchange across institutional boundaries.

This evidence is useful for QS because it supports the idea that the university’s partnership environment includes not just teaching-focused actors but also specialized research institutions capable of contributing to applied scientific development.

Partnership outputs	Description
Research exchange	Collaboration with an external scientific institute
Applied focus	Agricultural and technical knowledge-sharing
Institutional value	Broadens the research dimension of SDG 17 evidence

15 April 2025 — Cybersecurity Center established with BP support

The BP-supported cybersecurity center is among the most important SDG 17 items in the annual portfolio. It translates partnership into physical infrastructure, industry-informed learning, and strategic future-oriented skills development. The involvement of a major global company significantly raises the profile and strategic value of the initiative.

Such evidence is particularly strong for QS because it combines corporate partnership, capacity building, infrastructure development, and educational modernization in a single case. It also indicates trust and investment from external stakeholders in the university’s academic environment.

Partnership outputs	Description
Infrastructure	New center and training environment created with corporate

Partnership outputs	Description
	support
Skills agenda	Strengthens cybersecurity education and workforce readiness
Strategic significance	Illustrates deep industry engagement with institutional capacity-building

17 April 2025 — GreenTech II final stage; 18 and 23 April Clarivate partnerships; 27 April ASAN Service; 30 April seminar with Israeli scientists

The second half of April confirms the maturity and breadth of ATU’s partnership model. GreenTech II culminated as a large-scale multi-university innovation platform involving 30 universities and 80 teams. Clarivate-related webinars and seminars, organized in partnership with the State Agency for Science and Higher Education, show capacity-building collaboration involving a global knowledge company and national public authority. Cooperation with ASAN Service adds a public-sector innovation dimension, while the seminar with Israeli scientists demonstrates continuity in ATU’s international partnership with the Holon Institute of Technology.

Collectively, these activities show that ATU’s SDG 17 profile is not dependent on one type of actor or one format of cooperation. The university can host innovation competitions, participate in research capacity-building, engage public institutions, and sustain international academic exchange. This breadth is particularly advantageous in a benchmarking context because it evidences a resilient and multifunctional partnership ecosystem.

Partnership outputs	Description
Scale	30 universities and 80 teams in GreenTech II
Research capacity	Clarivate and State Agency cooperation
Public innovation	ASAN Service engagement
International continuity	Follow-up academic exchange with Israeli scientists

Partnership Outputs by Functional Area

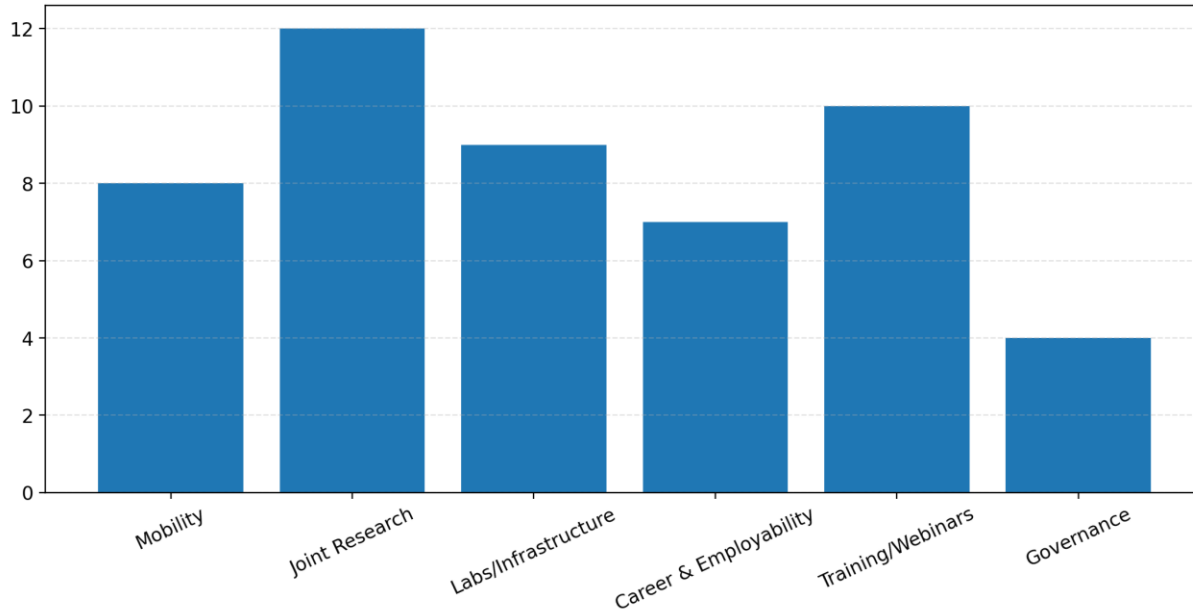


Figure 3. Distribution of partnership outputs by functional area.

Infographic Summary Page

Visual synthesis of the ATU SDG 17 implementation model

ATU SDG 17 | Partnership Model

Five mutually reinforcing dimensions of ATU's SDG 17 implementation framework

1

Internationalization

Formal agreements, dual degree models, mobility, and academic exchange

2

Industry linkage

Joint laboratories, internships, applied research, and scholarships

3

Government cooperation

Public service, transparency, digital systems, and civic education

4

Innovation ecosystem

Startup competitions, cybersecurity, AI, and technology transfer

5

Societal impact

Inclusive development, transparency, and regional capacity building

Infographic 2. Five reinforcing dimensions of ATU's partnership-driven development model.

The visual model above summarizes the central analytical conclusion of this report: ATU's SDG 17 performance is strongest when partnership is treated as an institutional system. Internationalization, industry linkage, government cooperation, innovation activity, and societal impact mutually reinforce one another. This systemic view is essential for QS positioning because it shows that collaboration is embedded in the university's operating logic.

Part III. May–June 2025

Scale, visibility, and consolidation of partnership impact

The May–June period is marked by scale. Several of the most visible and numerically significant partnership activities of the year occur during this block, including the Career Festival, the high-level AI and banking webinar with the University of Granada and the International Bank of Azerbaijan, the Nar training partnership, and the major international scientific-practical conference hosted by ATU. These activities demonstrate that ATU is capable not only of forming partnerships but also of converting them into large public-facing platforms with measurable outputs.

This period is especially important for QS Sustainability because it provides evidence of both breadth and intensity. The university is simultaneously engaging international academic actors, large domestic employers, research communities, telecommunications companies, ministries, and regional higher education partners. The cumulative effect is to portray a university that has become an active platform for cooperation rather than a passive beneficiary of external relationships.

May 2025 — Career Festival initiative

The Career Festival stands out as a flagship SDG 17 case because it institutionalizes structured engagement between students and the labor market. The combination of a job fair, career trainings, and a forum involving more than forty organizations transformed partnership into a direct employability mechanism.

Its importance for QS lies in the measurable scale of its outputs: more than 750 graduating students engaged and more than 400 job opportunities offered. Such figures allow partnership evidence to be narrated not only qualitatively but quantitatively. This supports the argument that ATU’s partner network produces tangible student outcomes rather than symbolic interaction alone.

Partnership outputs	Description
Scale	750+ graduating students and 40+ organizations
Outcome	400+ employment opportunities
Institutional effect	Employer engagement becomes a recurring university platform

2 May 2025 — Global AI and banking webinar with University of Granada and International Bank of Azerbaijan

This webinar is an analytically rich case because it combines international academic cooperation with private-sector application. The partnership connects a Spanish university, a national bank, and ATU around a topic of high contemporary relevance: artificial intelligence and big data in finance.

For QS Sustainability, the item demonstrates transnational knowledge exchange that is both research-informed and practice-oriented. It shows the university acting as a bridge between academic expertise and real-sector demand, a pattern that is increasingly valuable in sustainability and innovation benchmarking.

Partnership outputs	Description
Academic link	Collaboration with the University of Granada
Industry link	Engagement with the International Bank of Azerbaijan
Knowledge transfer	Applies global expertise to practical sectoral questions

2 May 2025 — Nar–ATU strategic training partnership

The Nar partnership reflects a mature model of industry-academia engagement that integrates students and staff into a practical technological learning environment. Because it builds on an existing laboratory relationship, the initiative also suggests continuity and scaling rather than episodic contact.

This case is important because it connects partnership with curriculum relevance, faculty upskilling, and digital workforce preparation. It therefore supports the claim that external cooperation contributes directly to institutional capacity and graduate readiness.

Partnership outputs	Description
Training	Practical exposure to mobile communication systems
Staff development	Faculty upskilling in laboratory-based environments

Partnership outputs	Description
Industry relevance	Alignment with real-world technological practice

6–7 May 2025 — International Scientific-Practical Conference on the Fourth Industrial Revolution

This conference is arguably the single strongest quantitative item in the full SDG 17 portfolio. With 649 accepted papers, participation from 21 countries, 53 foreign universities, 17 local universities, 10 research institutes, 4 enterprises, and 2 government institutions, it constitutes a major international multi-stakeholder knowledge platform.

From a QS standpoint, the conference is highly valuable because it demonstrates global research connectivity, convening power, and interdisciplinary collaboration. It positions ATU not merely as a participant in external networks, but as a host institution capable of bringing those networks together around a shared scientific agenda.

Partnership outputs	Description
Papers	649 accepted scientific papers
International reach	21 participating countries
Institutional density	Universities, institutes, enterprises, and government actors represented

May 2025 — Special scientific sessions with Holon Institute of Technology researchers

These sessions deepen the significance of the earlier January partnership with the Israeli institution by showing continuity and active implementation. The thematic focus on IoT, AI, and cultural heritage technologies also indicates that the cooperation is intellectually substantive.

Continuity matters in sustainability reporting because it helps distinguish enduring partnership from one-off agreement making. By revisiting the relationship through dedicated scientific engagement, ATU shows that the bilateral tie is being translated into actual academic interaction.

Partnership outputs	Description
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Partnership outputs	Description
Continuity	Operational follow-up to a formal January agreement
Research orientation	Technology-focused scientific exchange
Strategic signal	Sustained bilateral collaboration with international partner

6 May 2025 — Milla plant collaboration

The Milla cooperation provides a strong example of how industrial partnership can support student practice, joint R&D, and technology-focused innovation. The plant's scale also adds credibility to the collaboration, indicating that ATU is working with substantial production actors rather than only small or symbolic partners.

For QS, such evidence is valuable because it links partnership with applied learning and industrial innovation. It supports ATU's image as a university able to connect education and research to the realities of production and enterprise development.

Partnership outputs	Description
Applied learning	Supports internships and exposure to industrial processes
Research possibility	Framework for joint R&D
Sector relevance	Engagement with a large-scale food industry actor

8 May 2025 — Modern classroom development and 13–16 May governance and rights-based cooperation

The introduction of specialized classrooms reflects partnership-supported educational infrastructure, while cooperation with the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations, and the Ombudsman office expands the partnership model into governance, rights awareness, and institutional resilience.

This combination is important because it illustrates that ATU's partnership ecosystem is not limited to economic or research productivity. It also supports civic learning, safety awareness, and values-oriented engagement. That breadth strengthens the university's sustainability narrative.

Partnership outputs	Description
Infrastructure	Improved learning environment with stakeholder support
Government cooperation	Joint educational activities with public institutions
Social value	Rights awareness and civic dialogue through partnership

May 2025 — Uzbekistan cooperation agreements and international forums

The agreements with Fergana State University, Andijan State University, and Namangan State Technical University substantially enlarge ATU's regional international footprint. Participation in related forums and exhibitions reinforces this by combining agreement-making with visibility and networking.

These activities are strategically useful because they demonstrate geographic diversification and an ability to form cluster partnerships rather than one-off bilateral ties. They support the image of ATU as a university seeking sustained regional integration in the wider Eurasian higher education space.

Partnership outputs	Description
Regional expansion	Three cooperation agreements with Uzbek universities
Mobility and joint programs	Prospects for exchange and shared academic development
Visibility	Participation in forums and exhibitions increases institutional reach

May–June 2025 — IDIA cybersecurity cooperation, THE Impact Rankings, and industry-funded scholarships

The partnership with the Innovation and Digital Development Agency contributes to curriculum modernization and cybersecurity capacity. Participation in THE Impact Rankings adds reputational validation that may itself support future partnerships. The scholarship support from Khazri TN LLC, alongside previous industry partners, demonstrates that private-sector cooperation extends into student financial support.

Together, these cases show that ATU’s SDG 17 portfolio is not limited to one dimension of institutional life. Partnerships affect academic programs, reputation, and student incentives. This comprehensive impact strengthens the case for partnership as a university-wide development mechanism.

Partnership outputs	Description
Curriculum modernization	Cybersecurity-focused cooperation with a national innovation agency
Reputational leverage	International rankings visibility
Student support	Industry-funded scholarships broaden partnership benefits

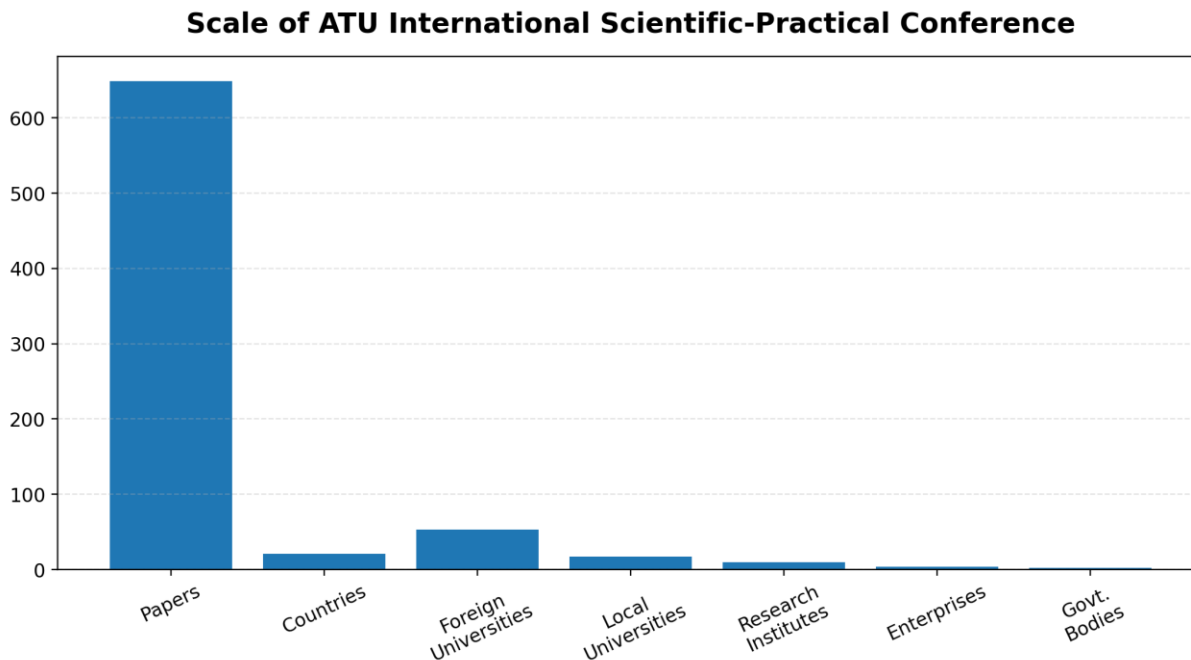


Figure 4. Scale of the flagship international scientific-practical conference hosted by ATU.

Selected Partnership Impact Metrics

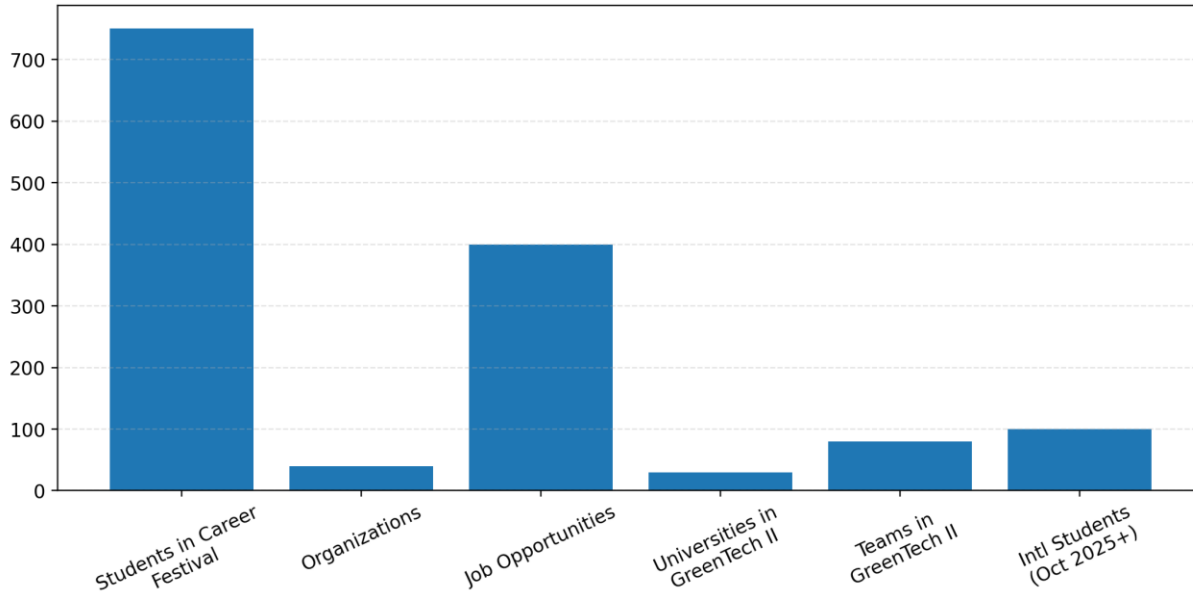


Figure 5. Selected partnership impact metrics drawn from major 2025 initiatives.

Part IV. July–December 2025

System-wide partnerships, governance ecosystems, and global integration

The July–December period shows the maturation of ATU’s SDG 17 implementation. Earlier parts of the year established formal partnerships, projects, and external platforms; the second half increasingly demonstrates institutional systems. Governance, digital transformation, industrial branch models, regional integration, international student growth, innovation showcase events, and social support mechanisms all appear in this period. As a result, SDG 17 becomes more clearly visible as an organizing principle of the university’s internal and external development.

In reporting terms, this section is crucial because it shows that partnerships at ATU are not only outward-facing, but are also embedded in the institution’s governance architecture and operating environment. This type of evidence tends to be particularly compelling in international benchmarking because it indicates maturity, continuity, and the capacity to sustain collaboration over time.

1 and 3 July 2025 — Public Control Council and Open Door examination transparency initiative

These two items together represent one of the most innovative governance-related strands of the SDG 17 portfolio. The Public Control Council introduces external stakeholder participation into examination oversight, while the Open Door model allows parents and other stakeholders to observe assessment processes in real time.

Although strongly linked to SDG 16, they are also highly relevant to SDG 17 because they demonstrate partnership in governance. Public trust is built not only through internal procedures but through structured engagement with external constituencies. For QS, this indicates institutional openness, accountability, and participatory culture.

Partnership outputs	Description
Governance partnership	External stakeholders involved in oversight
Transparency	Real-time observation and feedback channels
Institutional	Builds public trust and accountability

Partnership outputs	Description
significance	

July and September 2025 — Scientific Council as strategic partnership and decision platform

The Scientific Council meetings demonstrate internal institutional coordination aligned with external standards, accreditation needs, and quality assurance processes. Though not a partnership in the narrow sense, they are relevant because they show how external expectations and institutional planning intersect.

This evidence supports the interpretation that ATU’s partnerships are not detached from governance. Instead, cooperation with accreditation logic, quality frameworks, and strategic planning processes becomes part of an institutional ecosystem that enables sustainable development.

Partnership outputs	Description
Strategic planning	Council addresses reform, accreditation, and academic management
Quality linkage	Internal decisions connected to external standards
System effect	Partnership agendas are embedded in governance structures

September 2025 — Koderia electronic management system with SEKOP LLC

The Koderia system is a strong SDG 17 case because it links digital transformation to partnership. Implemented with an external company, the platform supports learning management, digital assessment, communication, and analytics. This is a clear example of partnership producing a foundational institutional system.

Its QS value lies in the way it enhances efficiency, transparency, and scalability. Partnerships that improve the university’s internal operating capacity are important because they strengthen long-term resilience and the quality of service delivery to students and staff.

Partnership outputs	Description
---------------------	-------------

Partnership outputs	Description
Digital infrastructure	Integrated LMS and management system
External collaboration	Partnership with SEKOP LLC
Institutional benefit	Supports analytics, communication, and academic administration

September 2025 — Laboratory, classroom, and industrial branch partnerships

The expansion of laboratories and specialized classrooms through collaboration with BP, Coca-Cola, Temas Regional Development Public Union, and BuildX provides tangible evidence of infrastructure partnerships. The industrial branch model at Ganja Instrumentation Factory goes further by embedding part of the educational process directly in an enterprise setting.

These cases are important because they shift partnership from an external relation into a co-produced learning environment. For QS, the combination of infrastructure, applied training, and enterprise-based education is particularly strong because it speaks to employability, innovation, and institutional responsiveness.

Partnership outputs	Description
Co-developed facilities	Labs and classrooms established with stakeholder support
Applied model	Industrial branch enables real-time production-linked learning
Graduate readiness	Strengthens practical skills and workplace exposure

October 2025 — International student growth and Caspian regional integration

The milestone of surpassing one hundred international students is significant because it shows that partnership and internationalization are translating into a more global student body. Participation in the Caspian Countries Universities Association and the memorandum with Atyrau University further deepen regional academic integration.

This evidence is valuable because it demonstrates both input and network effects. International students reflect attractiveness and openness, while regional associations and bilateral agreements create channels for future cooperation, research, and mobility.

Partnership outputs	Description
Internationalization	Growth in international student population
Regional network	Participation in Caspian university association
Formal expansion	Partnership with Atyrau University in Kazakhstan

October and December 2025 — ATU-Car project and international agro-food forum participation

The AI-based smart electric vehicle project indicates a partnership-oriented innovation culture in which applied technology, student creativity, and broader sustainability themes intersect. Participation in the international agro-food forum adds another layer by connecting the university to investors, companies, and government bodies around innovation visibility.

These cases demonstrate that partnership at ATU also functions through platforms of exhibition, innovation diplomacy, and public demonstration. This supports the claim that the university can translate partnership into innovation narratives with external relevance.

Partnership outputs	Description
Innovation ecosystem	Student-led smart technology development
External visibility	Forum participation with investors and enterprises
Strategic relevance	Strengthens B2B and research collaboration potential

September–December 2025 — Social partnerships, inclusion, and academic incentives

Activities related to human rights awareness, gender equality, anti-trafficking education, psychological services, Welcome Day orientation, performance-based salary systems, and international ranking visibility all contribute to the broad institutional environment in which partnerships operate. Some of these involve NGOs and public institutions directly, while others reflect the internal incentives that make external collaboration more effective.

This evidence matters because sustainable partnership ecosystems require internal readiness, social trust, and institutional quality. By connecting social support, academic incentives, and

public engagement, ATU demonstrates that its partnership agenda is supported by a coherent internal environment rather than existing in isolation.

Partnership outputs	Description
Inclusive development	Cooperation with NGOs and public institutions on social issues
Well-being	Psychological services and orientation support
Institutional competitiveness	Performance incentives and rankings visibility enhance partnership attractiveness

Geographic Spread of Partnership Engagement

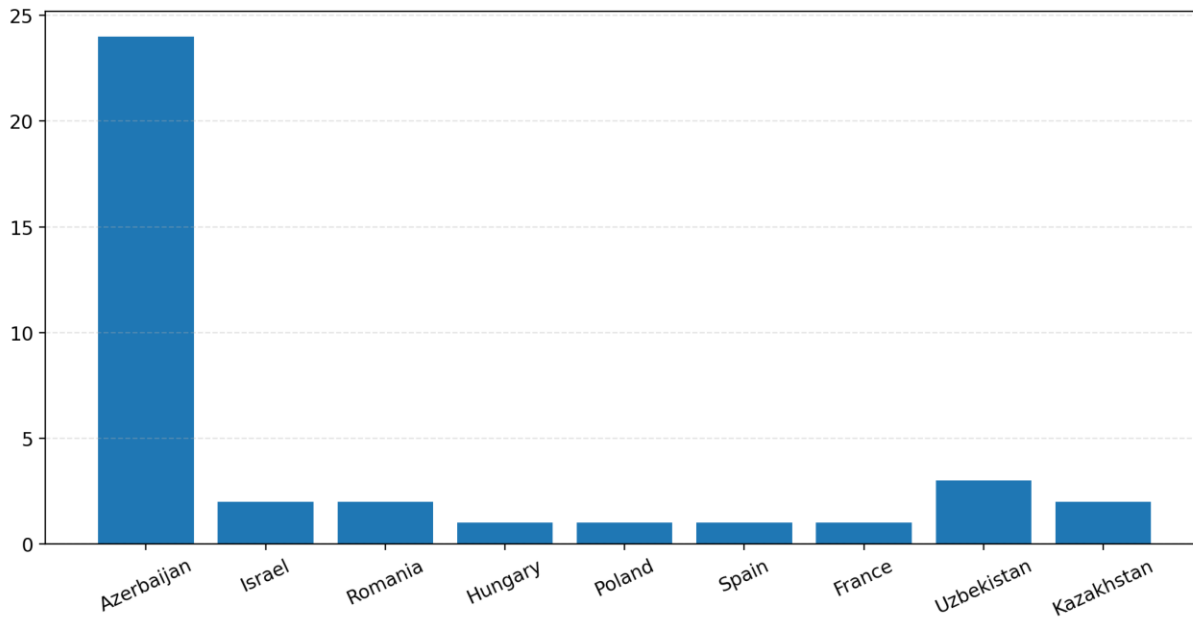


Figure 6. Geographic spread of ATU's partnership engagement in the 2025 evidence portfolio.

Cumulative Maturity of Partnership Ecosystem Across 2025

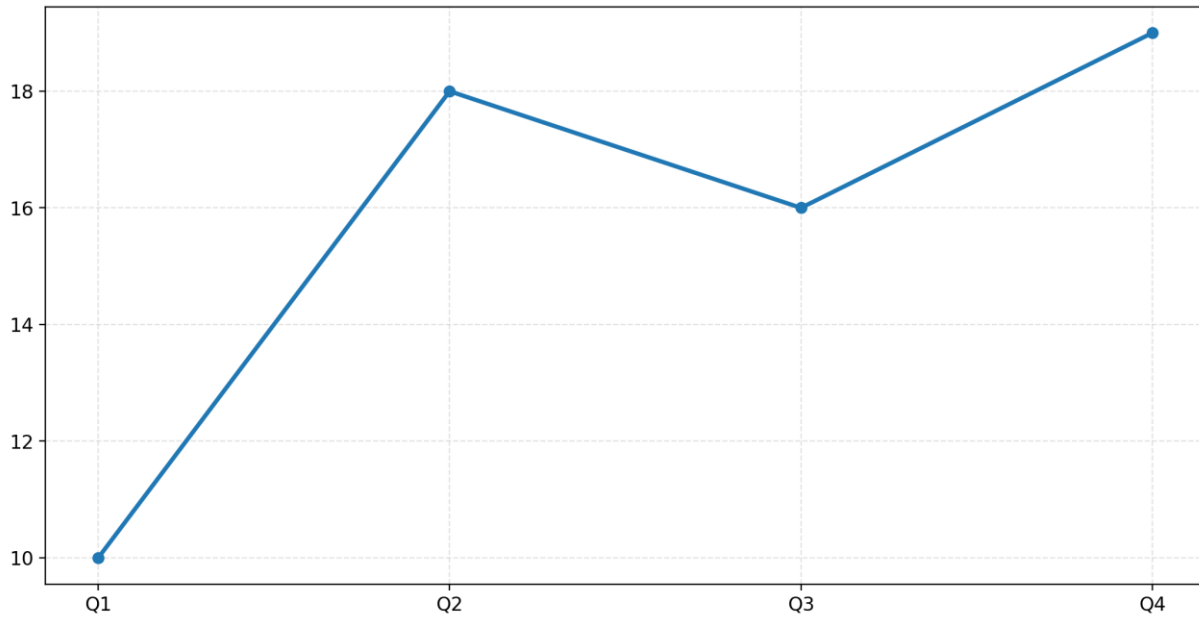


Figure 7. Indicative maturity of the partnership ecosystem across the 2025 reporting cycle.

Cross-cutting KPI Dashboard and Analytical Synthesis

How the annual evidence set can be read as a coherent institutional model

When the full 2025 evidence base is considered holistically, several cross-cutting patterns become visible. First, the partnership ecosystem is multi-level: ATU engages local, national, regional, and global actors. Second, the ecosystem is multi-sectoral: universities, enterprises, government bodies, research institutes, civil society organizations, and innovation-support structures all appear in the portfolio. Third, the ecosystem is output-oriented: cooperation results in programs, laboratories, conferences, internships, jobs, scholarships, training events, and governance mechanisms.

These patterns matter because they shift the interpretation of SDG 17 from simple relationship counting to system evaluation. The question is not merely how many agreements were signed, but whether partnership has become part of how the university works. Based on the supplied evidence, the answer is clearly affirmative. ATU demonstrates partnership as infrastructure, partnership as pedagogy, partnership as governance, and partnership as reputation-building.

Another key pattern is that ATU’s SDG 17 implementation shows strong spillover into other SDGs. University–industry cooperation supports SDG 8 and SDG 9. Public oversight and rights awareness initiatives reinforce SDG 16 and SDG 10. Environmental partnerships contribute to SDGs 12, 13, and 15. Digital access and scholarship initiatives support SDG 4 and social inclusion. This strengthens the university’s overall sustainability narrative because it shows partnership functioning as an enabler rather than an isolated reporting category.

KPI domain	Indicative value	Interpretive note
International reach	21+ countries	Shows partnership ecosystem extending beyond bilateral local cooperation
Institutional partner base	70+ entities	Reflects diversified engagement across sectors
Research connectivity	649 conference papers	Illustrates convening power and academic collaboration scale
Career impact	400+ job opportunities	Shows that partnerships generate direct student benefit
Innovation platform scale	30 universities	Indicates national-level ecosystem convening

KPI domain	Indicative value	Interpretive note
	and 80 teams in GreenTech II	capacity
Globalization of student body	100+ international students	Suggests partnership and internationalization have visible enrollment effects
Infrastructure impact	Multiple labs, centers, and specialized classrooms	Demonstrates tangible capital and learning environment outcomes

Strategic Distribution of SDG 17 Activities

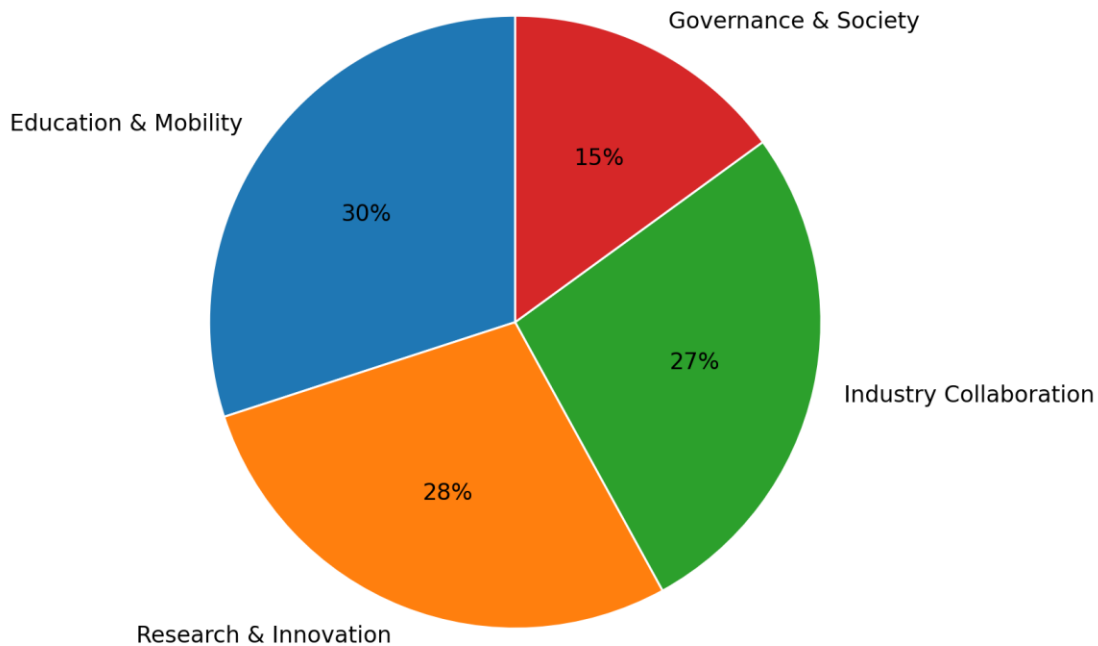


Figure 8. Strategic distribution of SDG 17 activities across major operational domains.

Conclusion and Strategic Positioning

Overall assessment of ATU's SDG 17 performance

The 2025 evidence presented in this report supports a strong overall conclusion: Azerbaijan Technological University has developed a credible and multi-dimensional SDG 17 implementation framework that is compatible with the core expectations of QS Sustainability reporting. The university's activities reveal not only a large number of partnerships but also a substantial degree of structural integration. Cooperation is visible in teaching, research, employability, governance, infrastructure, digital systems, public trust, and regional and global visibility.

ATU's most significant strength lies in its balance between breadth and depth. Breadth is visible in the range of actors involved: universities, global experts, government agencies, research institutes, corporations, start-up ecosystems, civil society organizations, and local communities. Depth is visible in the tangible outputs produced: dual degrees, mobility schemes, laboratories, conferences, internships, scholarships, transparency mechanisms, digital systems, and innovation platforms. This balance is especially important because sustainability rankings increasingly reward institutions that can demonstrate both strategic intent and practical impact.

From a positioning perspective, ATU can credibly present itself as a regional leader in partnership-driven sustainable development. The evidence suggests a university that is outward-facing, collaborative, and increasingly capable of translating external relationships into institutional value and societal benefit. This positioning is reinforced by the university's visible role in international scientific convening, regional educational networking, public-sector collaboration, and corporate partnership for capacity building.

Finally, the report indicates that SDG 17 at ATU is not an endpoint but a platform. The university's future potential rests on its ability to deepen existing agreements, convert more partnerships into co-produced research and educational outputs, continue diversifying its international partner geography, and maintain its capacity to use collaboration as a driver of quality, inclusion, innovation, and accountability. On the basis of the 2025 evidence set, ATU is well placed to continue advancing this agenda.

Strong

Diverse

Visible

institutional fit of SDG 17 stakeholder mix across outputs in infrastructure,

with ATU's strategic academia, government, mobility, and research direction industry, and society platforms

Scalable

partnerships that can expand into new programs and projects

Integrated

spillover benefits across multiple SDGs

Credible

regional positioning in partnership-driven sustainability

Annex I. Comprehensive Partnership Evidence Inventory

All evidence links supplied for the SDG 17 report

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
07 Jan 2025	Azerbaijan University of Technology begins cooperation with Israeli higher education institution	International academic partnership / MoU	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1130
13 Jan 2025	The first meeting was held within the framework of the OPTIFY project	EU-funded consortium / capacity building	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1133
15 Jan 2025	Azerbaijan University of Technology has launched a dual degree program with another European university	Dual degree / internationalization	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1134
18 Jan 2025	ATU will be co-organizer of PLMO 2025	International scientific platform	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=9461146090597185&set=a.235125883199298
22 Jan 2025	Relations with AzerGold CJSC are being expanded	University–industry partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=9482760588435735&set=a.289702834408269
06 Feb 2025	International cooperation is expanding	MoU with Technical University of Iași	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1145
07 Feb 2025	ATU rector acquainted with material and technical base of TUIASI	Operational follow-up / internationalization	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1146
11 Feb 2025	Employees participated in international congress in France	Scientific exchange	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1077155107549026&set=pcb.1077155597548

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
			977
18 Feb 2025	A new laboratory has been put into operation within REFRESH project	EU project / lab infrastructure	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1148
18 Feb 2025	Online meeting with PashaPay LLC and regional career centers	Multi-stakeholder employability partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=10034858856559234&set=a.225186527526565
20 Feb 2025	ATU begins cooperation with another European university	MoU with University of Siedlce	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1149
24 Feb 2025	A webinar by a Harvard researcher was held at ATU	International expert engagement	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1150
01 Mar 2025	Training to Career – 2 project information day	University–private sector partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=1106097167982003&set=pcb.1106097814648605
05 Mar 2025	Joint event with the Western Azerbaijan Community	Civil society collaboration	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1153
06 Mar 2025	GreenTech II competition – expansion of partners and sponsors	Quadruple-helix innovation partnership	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1154
14 Mar 2025	Cooperation meeting with Toyota Ganja Center	Corporate sustainability partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=23947323984886153&set=pcb.23947326844885867
17 Mar 2025	Excursion and cooperation with Mingachevir Textile LLC	Industry engagement	https://atu.edu.az/xeber/1159

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
02 Apr 2025	Cooperation with Göygöl National Park	Government/environmental partnership	https://atu.edu.az/xeber/1165
06 Apr 2025	Cooperation with Bakcell and Education Development Fund	Digital inclusion public-private partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=1134054501852936&set=pcb.1134054645186255
10 Apr 2025	Joint seminar with Plant Protection and Technical Plants Research Institute	Research institute collaboration	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1172
15 Apr 2025	Cybersecurity Center established with BP support	Corporate-funded infrastructure partnership	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1175
17 Apr 2025	GreenTech II Startup Competition final stage	Large-scale innovation ecosystem	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1177
18 Apr 2025	Clarivate webinars in partnership with State Agency for Science and Higher Education	Research capacity partnership	https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=122191541768111686&set=a.122104008710111686
23 Apr 2025	Web of Science seminar	Global knowledge platform partnership	https://atu.edu.az/news/1178
27 Apr 2025	Cooperation with ASAN Service	University-government innovation cooperation	https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=122201389892085761&set=pcb.122201390204085761
30 Apr 2025	Seminar with Israeli scientists	Continuation of ATU-HIT collaboration	https://www.facebook.com/atuu.edu.az/photos/650741054416639

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
02 May 2025	Global AI & Banking Webinar	International academic and banking cooperation	https://atu.edu.az/news/1182
02 May 2025	Nar-ATU Strategic Training Partnership	Industry-academia technology training	https://atu.edu.az/news/1181
06 May 2025	Milla Plant Collaboration	Industry cooperation and applied research	https://atu.edu.az/news/1183
06-07 May 2025	International Scientific-Practical Conference	International multi-stakeholder research platform	https://atu.edu.az/news/1184
06-07 May 2025	International Scientific-Practical Conference (continued)	Conference evidence	https://atu.edu.az/news/1185
May 2025	Emergency Preparedness Partnership	Government educational cooperation	https://atu.edu.az/news/1186
May 2025	Special International Scientific Sessions (Israel Collaboration)	Follow-up international academic partnership	https://atu.edu.az/news/1187
08 May 2025	Modern Classroom Development	Stakeholder-supported infrastructure	https://atu.edu.az/news/1188
13-14 May 2025	Career Festival	Employer ecosystem and job opportunities	https://atu.edu.az/news/1190

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
13–14 May 2025	Career Festival trainings	Career Festival evidence	https://atu.edu.az/news/1191
13–14 May 2025	Career Forum / Job Fair	Career Festival evidence	https://atu.edu.az/news/1192
May 2025	Participation in InterFood Azerbaijan & Caspian Agro exhibitions	Innovation diplomacy / visibility	https://atu.edu.az/news/1193
May 2025	Human Rights and Tolerance Platform	Public institution collaboration	https://atu.edu.az/news/1196
May 2025	Cybersecurity Collaboration with IDIA	Government innovation partnership	https://atu.edu.az/news/1197
May 2025	Uzbekistan cooperation agreements	Regional academic network expansion	https://atu.edu.az/news/1205
May 2025	Tashkent international education exhibition	Internationalization and visibility	https://atu.edu.az/news/1206
May 2025	Azerbaijan–Uzbekistan Rectors’ Forum	Regional academic diplomacy	https://atu.edu.az/news/1207
June 2025	Industry-Funded Scholarships	Private-sector support for students	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1214
June 2025	THE Impact Rankings 2025 Participation	International recognition and visibility	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1215
01 Jul 2025	Public Control Council – Institutional Transparency Model	Participatory governance partnership	https://atu.edu.az/xeber/1217
Jul 2025	Scientific Council strategic	Institutional	https://atu.edu.az/news/1218

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
	meeting	governance	
03 Jul 2025	Open Door Examination Transparency Initiative	Stakeholder engagement in transparency	https://atu.edu.az/news/1219
Sep 2025	Welcome Day and inclusion support	Inclusive institutional ecosystem	https://atu.edu.az/news/1239
Sep 2025	AD Scientific Index 2026 performance	Institutional reputation and competitiveness	https://atu.edu.az/news/1243
Sep 2025	Psychological services and student well-being	Support ecosystem	https://atu.edu.az/news/1244
Sep 2025	Scientific Council strategic meeting	Institutional governance	https://atu.edu.az/news/1245
Sep 2025	Differential salary system	Academic excellence and incentives	https://atu.edu.az/news/1246
Sep 2025	Laboratory and infrastructure partnerships	Industry-supported education spaces	https://atu.edu.az/news/1247
Sep 2025	Kodera electronic management system	Digital transformation partnership	https://atu.edu.az/news/1248
Sep 2025	Orientation and inclusion programs	Student integration	https://atu.edu.az/news/1254
Sep 2025	Industrial branch model – Ganja Instrumentation Factory	Embedded university–industry model	https://atu.edu.az/news/1256

Date	Evidence item	Type	Link
Sep 2025	Kodera system follow-up evidence	Digital systems integration	https://atu.edu.az/news/1258
Oct 2025	International student population exceeds 100	Internationalization outcome	https://atu.edu.az/news/1259
Oct 2025	Caspian Countries Universities Association participation	Regional collaboration platform	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1276
Oct 2025	Strategic partnership with Atyrau University	Cross-border academic cooperation	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1278
Dec 2025	Artistic Creativity Center and community interaction	Cultural partnership ecosystem	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1308
Dec 2025	International Agro-Food Forum participation	Innovation diplomacy and external engagement	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1312
Oct 2025	AI-based Smart Electric Vehicle Project	Innovation ecosystem development	https://www.atu.edu.az/xeber/1282

Annex II. KPI Framework for Future SDG 17 Reporting

Suggested structure for sustained evidence collection and annual monitoring

The analysis in this report suggests that ATU would benefit from a stable SDG 17 monitoring framework that captures both partnership volume and partnership quality. A future-facing KPI architecture should therefore differentiate between agreements, active collaborations, outputs generated, beneficiaries reached, and institutional impact. This would allow the university to move from evidence compilation toward longitudinal performance tracking.

A practical KPI system for SDG 17 should include indicators for international agreements signed, partnerships operationalized, staff and student mobility realized, joint publications and conferences, laboratories or educational facilities created with partner support, internships and job opportunities generated, scholarship funds attracted from external actors, and the number of students directly benefiting from partnership-driven initiatives. It should also include qualitative review of whether partnerships remain active and productive over time.

Such a monitoring framework would not only improve future QS Sustainability submissions but also support strategic management. Partnership data can reveal where collaboration is strongest, where institutional effort yields the greatest benefit, and which networks are most likely to contribute to ATU’s long-term international, academic, and social development.

KPI category	Definition	Potential annual measure
Formal agreements	MoUs, dual degrees, project memberships, and institutional cooperation protocols	Number signed; number renewed; number active
Internationalization	Exchange, dual delivery, visiting experts, and global student engagement	Students/staff involved; countries reached
Research collaboration	Conferences, seminars, shared projects, and institute partnerships	Joint events; papers; project outputs
Industry engagement	Internships, employer forums, laboratories, scholarships, and applied R&D	Jobs offered; internships; funds

KPI category	Definition	Potential annual measure
		mobilized
Government and civil society	Public service, policy dialogue, transparency, and community partnership	Joint initiatives; beneficiaries; policy interfaces
Infrastructure outcomes	Laboratories, classrooms, digital platforms, and branch models	Facilities created or upgraded
Student benefit	Career access, skills development, inclusion support, and digital access	Students reached; satisfaction or placement outcomes

Overall, the 2025 portfolio indicates that ATU already possesses the substantive ingredients of a strong SDG 17 university profile. The next step is to institutionalize data collection so that future reports can combine rich narrative evidence with even more precise time-series performance measurement.