

APPROVED
First Vice-President
of Astana International University



A.B. Myrzagaliyeva

2026 y.

ASTANA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY
2025 REPORT ON PROGRESS TOWARDS
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Astana, 2025

1. Introduction

Astana International University (AIU) contributes to the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through education, research and innovation.

The University integrates sustainable development principles into its mission, curricula and institutional management, promoting environmental responsibility, equality and global citizenship.

This report presents AIU's main results for 2025 across all 17 SDGs, including education, research, social support, environmental responsibility and international cooperation.

2. Governance and institutional policies

AIU operates in accordance with academic freedom, transparency and educational quality assurance. A dedicated Sustainable Development Centre section on the University website provides information on all 17 SDGs: <https://aiu.kz/center-sustain-dev?lang=ru>.

The regulatory framework for student support comprises the Regulation on Grants and Benefits for Applicants and Students (P-MUA 003-25) and the Admission Rules (PR-MUA 001-25). The Human Resources Policy for 2025–2027 (P-MUA 013-24) was enacted on 23 December 2024 and applied during the reporting period. The Internal Labour Regulations (PR-MUA 007-23) were amended in December 2024.

3. Overview of AIU's contribution to the 17 SDGs

Summary of key areas and results in 2025

No.	Sustainable Development Goal	AIU contribution	Results in 2025
1	No Poverty	Social benefits, grants, and access to education	In 2025, Astana International University provided financial support to students in accordance with the Regulations on Benefits (P-MUA 003-25). The University offered tuition fee discounts to students from socially vulnerable groups and other categories specified in its internal regulations.
2	Zero Hunger	Education on healthy nutrition and research into natural resources	In November 2025, the University held an educational seminar on the principles of healthy nutrition and an active lifestyle. AIU research activities also addressed the sustainable use of natural resources.

3	Good Health and Well-being	Psychological support and preventive education	From 17 to 21 November 2025, the University held Mental Health Week, featuring thematic meetings, creative activities, and sessions on preventing psychological risks. Materials on preventing examination stress and anxiety and promoting healthy lifestyles were also published.
4	Quality Education	Professional development, engagement with school students, and international programmes	In January 2025, 60 teachers completed the course “Artificial Intelligence in Education”. In April, the AIU-2025 conference and events involving the network of children’s universities were held. Cooperation with BLCU continued, and the E-Inclusion project was implemented.
5	Gender Equality	Non-discrimination and awareness-raising on violence prevention	AIU’s Human Resources Policy for 2025-2027 establishes equal opportunities and prohibits discrimination. In December 2025, the University and the OSCE Programme Office jointly organised a photo exhibition as part of an international campaign against gender-based violence.
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Access to drinking water and educational initiatives	University employees were provided with free access to drinking water through water dispensers. Delivery note No. 1420 dated 3 October 2025 from Aura Vi LLP (AURA SU) confirms the delivery of 100 bottles of 18.9 litres each, totalling 1,890 litres of drinking water.
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Energy consumption monitoring and hydrogen energy research	In 2025, AIU consumed 562,413 kWh of electricity. Research project AP19175789 (2023-2025) focused on the development of hydrogen energy in Kazakhstan and international energy security.
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Employer engagement, start-ups, and inclusive employment	In 2025, the University organized meetings with employers and career-related events, while the AIU business incubator hosted

			Demo Days for its fifth and seventh programmes. Research projects AP19676100 and AP26194469 addressed employment opportunities for vulnerable groups and the occupational adaptation of persons with disabilities.
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Innovation ecosystem and applied technology projects	At the Demo Day of the fifth incubation programme in April 2025, 18 teams presented their initiatives. The seventh programme held its Demo Day in December. In August, AIU, East Kazakhstan Technical University and SpaceLab signed a memorandum on scientific and technological cooperation and discussed prospects for joint space technology developments. Research in digital technologies and AI continued.
10	Reduced Inequalities	Inclusive education, social support, and occupational adaptation	AIU maintained social benefit mechanisms for students and implemented the E-Inclusion research project concerning digital education for children with special educational needs. In 2025, the University reported on the study of international practices in the occupational adaptation of persons with disabilities as part of project AP26194469.
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Urban environmental awareness and cultural and educational activities	In 2025, students and staff participated in environmental initiatives, including World Cleanup Day and university clean-up activities. The University also held cultural and educational events aimed at improving the urban environment.
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Separate collection and recycling of secondary materials	Between February and June 2025, ZQ 2021 LLP received 480 kg of plastic and 116 kg of aluminum from the University, totaling 596 kg of recyclable materials. World

			Cleanup Day was held in September, followed by a student EcoChallenge on responsible consumption and recycling in November.
13	Climate Action	Climate research, environmental education, and greenhouse gas accounting	In 2025, AIU organized research and awareness-raising events on climate risks, including flood forecasting. University representatives participated in international climate education programmes. The University carried out a greenhouse gas emissions inventory for 2025.
14	Life Below Water	Awareness-raising on the protection of aquatic ecosystems	In November 2025, with the participation of international partners, the University screened a documentary on the Aral Sea and the Syr Darya River and held a discussion on the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.
15	Life on Land	Biodiversity research and NatureLab activities	Research on algal flora and rare plant species continued, including project AP23488845 (2024-2026). In October 2025, the University announced the registration of the NatureLab herbarium in the international Index Herbariorum database. Events involving researchers from Karaganda University were held in November.
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Legal education, ethics, and violence prevention	In 2025, the University held legal and educational events, participated in a conference on constitutional law, and jointly organized a photo exhibition with the OSCE against gender-based violence. Research into international mediation was among the University's stated research areas.
17	Partnerships for the Goals	International and cross-sector educational and research cooperation	In 2025, AIU developed cooperation with the Bureau of National Statistics of Kazakhstan, BLCU, and research,

			environmental, and international organizations. The University hosted the AIU-2025 international conference and several joint educational and research events.
--	--	--	--

4. Activities and results by SDG

SDG 1. No Poverty

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued implementing student social support measures aimed at improving access to higher education and reducing the financial burden on students and their families.

In accordance with the Regulations on the Provision of Benefits (P-MUA 003-25), the University operated a tuition discount system for various categories of students, including students from socially vulnerable population groups, large families and other categories specified in the University's internal regulations.

In addition to social support, AIU applied further forms of tuition cost reduction, including family-related benefits and incentive measures for particular categories of students.

The implementation of these measures contributed to more affordable conditions for pursuing higher education and broadened educational opportunities for students regardless of their socioeconomic status.

SDG 2. Zero Hunger

In 2025, Astana International University held educational activities on adequate and balanced nutrition associated with promoting a healthy lifestyle.

As part of the University's educational and student-development activities, a seminar was held on the principles of healthy eating and an active lifestyle. Participants learned about the fundamentals of a balanced diet, the importance of dietary habits for maintaining health and the role of physical activity in everyday life.

The rational use of natural resources was also addressed as part of the University's natural sciences and environmental education activities.

These activities contributed to disseminating knowledge about healthy nutrition and responsible consumption.

SDG 3. Good Health and Well-being

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out a range of activities aimed at strengthening students' physical and psychological health, fostering a culture of healthy living and creating a supportive educational environment.

One significant area of the University's activities was supporting students' psychological well-being. From 17 to 21 November 2025, the AIU Psychological

Service organized Mental Health Week, which included thematic lectures, workshops, creative events and individual brief consultations.

Particular attention was paid to preventing stress, anxiety and depressive conditions, developing emotional self-regulation skills and increasing students' awareness of opportunities to seek psychological support.

As part of Mental Health Week, an exhibition of student creative works entitled “Өнер – ішкі әлемнің көрінісі ретінде” (“Art as a Reflection of the Inner World”) was organized. More than 40 applications were submitted for the exhibition, of which 16 works were selected. The exhibition encouraged students' creative self-expression, reflection on emotional experiences and greater awareness of psychological well-being.

In addition, the University held educational events on balanced nutrition, healthy habits and disease prevention.

Throughout 2025, the AIU Psychological Service operated, providing students with opportunities to seek individual consultations and receive psychological support.

On 17 November 2025, as part of the Psychological Service's prevention activities, an interactive session was held on the stages of chemical dependency and opportunities for psychological assistance. An invited specialist from the city mental health center explained the signs of dependency and preventive measures to students.

These activities contributed to creating a psychologically safe educational environment, strengthening a culture of caring for health and promoting the well-being of the University community.

SDG 4. Quality Education

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued developing a modern educational environment designed to ensure access to high-quality higher education, introduce innovative teaching technologies, enhance faculty members' professional competencies and expand international academic cooperation.

One of the University's priorities was the integration of digital technologies and artificial intelligence into the educational process.

In January 2025, the AIU Pedagogical Institute held a professional development course entitled “Artificial Intelligence in Education,” successfully completed by 60 faculty members. The programme aimed to develop educators' digital competencies, familiarize them with modern artificial intelligence tools and support their practical application in teaching. Throughout the year, the University organized scientific and methodological seminars, workshops and educational events devoted to improving teaching methods, developing critical thinking, introducing digital tools and updating educational programme content.

In April 2025, activities were held to update educational programmes in tourism and geography with the participation of representatives of the academic community and employers.

In 2025, AIU expanded its cooperation with foreign universities and international educational organizations.

On 2 September 2025 in Beijing, Astana International University and Beijing Language and Culture University signed an agreement on launching the master's programme “International Chinese Language Education” in Astana. The agreement is aimed at developing joint educational programmes, international academic collaboration and the training of specialists in Chinese language teaching.

The University also continued developing academic mobility programmes. In November–December 2025, competitive selections of students were organized for studies at foreign universities during the spring semester of 2026.

On 12 March 2025, AIU signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan. The cooperation identified areas of collaboration in analytical research, professional training of students, practical placements and improving data literacy, including development of the Data Literacy Hub initiative.

In February 2025, a national scientific seminar on modern methods of analyzing historical sources brought together scholars, lecturers and students.

In April, the University participated in organizing the AIU-2025 international scientific conference, dedicated to education, science, cultural heritage and international cooperation.

An important area of AIU's work was the development of inclusive educational technologies.

The University continued implementing the E-Inclusion research project, aimed at developing a digital platform for the education and social adaptation of children with special educational needs. The project envisages the application of innovative pedagogical approaches and modern digital technologies to expand children's educational opportunities.

Implementation of project AP25796815 also began in 2025. The project aims to develop schoolchildren's environmental literacy using digital educational platforms and interactive learning tools.

AIU conducted educational and career-guidance activities for schoolchildren, organizing popular science lectures, meetings with lecturers, workshops and events designed to develop research skills.

On 29 April 2025, the University held a roundtable entitled “Network of Children's Universities of Kazakhstan: Exchange of Experience and Prospects,”

devoted to supplementary education for children, early engagement in research and cooperation between educational organizations.

In November–December, University lecturers and master's students organized educational activities for schoolchildren aimed at popularizing science, developing research thinking and introducing modern technologies.

In 2025, the University applied various student support mechanisms, including educational grants and tuition discounts. In July, special admission conditions for foreign nationals were announced, offering a 50% tuition discount for selected University educational programmes.

On 26-27 March 2025, the School of Natural Sciences held a student olympiad in natural science disciplines, during which participants presented educational and research projects in geography, tourism and conservation of Kazakhstan's natural sites. In November, events to develop students' research skills included the Geonavigator intellectual competition “Territory of Tourism” and the “Three Weeks of Science” series.

On 2 October 2025, the School of Natural Sciences held a roundtable entitled “Artificial Intelligence in the Natural Sciences: Ethical and Social Implications of Its Application,” devoted to the responsible use of digital technologies in scientific and educational activities.

On 10 December 2025, AIU's School of Arts and Humanities organized the national competition “Best Socio-Psychological Project – 2025,” bringing together 25 teams from educational institutions. AIU students presented socio-psychological initiatives; the project “Women's Burdens in Society” received a second-degree diploma in the in-person competition. The event contributed to the development of applied research skills and the exchange of experience in psychology.

The activities implemented contributed to improving the educational process, developing faculty members' professional competencies, strengthening international academic relations, expanding inclusive educational opportunities and popularizing scientific knowledge among young people.

SDG 5. Gender Equality

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued implementing the principles of gender equality, equal opportunity and non-discrimination in educational, scientific and professional activities.

Ensuring Equal Opportunities and Non-Discrimination

The University implemented its Human Resources Policy for 2025-2027 (P-MUA 013-24), which provides for compliance with the principles of equality and non-discrimination. In accordance with paragraph 6.4 of this document, AIU adheres to the

principle of equal opportunity in employment relations and the organization of professional activities.

The implementation of the Human Resources Policy aims to foster a fair and inclusive working environment, ensure equal treatment of employees and create opportunities for professional development regardless of gender or other individual characteristics.

Raising Awareness of Gender-Based Violence

In December 2025, Astana International University, together with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, organized a photographic exhibition as part of the international “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign.

The exhibition addressed the prevention of gender-based violence, the protection of women's rights, support for survivors and the promotion of public intolerance of all forms of violence.

The event helped increase awareness within the University community of gender-based violence, the importance of respect for human dignity and the need to foster a safe educational and social environment.

Scientific Research on Gender Equality

In 2025, the University continued implementing research project AP22686622, “Women in Kazakhstan's Political Process,” aimed at studying women's participation in Kazakhstan's sociopolitical life.

The research covers gender stereotypes, mechanisms of political representation, quotas and factors influencing women's participation in managerial decision-making.

Research in this field contributes to gender equality scholarship and provides a scientific basis for discussing the expansion of women's participation in public and political life.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 5 in 2025 encompassed ensuring equal opportunities, raising awareness of gender-based violence prevention and conducting research on women's position in society.

SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out activities aimed at providing access to drinking water, raising environmental awareness within the University community, promoting rational water use and developing scientific research on the conservation of aquatic ecosystems.

Providing Access to Clean Drinking Water

To provide comfortable and favorable conditions for employees, drinking-water dispensers were installed on AIU premises, and drinking water was provided to staff free of charge.

Throughout 2025, the University cooperated with Aura Vi LLP (AURA SU), a supplier of bottled drinking water.

In particular, on 3 October 2025, the University received 100 bottles of drinking water, each with a volume of 18.9 liters, for a total of 1,890 liters. The provision of drinking water through dispensers ensured that employees had access to drinking water during the working day.

Rational Water Use and Environmental Education

An important area of AIU's work in 2025 was raising students' awareness of water resource conservation, water pollution and environmental safety.

On 3 November 2025, with the participation of the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan and the Embassy of France, a documentary film was screened about the environmental challenges of the Aral Sea region and the SyrDarya River basin.

The event included a discussion of rational water use, the consequences of aquatic ecosystem degradation and the need to conserve the region's natural resources.

Such events contributed to students' environmental awareness and encouraged responsible attitudes towards water resources.

Scientific Research on Aquatic Ecosystems

In 2025, the University continued research activities on the study and conservation of aquatic biodiversity.

As part of research project AP19175101, studies were carried out on the algal flora of water bodies in Kokshetau State National Nature Park. The research aims to study algal diversity and obtain scientific data on the condition of aquatic ecosystems.

The results of this research area are important for studying the biodiversity of water bodies and developing scientific approaches to conserving Kazakhstan's natural ecosystems.

Monitoring Water Resource Consumption

In 2025, the University maintained monthly records of utility consumption, including water supply. Consumption monitoring provided an information base for planning operational activities and managing water resource use.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 6 in 2025 combined the provision of free drinking water to employees, environmental education, research on aquatic ecosystems and monitoring of water consumption.

SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out activities aimed at the rational use of energy resources, the development of scientific research on clean energy and the promotion of environmentally responsible approaches to energy consumption.

Energy Consumption and Energy Resource Management

The University regularly monitored electricity and heat consumption required to operate academic buildings and other facilities.

According to consolidated utility records, total electricity consumption in 2025 amounted to 562,413 kWh.

Heat was supplied to university facilities under contractual arrangements with Astana-Teplotranzit JSC. Modern lighting fixtures were used on university premises.

Monitoring energy resource consumption was an important part of university infrastructure management and enabled the tracking of energy use.

Scientific Research on Clean Energy

One significant area of AIU's research was the development of studies on alternative energy sources and energy security.

In 2025, the University continued implementing research project AP19175789, “Development of Hydrogen Energy in Kazakhstan and International Energy Security: The Experience of European Union Countries.”

The project aims to examine prospects for adopting hydrogen energy technologies, international approaches to developing clean energy and opportunities for their application in Kazakhstan.

Research in this field contributes to scientific knowledge about low-carbon technologies, the energy transition and promising energy sources.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 7 in 2025 included monitoring energy resources, ensuring the operation of energy infrastructure and conducting scientific research on hydrogen energy.

SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out activities aimed at ensuring decent working conditions, developing the professional competencies of employees and students, supporting youth entrepreneurship, facilitating graduate employment and expanding employment opportunities for socially vulnerable groups.

Ensuring Decent Working Conditions and Employees' Professional Development

The University's Human Resources Policy for 2025-2027 (P-MUA 013-24) was in force, setting out the main principles of human resource management, employee professional development, performance assessment and the creation of a favorable working environment.

The Human Resources Policy provided for the principles of equal opportunities, impartial treatment of employees and non-discrimination.

AIU's Internal Labor Regulations governed employment relations, the rights and obligations of employees and the employer, the organization of working time and workplace discipline. The University's regulations also included provisions aimed at

supporting employees with family responsibilities and creating favorable conditions for balancing professional and family life.

Facilitating Student and Graduate Employment

In 2025, the University continued working to develop students' professional competencies and improve their competitiveness in the labor market.

Activities to promote employment included meetings between students and representatives of employers, career-guidance events, career consultations and discussions of contemporary labor market requirements.

The University developed cooperation with employers in improving educational programmes, organizing professional placements and training specialists in line with the needs of the economy.

In April 2025, employer representatives took part in discussions and updates of educational programmes in tourism and geography, contributing to a stronger practice-oriented approach to student training.

Developing Youth Entrepreneurship and Innovative Initiatives

Supporting entrepreneurial initiatives of students and graduates was an important area of AIU's activities in 2025.

In February 2025, the leadership of Astana International University participated in the Digital Almaty international forum, where the University's business incubator and the participation of students and graduates in innovative initiatives, including projects under KazInnovations, were presented.

Throughout the year, the University continued developing incubation programmes aimed at fostering entrepreneurial competencies, creating innovative solutions and supporting promising student startups.

At the Demo Day of the fifth incubation programme, projects by 18 teams were presented. In December 2025, the Demo Day of the seventh incubation programme took place, during which six teams presented their innovative developments.

Such events created opportunities to apply knowledge in practice, develop entrepreneurial thinking and connect young developers with experts and the business community.

Scientific Research on Inclusive Employment

Expanding access to employment and social integration for vulnerable population groups occupied an important place in AIU's research activities.

In 2025, implementation of research project AP19676100 continued, focusing on the development and testing of a methodology for employing socially vulnerable population groups.

The University also implemented project AP26194469, aimed at developing a comprehensive programme for the occupational adaptation and labor market integration of persons with disabilities.

This research area examined international approaches to inclusive employment, including practices in foreign countries. In 2025, University researchers made working visits to Türkiye and Azerbaijan to study the relevant experience.

The research contributed to approaches for developing a more inclusive labor market and expanding opportunities for professional fulfilment among persons with disabilities.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 8 in 2025 encompassed decent working conditions, human resource development, support for graduate employment, student entrepreneurship and scientific research on inclusive employment.

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued developing innovation and scientific and technological activities aimed at supporting student entrepreneurship, introducing digital technologies, expanding cooperation with technology companies and building a modern research environment.

Developing the Innovation Ecosystem and Supporting Student Startups

One significant area of the University's activities was supporting innovative ideas by students and young researchers through the AIU BUSINESS INNOVATION university business incubator.

Throughout 2025, the University implemented incubation programmes designed to develop entrepreneurial competencies, create technological solutions and prepare student projects for practical implementation.

At the Demo Day of the fifth incubation programme, 18 teams presented their innovative ideas.

On 29 November 2025, the Demo Day of the seventh incubation programme took place, during which six teams presented projects in healthcare, manufacturing, digital platforms and other technological fields.

The incubation programmes helped develop innovative thinking, project work skills and interaction between students and representatives of the entrepreneurial and expert communities.

Scientific and Technical Cooperation and the Development of Space Technologies

On 25 August 2025, Astana International University, D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University and the technology company SpaceLab signed a memorandum of scientific and technical cooperation.

The agreement was aimed at developing joint research, implementing technological initiatives and expanding opportunities for interaction between universities and the high-technology sector of the economy.

The cooperation included discussion of prospects for developing space technologies, the IoVIT project and the possible creation of a university picosatellite.

This partnership established a basis for further collaboration in engineering research, digital technologies and the training of specialists for knowledge-intensive industries.

Participation in the Development of Innovative Entrepreneurship

In February 2025, AIU's leadership participated in the international Digital Almaty forum, which brought together representatives of the technology sector, government bodies, universities and innovation organizations.

The forum featured the University's business incubator and entrepreneurial innovation initiatives by AIU students and graduates, including participation in KazInnovations projects.

Participation in such events helped expand the University's engagement with the technology community and promote student innovations.

Scientific Research and the Development of Digital Technologies

In 2025, AIU conducted research in artificial intelligence, digitalization and intelligent information systems.

One area was the implementation of research project AP19577922, devoted to developing an intelligent question-answering system in the Kazakh language.

The research aims to develop natural language processing technologies, create digital tools for working with Kazakh-language information and expand opportunities for practical applications of artificial intelligence.

The University's scientific and technological activities contributed to digital technology competencies and the development of research capacity for innovative solutions.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 9 in 2025 encompassed support for student startups, development of the University's innovation infrastructure, scientific and technical cooperation, and research in artificial intelligence and digital technologies.

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued measures aimed at ensuring equal opportunities in higher education, supporting socially vulnerable students, developing an inclusive educational environment and facilitating the social and professional integration of persons with disabilities.

Social Support and Ensuring Equal Access to Education

One of the University's priorities was improving access to higher education for students from different socioeconomic backgrounds.

In accordance with the Regulations on the Provision of Benefits (P-MUA 003-25), the University operated a student social support system providing tuition discounts

to specific categories of students, including those from socially vulnerable population groups.

The implementation of these measures helped reduce financial barriers to higher education and create more equal educational opportunities.

Ensuring Equal Opportunities and Preventing Discrimination

In 2025, the University's Human Resources Policy for 2025-2027 (P-MUA 013-24) was in force, establishing the principles of equal opportunities and non-discrimination.

Under this policy, AIU adhered to the principles of fair treatment of employees, equal access to professional development and non-discrimination on individual and social grounds.

These provisions contributed to an inclusive University environment based on respect for human dignity and equality of opportunity.

Developing Inclusive Education

An important area of the University's scientific and educational activities was the development of technologies for educating and socially adapting children with special educational needs.

In 2025, implementation of the E-Inclusion research project continued, focusing on the development of a digital educational platform for the education and social adaptation of children with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

The project envisages using modern digital technologies and adaptive educational tools to expand learning opportunities and improve access to educational resources.

Research in this field contributed to scientific approaches to inclusive education and digital support for children with special educational needs.

Scientific Research on Social and Professional Integration

In 2025, AIU continued research aimed at expanding employment and social integration opportunities for vulnerable population groups.

Project AP19676100 involved research on the development and testing of a methodology for the employment of socially vulnerable population groups.

At the same time, project AP26194469 was implemented, focusing on developing a comprehensive programme for the occupational adaptation and labour market integration of persons with disabilities.

This research area examined international experience in inclusive employment, including practices in Türkiye and Azerbaijan.

The research was aimed at developing scientifically grounded approaches to removing barriers to employment and expanding opportunities for persons with disabilities to realize their professional potential.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 10 in 2025 combined student social support, equal opportunities, inclusive educational technologies and scientific research on the social and professional integration of vulnerable groups.

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out cultural, educational and public activities aimed at preserving historical and cultural heritage, developing young people's environmental awareness and encouraging responsible attitudes towards the urban environment.

Preservation of Historical and Cultural Heritage

Throughout the year, the University organized scientific and educational activities devoted to studying Kazakhstan's history, cultural traditions and historical heritage.

In February 2025, a national scientific seminar on modern methods of analyzing historical sources brought together lecturers, researchers and students and helped promote interest in studying and preserving historical memory.

The University's cultural and educational activities helped popularize national cultural heritage and foster respect for Kazakhstan's history and traditions.

Developing Environmental Awareness and Responsible Attitudes Towards the Urban Environment

In 2025, AIU students participated in environmental initiatives aimed at improving the cleanliness of the urban environment, encouraging environmentally responsible behavior and promoting the principles of sustainable development of communities.

In September 2025, University representatives participated in World Cleanup Day. The environmental campaign included waste collection and sorting activities.

Student participation in community environmental initiatives helped develop practical skills in responsible waste management and raise awareness of the importance of a clean and favorable urban environment.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 11 in 2025 focused on preserving cultural heritage, environmental education and involving students in initiatives to improve the environment.

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued environmental initiatives aimed at fostering a culture of responsible consumption, developing waste separation practices, involving students in environmental activities and raising awareness of the importance of recycling secondary resources.

Organization of Separate Waste Collection and Recycling

Separate collection points for certain types of waste were established on university premises to encourage sorting and responsible management of recyclable materials.

Throughout 2025, the University cooperated with ZQ 2021 LLP on the collection and transfer of recyclable materials.

According to the company's official letter No. 09-06-2025 dated 13 June 2025, between February and June, University students collected and transferred **596 kg of recyclable materials**, comprising 480 kg of plastic bottles and 116 kg of aluminium cans, for recycling.

The monthly figures for recyclable material collection are shown in the table.

Month of 2025	Plastic, kg	Aluminium, kg	Total, kg
February	50	18	68
March	100	28	128
April	170	45	215
May	100	20	120
June	60	5	65
Total	480	116	596

The highest volume of recyclable materials during the period was collected in April 2025: 215 kg, including 170 kg of plastic and 45 kg of aluminium cans.

The organization of separate collection and transfer of recyclable materials helped engage students in practical environmental protection activities.

Restart Environmental Challenge

In November 2025, the University held an EcoChallenge under the Restart project, aimed at promoting environmentally responsible behaviour, reducing plastic waste and developing a culture of recycling.

500 students from Astana International University participated in the environmental initiative.

As part of the project, participants created informational and creative materials addressing responsible consumption, waste sorting and environmental conservation. More than 50 environmentally themed videos were submitted.

Following the EcoChallenge, **500 kg of plastic waste** was arranged to be transferred for recycling.

The project helped improve students' environmental literacy, develop teamwork skills and build practical experience in environmental initiatives.

Participation in World Cleanup Day

In September 2025, students from Astana International University participated in the international World Cleanup Day campaign.

The campaign involved waste collection and sorting and promoted responsible attitudes towards the environment.

According to information published by the University, **187 kg of plastic** was collected and sent for recycling during the event.

Participation in the campaign was one element of students' practical environmental activities and contributed to the development of environmental awareness within the University community.

Fostering a Culture of Responsible Consumption

Throughout 2025, the University held educational and awareness-raising events addressing waste reduction, rational resource use and environmentally responsible behavior.

Students participated in environmental projects, thematic competitions and community initiatives designed to increase awareness of the consequences of environmental pollution.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 12 in 2025 combined separate collection of recyclable materials, cooperation with recycling organizations, environmental campaigns and student engagement in practical responsible consumption activities.

SDG 13. Climate Action

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) conducted scientific research, educational and environmental activities aimed at studying climate change, raising environmental awareness within the University community, developing approaches to adaptation to climate risks and fostering responsible use of natural resources.

Scientific Research and Adaptation to Climate Change

One significant area of the University's scientific activities was the study of environmental and climate risks, including those associated with changes in hydrological conditions, natural disasters and environmental resilience.

On 10–11 June 2025, a scientific conference was held on flood forecasting, natural risk assessment and the application of modern scientific approaches to preventing emergencies.

The conference addressed the analysis of climate and hydrological factors, the use of modern monitoring technologies, the forecasting of hazardous natural phenomena and improving territories' resilience to the consequences of climate change.

Scientific events in this area contributed to the exchange of research experience and the development of scientific cooperation on climate security.

Development of the Green Economy and Environmental Education

In 2025, Astana International University continued scientific and educational activities within the School of Green Economy.

Activities in this field addressed sustainable development, rational use of natural resources, environmental responsibility and the implementation of green economy principles.

The participation of lecturers, researchers and students in educational and scientific events helped disseminate knowledge about climate change, environmental challenges and contemporary approaches to sustainable development.

Developing environmental literacy among young people was another important area of work. In 2025, AIU began implementing research project AP25796815, aimed at creating digital educational tools to develop environmental literacy among schoolchildren in Kazakhstan.

Research on Low-Carbon Technologies

In 2025, the University continued implementing research project AP19175789, “Development of Hydrogen Energy in Kazakhstan and International Energy Security: The Experience of European Union Countries.”

The research focused on prospects for hydrogen energy development, international experience of the energy transition and opportunities to apply alternative energy technologies in Kazakhstan.

Scientific activities in clean energy contributed to establishing a research basis for studying decarbonization technologies and sustainable energy development.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Accounting and Energy Consumption

As part of the University's environmental management activities, an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions for 2025 was conducted.

The inventory covered direct emissions associated with transport use, indirect emissions from electricity and heat consumption, and selected categories of indirect emissions associated with solid municipal waste management.

Alongside the emissions inventory, the University maintained monthly records of utility consumption.

According to the consolidated data, electricity consumption in 2025 was **562,413 kWh**.

The greenhouse gas inventory and energy consumption records provided an information base for analyzing the environmental impact of University operations and subsequently developing carbon footprint management measures.

Environmental Initiatives and Student Engagement

Throughout 2025, AIU students participated in environmental campaigns, educational events and initiatives aimed at promoting environmentally responsible behavior.

Through World Cleanup Day, the Restart EcoChallenge and other events, members of the University community took part in collecting and sorting waste, promoting recycling and disseminating knowledge about responsible consumption.

These initiatives helped raise students' environmental awareness and develop practical skills in caring for the environment.

From 6 to 10 October 2025, students of the School of Natural Sciences participated in the international Eurasian Climate Talks climate school, devoted to climate change, ecology and sustainable development. According to the University, AIU participants won prizes.

On 25 September 2025, lecturers and students of the Ecology and Environmental Management educational programme participated in a Clean Air Day event organized with the support of the United Nations Development Programme in Kazakhstan. Air quality and environmental responsibility were discussed.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 13 in 2025 encompassed scientific research on climate risks, development of the green economy, study of low-carbon technologies, greenhouse gas emissions inventories and environmental education within the University community.

SDG 14. Life Below Water

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out scientific, educational and awareness-raising activities aimed at increasing students' understanding of environmental problems affecting aquatic ecosystems, the conservation of aquatic biodiversity and the consequences of human impacts on the environment.

Environmental Education and Challenges Facing the Aral Sea Region

One area of the University's activities was the study of environmental problems affecting the Aral Sea and the Syr Darya River basin.

On 3 November 2025, with the participation of the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan and the Embassy of France, the University screened a documentary film on the environmental condition of the Aral Sea region and the Syr Darya basin.

The event addressed shrinking water resources, changes in natural ecosystems, environmental consequences of human activities and the need for rational water use.

Particular attention was paid to the Aral Sea as one of the most significant examples of degradation of a major water basin, with long-term consequences for the environment and the region's population.

The event helped develop students' environmental literacy, their understanding of the relationship between water resources and the condition of natural ecosystems, and their interest in conservation.

Scientific Research on Aquatic Ecosystems

In 2025, the University continued implementing research project AP19175101, aimed at investigating the algal flora of water bodies in Kokshetau State National Nature Park.

The research covered algal diversity and scientific approaches to assessing the condition of freshwater ecosystems.

Research in this area contributed to knowledge about Kazakhstan's aquatic biodiversity and strengthened the University's research capacity in natural resource protection.

Thus, AIU's activities under SDG 14 in 2025 consisted of environmental education on the problems of the Aral Sea and scientific research on aquatic ecosystems, aimed at increasing awareness of the importance of conserving aquatic biodiversity and natural resources.

SDG 15. Life on Land

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued research and educational activities aimed at biodiversity conservation, studying Kazakhstan's flora, researching rare and vulnerable plant species and developing scientific infrastructure for the study of natural ecosystems.

Developing Scientific Infrastructure and NatureLab Activities

One of the University's significant achievements in 2025 was the development of the NatureLab research laboratory, whose work focuses on studying plant diversity, building botanical collections and conducting research in ecology and botany.

On 30 October 2025, the NatureLab herbarium of Astana International University was registered in the international Index Herbariorum database and assigned the official acronym AIU.

Registration of the herbarium was an important milestone in developing the University's scientific infrastructure and established the international identification of AIU's botanical collection within the system of scientific herbarium institutions.

The herbarium's activities focus on systematizing and documenting botanical specimens, preserving scientific information about plants and providing a research base for studying Kazakhstan's flora.

Scientific Research on Rare and Vulnerable Plant Species

In 2025, the University continued implementing research project AP23488845, “Spatial Distribution and Assessment of the Population Status of Rare and Vulnerable Plant Species in Central and Northern Kazakhstan.”

The project aims to investigate the distribution of rare plants, study the condition of their populations and obtain scientific data relevant to the conservation of plant biodiversity.

Particular attention in this research area was given to assessing plant communities, identifying factors affecting the preservation of rare species and developing scientific approaches to the protection of natural ecosystems.

Research in this field contributes to knowledge of the flora of Central and Northern Kazakhstan and provides a research basis for conservation measures.

Studying Plant Diversity and Medicinal Flora

In 2025, AIU's research activities included work on Kazakhstan's plant diversity and medicinal plants.

The research addressed the systematization of botanical data, the study of plant species' characteristics and the preservation of information about natural plant resources.

The development of these studies helped strengthen the University's scientific potential in botany, ecology and biodiversity research.

Environmental Education and the Promotion of Knowledge about Biodiversity

On 7–8 November 2025, NatureLab representatives participated in a scientific and practical seminar on the conservation of fruit- and berry-bearing plants of Kazakhstan's native flora. Scientific discussions addressed floristic research and the application of molecular genetic methods of plant analysis.

On 27 November 2025, NatureLab hosted scientific and educational events involving researchers from E. A. Buketov Karaganda University, devoted to microscopic studies of plant materials. In December, a scientific seminar was held on conserving rare and relict flora of north-eastern Betpak-Dala.

In 2025, Astana International University carried out educational and scientific awareness-raising activities aimed at fostering students' interest in natural ecosystems and responsible attitudes towards the environment.

NatureLab's scientific and educational activities enabled students to familiarize themselves with botanical research methods, the study of plant life and the importance of scientific collections for biodiversity conservation.

Interaction among researchers, lecturers and students helped popularize natural science knowledge and develop young people's research competencies.

In July 2025, the University announced that it had received grant funding for research on the geocological and molecular genetic assessment of rare plants of the genera *Prunus*, *Sibiraea* and *Rosa*, as well as monitoring their distribution and population status in Kazakhstan.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 15 in 2025 encompassed developing NatureLab's scientific infrastructure, international registration of the AIU herbarium, research on rare and vulnerable plants, the study of Kazakhstan's plant diversity and environmental education.

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) carried out educational, scientific and public activities aimed at strengthening the principles of justice, ensuring equal

opportunities, protecting human rights, preventing violence and developing a culture of peaceful conflict resolution.

Ensuring Equal Rights and Principles of Non-Discrimination

One important area of the University's activities was building an inclusive educational and professional environment based on respect for human rights and dignity.

In 2025, the University implemented its Human Resources Policy for 2025-2027 (P-MUA 013-24), which establishes principles of equal opportunity and non-discrimination.

In accordance with paragraph 6.4 of the Human Resources Policy, AIU adhered to the principles of fair treatment of employees, equal access to professional development and respect for individual rights.

The implementation of these principles formed part of the University's institutional efforts to provide a favorable and safe working environment.

Prevention of Gender-Based Violence and Protection of Human Rights

In December 2025, Astana International University, together with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, organized a photographic exhibition as part of the international “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign.

The event addressed violence prevention, the protection of women's rights, support for survivors and raising public awareness of different forms of gender discrimination.

The photographic exhibition provided a platform for drawing the University community's attention to human dignity, safety, equality and the unacceptability of violence.

The event helped disseminate knowledge about human rights and foster responsible attitudes towards preventing gender-based violence.

Scientific Research on International Security and Peaceful Conflict Resolution

In 2025, the University's research activities included studies of international security, mediation, peaceful conflict resolution and the prevention of threats to international peace.

One area was the implementation of research project AP26100031, devoted to establishing an international mediation hub and studying mechanisms for peaceful conflict resolution and nuclear disarmament.

The project aims to examine international approaches to resolving conflicts, developing dialogue and applying mediation mechanisms in international relations.

This research area contributes to scientific knowledge about peaceful conflict resolution, international security and institutional mechanisms for cooperation.

Developing Legal Culture and Scientific Dialogue

In 2025, AIU participated in scientific and educational activities addressing law, public administration, the development of legal institutions and international cooperation.

In August 2025, an international scientific conference on law and statehood was held with representatives of the legal and academic communities, including representatives of constitutional courts.

Scientific dialogue at such events helped exchange professional experience, discuss topical issues of legal development and strengthen academic cooperation in legal research.

On 2 December 2025, the President of AIU joined the Public Council on Science, Higher Education and Language Policy of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan. Participation in this advisory work expanded the University's institutional opportunities for engaging with the public and government bodies.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 16 in 2025 encompassed ensuring equal opportunities, raising awareness of human rights protection and violence prevention, developing legal culture and conducting research on international security and peaceful conflict resolution.

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals

In 2025, Astana International University (AIU) continued developing international, inter-university and interagency cooperation aimed at improving educational quality, expanding research opportunities, introducing innovative technologies, developing academic mobility and implementing joint initiatives in support of sustainable development.

The University strengthened partnerships with government bodies, foreign higher education institutions, research organizations, international organizations and representatives of the technology sector.

Developing Cooperation with Government Organizations

On 12 March 2025, Astana International University signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Bureau of National Statistics of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The agreement established areas of collaboration in specialist training, the development of students' analytical competencies, the organization of professional placements and joint research.

The cooperation also included consideration of the Data Literacy Hub initiative, aimed at improving data literacy and developing skills in analysing and applying data in practice.

The partnership with the Bureau of National Statistics helped expand the University's engagement with government agencies and develop educational and research initiatives related to the use of statistical information.

International Academic Cooperation

Throughout 2025, AIU continued strengthening partnerships with foreign universities and the international academic community.

In March, the University participated in the “Spring in China” roundtable, devoted to developing cooperation between Kazakhstan and China, educational links and cultural exchange.

In April 2025, the AIU-2025 international scientific conference brought together representatives of the academic community to discuss current issues in science, education and international cooperation.

In June 2025, Astana International University hosted a meeting within the “Kazakhstan–Africa” dialogue, with the participation of a representative of Nigeria. The discussion covered prospects for academic cooperation, student mobility and joint educational programmes.

On 2 September 2025 in Beijing, AIU and Beijing Language and Culture University (BLCU) signed an agreement on launching the master's programme “International Chinese Language Education” in Astana.

Cooperation with BLCU is aimed at expanding international educational opportunities, developing joint academic programmes and training specialists in Chinese language teaching.

On 9 December 2025, a joint International School of Student Tourism opened, aimed at developing inter-university cooperation, professional exchange and international collaboration in tourism education.

Scientific and Technical Cooperation and Innovation Partnerships

An important area of AIU's international and inter-university activities in 2025 was the development of joint scientific and technical initiatives.

On 25 August 2025, Astana International University, D. Serikbayev East Kazakhstan Technical University and the technology company SpaceLab signed a memorandum of scientific and technical cooperation.

The agreement is aimed at developing cooperation in engineering research, digital technologies and space-related developments.

The partnership included consideration of prospects for implementing the IoVIT project, developing joint technological solutions and creating a university picosatellite.

Cooperation between the universities and the technology company broadened opportunities for scientific exchange and collaboration between academia and the high-technology sector.

International Cooperation in Environmental Education and Natural Resource Conservation

In 2025, AIU developed cooperation with international organizations on environmental education and sustainable management of natural resources.

On 3 November 2025, with the participation of the Delegation of the European Union to Kazakhstan and the Embassy of France, a documentary film was screened on the environmental problems of the Aral Sea region and the Syr Darya River basin.

The event included discussion of rational use of water resources, conservation of natural ecosystems and the environmental consequences of human activities.

The joint initiative contributed to international dialogue on environmental sustainability and increased students' awareness of water resource challenges in Central Asia.

Partnerships on Gender Equality and Human Rights Protection

In December 2025, Astana International University, together with the OSCE Programme Office in Astana, organized a photographic exhibition under the international “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” campaign.

The event addressed the prevention of gender-based violence, human rights protection, support for survivors and the promotion of public intolerance of discrimination.

The joint awareness-raising initiative helped disseminate knowledge about human rights, equal opportunities and the importance of a safe educational environment.

Developing Inter-University Cooperation and Exchange of Scientific and Educational Experience

In 2025, AIU participated in events aimed at developing cooperation between educational organizations in Kazakhstan and abroad.

On 29 April 2025, a roundtable entitled “Network of Children's Universities of Kazakhstan: Exchange of Experience and Prospects” was held, addressing supplementary education, early involvement of schoolchildren in scientific research and expanded cooperation between educational organizations.

Throughout the year, international scientific meetings, educational seminars and experience-sharing activities were also held on specialist training, recognition of qualifications and improvement of educational programmes.

Inter-university and international initiatives created additional opportunities for professional interaction among lecturers, researchers and students.

Thus, AIU's work under SDG 17 in 2025 encompassed partnerships with government organizations, foreign universities, international institutions and technology companies.

The agreements signed and joint events held contributed to strengthening scientific and educational cooperation, exchanging knowledge and experience,

developing innovative initiatives and expanding the University community's participation in addressing social and environmental challenges of sustainable development.

5. Community engagement

In 2025, AIU students and staff participated in social, educational and environmental initiatives, including World Cleanup Day, the Restart Eco-Challenge and psychological well-being activities. These initiatives combined volunteering, environmental awareness and support for the university community.

6. Monitoring and progress assessment

During 2025, the University compiled information on SDG-related activities in education, research, student support, partnerships and environmental management. Records covered events and projects, resource use, recyclable materials transferred for processing and the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions.

Results are presented in this annual report and in the sustainable development section of the official University website.

7. Conclusion

In 2025, AIU implemented educational, research, social and environmental initiatives across the 17 SDGs. Key results included training for 60 teachers, student financial support, ecological activities, the international registration of the NatureLab herbarium and the development of research and international partnerships.

Sustainability activities were carried out within the University's applicable policy framework, research projects and cooperation with governmental, academic and civil society organisations.

These results reflect AIU's contribution to quality education, inclusion, scientific research and environmental responsibility in 2025.

Appendix

Register of supporting materials for 2025

Selected public sources documenting the activities and results in this report:

- Professional development course “Artificial Intelligence in Education” — <https://aiu.kz/news/793>
- AIU-2025 international scientific conference — <https://aiu.kz/news/923>
- Climate risks and flood forecasting — <https://aiu.kz/news/999>
- School of Green Economy — <https://aiu.kz/news/1001>
- NatureLab herbarium and Index Herbariorum — <https://aiu.kz/news/1109>
- Mental Health Week and student exhibition — <https://aiu.kz/news/1161>
- Restart Eco-Challenge — <https://aiu.kz/news/1172>
- Public Council of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education — <https://aiu.kz/news/1181>
- Incubation programme Demo Day — <https://aiu.kz/news/1189>
- International School of Student Tourism — <https://aiu.kz/news/1201>
- AIU scientific projects — <https://aiu.kz/Scientific-projects?lang=ru>
- 2025 SDG 13 activities — <https://aiu.kz/center-sustain-dev/13?lang=ru&year=2025>
- 2025 SDG 15 activities — <https://aiu.kz/center-sustain-dev/15?lang=ru&year=2025>

Internal supporting materials:

- Regulation P-MUA 003-25
- Human Resources Policy P-MUA 013-24
- AURA SU delivery note No. 1420 dated 03.10.2025
- Letter from ZQ 2021 LLP dated 13.06.2025
- 2025 consolidated utility records
- 2025 greenhouse gas inventory