

Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business (UIB) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Report 2024

Introduction

Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business (UIB) remains committed to supporting and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The year of 2024 has seen numerous strategic activities and initiatives that align with SDGs, specifically SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 4 (Quality Education), and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). This report details the university's key contributions and achievements in these areas.

SDG 4: Quality Education

- **Program Excellence and Accreditation:** UIB offers 25 bachelor's, 16 master's, and 5 PhD programs, all rigorously accredited by national and international bodies such as FIBAA, AQA, and ACCA. This ensures that educational programs meet high-quality global standards, enhancing the learning experience and outcomes for students.
- **Curriculum Innovation:** The university has integrated sustainability and critical thinking components into its curriculum to promote a well-rounded education that prepares students for real-world challenges.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Accreditation and Quality Control		
Student and Faculty Satisfaction Surveys	The Center for Quality Assurance conducted surveys titled "Teacher Through the Eyes of the Student," "Faculty Satisfaction," "Student Satisfaction with the Educational Process," and "Graduate Satisfaction." Survey Details: Conducted at the end of each semester, the "Teacher Through the Eyes of the Student" survey comprised 16 questions divided into five thematic blocks (e.g., personal qualities, professional level, ethical standards, and workload). The survey received participation from 982 students in the fall semester of 2023, yielding	The high level of satisfaction indicated robust teaching practices and effective student support.

	an average satisfaction score of 4.5 out of 5. This high score reflected strong positive feedback on teaching quality, respectful interactions, timely feedback, and the availability of educational materials.	
Monitoring and Transparency	From January 30 to February 1, 2024, UIB underwent monitoring by the League of Academic Integrity, which included interviews with university leadership, faculty, and students. This external review focused on transparency in research funding and adherence to ethical practices.	The feedback received during this process provided actionable insights to improve the university's operational and educational frameworks.
Documentation and Process Development	The Center for Quality Assurance developed and updated key internal regulatory documents to strengthen the institutional processes. These documents are accessible through the university's internal Bitrix system, ensuring that all stakeholders are informed and compliant with the quality assurance policies.	
Response to Accreditation Feedback	UIB addressed comments from FIBAA regarding previously accredited programs such as "Corporate Finance," "Economics and Management," "Financial Management," and "Behavioral Economics." This involved thorough revisions and submission of a comprehensive report, demonstrating UIB's commitment to continuous improvement and alignment with international accreditation standards.	
Recognition in THE Impact Rankings	UIB's notable inclusion in the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2024 marked a significant achievement. The university was ranked within the top 1501+ institutions globally. This ranking underscores UIB's efforts in education, governance, information dissemination, and teaching aligned with the UN's SDGs.	

SDG 5: Gender Equality

- **Establishment of the Eurasian Journal of Gender Studies:** In 2024, UIB launched the Eurasian Journal of Gender Studies (EJGS), a double-blind peer-reviewed publication dedicated to disseminating scientific research on gender issues. The

journal encourages the submission of original research, theoretical frameworks, and review articles that explore gender intersections with cultural, social, economic, and political contexts in the Eurasian region. <https://ejgs.kz/>

- **Research Focus on Social Issues:** UIB has been involved in research projects that address social inequalities, including studies on unequal access to resources among rural women in Kazakhstan. This research, led by faculty members, highlights the university's commitment to understanding and proposing mechanisms to overcome gender-based disparities
- **Faculty Representation and Leadership:** UIB maintains a diverse faculty, including women holding positions with advanced degrees (e.g., PhD, candidate of sciences) and leadership roles in research. This reflects the university's dedication to promoting gender equality within its academic and research community.
- **Educational and Professional Development Initiatives:** The university supports initiatives aimed at inclusive education and professional development, integrating training that equips both female and male faculty and students with the skills necessary to excel in academia and beyond.

SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth

- **Career Development Initiatives:** UIB's Career Center plays an active role in supporting students' transition to the workforce by organizing workshops, internships, and placement opportunities. These efforts are aimed at enhancing employability and contributing to regional and national economic growth.
- **Entrepreneurial Support:** The university encourages entrepreneurship through incubator programs and partnerships with industry leaders, fostering innovation and job creation.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Job Fair 2024	On April 12, 2024, the Career Center of Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business successfully hosted a job fair aimed at facilitating direct interaction between students and a wide range of employers. The event provided an opportunity for 2nd, 3rd, and 4th-year students to secure internships and discuss employment opportunities. The job fair attracted participation from 64 representatives of 44 companies, including major industry leaders like Deloitte, KPMG, PwC, Philip Morris Kazakhstan, and Air Astana.
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SDG 9: Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure

UIB's strategic commitment to SDG 9 is compiled through driving industry innovation through academic research, cross-sector partnerships, and the adoption of advanced technologies in educational practices.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Research and Development Initiatives	
Innovative Research Areas	UIB's departments, including Finance and Accounting, Business Informatics, and Management, engaged in extensive research on topics pivotal to industry and economic development. Key research areas included: Digital Economy: The exploration of how digital technologies can enhance economic productivity and foster industrial growth. Financial Technologies and Regulation: Studies on the application and impact of financial technologies within the banking sector and stock exchange, contributing to industry modernization. Advanced Technological Integration: The Business Informatics department focused on using IT tools in applied mathematics and deep learning systems in higher education, reflecting the university's push for innovation.
Collaborative and Funded Projects	
National and International Collaborations	UIB participated in numerous research projects funded by national grants and collaborated with universities and research centers. For example: “Strategy for Regional Development in Kazakhstan: Assessing Socio-Cultural and Economic Potential, Designing a Roadmap, and Developing Models and Scenarios” led by Associate Professor D.S. Musabalina. Program-targeted financing project of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2024-2026, IRN BR24992974, titled “Modernization of the Quality Assurance System in Higher Education in Kazakhstan Through Digitalization: Development of Approaches, Mechanisms, and an Information Base”
Cross-Sector Partnerships	UIB engaged with other academic institutions, including Esil University and KazNMU, to execute multidisciplinary research projects, fostering collaboration and sharing knowledge.
Innovation in Education	
Integration of New Technologies	The university implemented pilot courses

	with experimental enterprises to facilitate practical learning and encourage innovative solutions in business management.
Integration of New Technologies	Workshops and Seminars: UIB regularly hosted academic events such as workshops and seminars focusing on innovation and technological integration, creating a platform for the dissemination of cutting-edge research.
Publications and Intellectual Contributions	
International Journals and Conferences	UIB faculty published their findings in high-impact journals indexed in Web of Science and Scopus, showcasing their research at prominent international conferences. These activities positioned UIB as a contributor to global discussions on industry advancements.

SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions

- **Governance and Transparency:** UIB is dedicated to maintaining strong institutional governance practices that emphasize transparency, accountability, and ethical behavior. This supports an educational environment conducive to fairness and justice.
- **Institutional Collaborations:** The university partners with local and international institutions to promote good governance practices, incorporating these principles into its educational programs and student activities.

SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals

UIB has established academic partnerships and research collaborations with universities worldwide, facilitating knowledge exchange and contributing to the global advancement of the SDGs.

Key Initiatives and Achievements:

Academic Mobility Programs	UIB facilitated outbound student exchanges, significantly enhancing the global academic exposure of its students. In the 2023-2024 academic year: South Korea: 3 students participated in the academic mobility program at Dankook University, while 2 students attended Woosong University's International School of Business Solbridge. France: 5 students studied at ESC Clermont Business School, contributing to cross-cultural academic experiences and
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	skill development. Spain: 2 students attended the University of Cádiz, enhancing their knowledge through exposure to diverse educational practices. Latvia: 1 student participated in an exchange at Turība University. Erasmus+ Programs: 4 students studied at Inholland University of Applied Sciences, and 2 students were part of the program at BA School of Finance. 1 PhD candidate attended Camerino University in Italy through the Erasmus+ program. These academic mobility opportunities allowed students to broaden their academic and cultural horizons, aligning with UIB's goal of providing high-quality, globally-oriented education.
Support for Incoming and Outgoing Students	Administrative and Legal Support: UIB facilitated the registration of incoming foreign students with the Migration Police and ensured their proper accommodation registration through the local Public Service Centers (LJOH). This administrative support was crucial in maintaining compliance and providing a seamless experience for international students. Visa Services: UIB managed visa arrangements and renewals for foreign students from various countries, including Ukraine, Canada, and India, across multiple academic years (1st to 4th years), promoting uninterrupted educational engagement.
Partnerships and Collaborations	New and Updated Agreements: UIB established or renewed cooperative agreements with international universities, such as: The University of Santiago de Compostela Halic University St. Petersburg State University of Industrial Technologies and Design Belgorod State National Research University The International University of Kyrgyzstan Regional and Domestic Collaborations: UIB expanded its academic reach within Kazakhstan by collaborating with: L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University M.S. Narikbayev KAZGUU University Academician E.A. Buketov Karaganda University

	S. Toraighyrov Pavlodar State University These partnerships aimed to enhance curriculum content, foster joint research projects, and promote academic exchange, contributing to comprehensive education quality.
Student Consultations and Information Sessions	UIB conducted daily consultations for students and graduate students, providing guidance on both external and internal academic mobility programs. Online presentations of international opportunities were held during advisory hours, ensuring students had access to valuable information to make informed educational decisions.
Promotional and Informational Work	International Outreach: UIB distributed informational materials and video content to international partner universities, showcasing its educational programs and opportunities for academic mobility. This initiative strengthened UIB's profile as a center for quality education and international collaboration.
Student Selection for Mobility Programs	UIB conducted a comprehensive selection process for students participating in academic mobility and dual degree programs. For the 2024-2025 academic year, 13 students and 1 graduate student were selected, emphasizing the university's commitment to facilitating quality educational experiences and exchanges.

Conclusion

Kenzhegali Sagadiyev University of International Business continues to prioritize and contribute to the SDGs through comprehensive educational programs, inclusive policies, economic growth initiatives, and strong institutional practices. These efforts highlight UIB's dedication to fostering an environment where quality education, gender equality, and sustainable partnerships thrive, promoting long-term positive impacts on society and global development.