



Report  
on  
Sustainable Development Goal 17

**17** PARTNERSHIPS  
FOR THE GOALS



Bukhara 2023

Bukhara State University has been making significant efforts in its aim towards making a substantial impact on higher education through its active involvement in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and environmental initiatives.

On October 11<sup>th</sup> 2022, a significant event took place at Bukhara State University – the international symposium with the theme "Climate Change and Ecosystems: Challenges and Solutions" (Picture 1.1). This symposium was organized in collaboration with various institutions, including the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Bukhara Regional Department of Ecology and Climate Change, Green University - the Central Asian University for studying the environment and climate change, Kazan Federal University, Tyumen State University, and others. This symposium served as a testament to the university's commitment to addressing climate change and ecosystem-related challenges, aligning with sustainable development goals related to climate action and life on land. This event served as a platform not only for the exchange of knowledge but also resulted in partnerships with a shared mission: addressing pressing environmental challenges at the local level, with a collective vision of making a significant global impact.



*Picture 1. 1*

Bukhara State University's dedication to sustainable development extends beyond its symposiums. The university has established a notable collaboration with the "BUXARA-VARNET" Rural Business Academy, focusing on rural development and sustainable practices (Picture 1.2). This

partnership includes a dual educational pathway that involves students and faculty from the Faculty of Natural Sciences, specializing in Ecology and Environmental Conservation, working closely with the academy. This initiative embodies the essence of rural development and environmental conservation, as the university actively participates in empowering rural communities and fostering sustainable practices.

While the focus is on environmental conservation, the university's commitment extends to other areas, such as gender equality and diversity. To foster awareness and dialogue around these crucial issues, Bukhara State University organized a seminar-training



*Picture 1.2*

event. Students and employees engaged in discussions on gender equality, challenging stereotypes, and promoting inclusivity. This effort underscores the university's commitment to SDGs related to

gender equality and reduced inequalities, creating a holistic approach to sustainability that encompasses social and environmental dimensions.

The university is trying to extend its impact beyond its campus, and has been engaging in scientific research collaboration with Kazan Federal University across various fields, including mathematics, physics, chemistry, geology, oil and gas technology, ecology, and geography. This collaboration contributes to the generation of knowledge and innovations, supporting quality education and industry, innovation, and infrastructure. Furthermore, Bukhara State University continues its dedication to connecting students with potential employers and promoting economic growth through its "KARYERA-2023" event, which provides graduating students from the Agronomy and Biotechnology Faculty with opportunities for career development. The event brings together government agencies, regional representatives, and industry professionals, aligning with SDGs related to decent work and economic growth.

In response to the Young and Safe Winter Campaign, Bukhara State University has been demonstrating a proactive approach to addressing the safety of its community members, especially during the winter season (Picture 1.3).



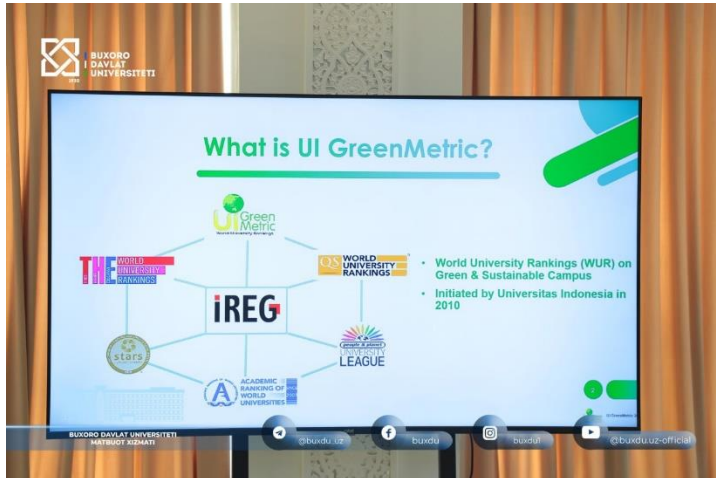
*Picture 1. 3*

like gas leaks, as well as preventing incidents related to natural gas and other hazards. In response to the government's directives and in alignment with the Young and Safe Winter Campaign, Bukhara State University, particularly the Faculty of Economics and Tourism, organized a significant event, which brought together professors, teachers, and students. Its focus was on raising awareness about safety, emphasizing the importance of adhering to safety regulations during the use of heating equipment, as well as preventive measures against gas-related incidents and gas-air mixture explosions.

During the event, experts from the "Citizens and Labor Protection" department at Bukhara State University, namely S.S. Boltaev and T.J. Kamolov, provided students with vital information and statistics about gas leaks and preventive measures. This event served as a noteworthy example of how Bukhara State University is actively participating in campaigns and initiatives to ensure the safety of their students and community members, particularly during the challenging winter season.

In conclusion, the university's response to the Young and Safe Winter Campaign demonstrates a commitment to the well-being of its community. It showcases a broader dedication to safety and preparedness during the winter months, highlighting the significance of adhering to safety protocols, especially in relation to gas-related hazards. Bukhara State University actively participates in international collaboration related to gathering and measuring data for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). One noteworthy instance of this collaboration is the university's engagement with the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, particularly the national seminar organized for Uzbekistan's Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). In this seminar, the primary objective was to boost Uzbekistan's participation in international rankings, specifically focusing on

The event, which took place at the university's main assembly hall and on the main university square, was aimed at addressing the challenges associated with the winter season. Furthermore, it encompasses the broader goals of enhancing safety and conducting preventive measures against issues



Picture 1. 4

the preparation and presentation of essential data. This initiative reflects the university's commitment to enhancing its standing in global rankings while actively contributing to the SDGs (Picture 1.4).

The seminar featured key discussions on the importance and significance of the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, emphasizing the objectives and

relevance of the rankings. Notably, Professor Dr. Ir.

Tommy Ilyas, an expert in organizational development from UI GreenMetric, provided insights during the seminar. Furthermore, the university's dedication to sustainable practices was underlined through its commitment to fostering sustainable and secure campuses. Professor O. Khamidov, the Rector of Bukhara State University, shared insights on the benefits and challenges of organizing eco-friendly campuses.

Additionally, the seminar addressed the formulation of surveys, data collection, and the importance of adhering to safety regulations. Dr. Ruki Harwahu, an expert on data, systems, and IT from UI GreenMetric, provided valuable insights into these aspects. In a broader context, Bukhara State University has taken the lead in hosting the "Uzbekistan's First UI GreenMetric World University Rankings National Forum." This forum, which is a collaborative effort involving the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, and Innovation of Uzbekistan, UI GreenMetric, the Indonesian university, and Bukhara State University, demonstrates the commitment to fostering sustainability in the higher education sector.

In conclusion, Bukhara State University's active involvement in international collaboration, particularly its engagement with the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings and the national seminar for Uzbekistan's Higher Education Institutions, underscores its dedication to sustainability and contributing to the SDGs. This engagement not only aims to enhance the university's global ranking but also reflects a commitment to advancing a greener and more sustainable future in higher education in Uzbekistan.

Bukhara State University has launched a significant initiative in adopting international best practices through its participation in a project focused on introducing a master's program in bioeconomics in partnership with European institutions.

Bioeconomy, a relatively new sector in Central Asian countries, has been successfully implemented in several European countries over the past few decades. It involves the sustainable production of renewable biological resources and the conversion of these



resources and waste into value-added products, including food, feed, chemical products, and bioenergy. This project is part of the Erasmus + capacity building program, with a duration of 3 years. The primary objective of this project is to develop a new master's level curriculum that integrates and showcases the best international practices in bioeconomy development. By doing so, it seeks to stimulate Uzbekistan's stakeholders to modernize the national economy. This modernization is aimed at emphasizing efficiency, sustainable resource utilization, and a transition of the labor force into the field of bioeconomy. It's in this arena that knowledge and innovation will play a pivotal role, ultimately leading to the creation of better jobs.

The overall aim of this project is to make a substantial contribution to the development of sustainable and inclusive socio-economic growth in Uzbekistan. This aligns perfectly with the broader objectives of the SDGs, particularly those related to economic growth, industry, innovation, and responsible consumption.

The collaboration involves several key partners, both from Europe and Uzbekistan, including:

- Latvia University of Life Sciences and Technologies (LLU) – Latvia (Coordinator of the project)
- Vytautas Magnus University (VMU) – Lithuania
- JAMK University of Applied Sciences (JAMK) – Finland
- Tashkent State Agrarian University (TSAU) - Uzbekistan
- Samarkand branch of Tashkent State Agrarian University (SAM TSAU) – Uzbekistan
- Tashkent Institute of Irrigation and Agricultural Mechanization Engineers (TIAME) - Uzbekistan
- Bukhara State University (BukhSU) - Uzbekistan
- Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Uzbekistan (MARU)

This collaborative effort, underpinned by the Erasmus + capacity building program, signifies a commitment to spreading international expertise and best practices to drive sustainable development in Uzbekistan. The introduction of a master's program in bioeconomics is a forward-looking initiative that lays the foundation for a more sustainable and inclusive socio-economic landscape in the country.

Bukhara State University, as a body, actively collaborates with non-governmental organizations to address the Sustainable Development Goals in various ways. These partnerships encompass a wide range of activities, fostering sustainable socio-economic growth and promoting a responsible approach to environmental issues:

1. BioEcUz Initiative and Engagement with "PET Baltija" JSC: The university collaborates with "PETBaltija", a major recycling facility that plays a crucial role in repurposing polymer waste in the region (Picture 1. 5). The partnership facilitates the collection of polymer waste from more than 20 countries, which is then reprocessed by the facility. This



Picture 1. 5

initiative aligns with sustainable development goals related to responsible consumption and environmental sustainability.

2. Career Opportunities and Internships: Bukhara State University actively promotes internships and engagement with local industries and organizations to provide students with real-world experience and help them find suitable career opportunities (Picture 1. 6).

Specifically, the university organizes various workshops and seminars to connect students and graduates with potential employers. One of the noteworthy events took place at the university's sports hall was "Ekvatorial Chodak" MCHJ, one of the region's prominent



Picture 1. 6

manufacturing enterprises, held a roundtable discussion in collaboration with the Marketing and Career Department of the university. These events aim to create networking opportunities and facilitate discussions on career paths, aligning with Quality Education, aids in promoting Decent Work and Economic Growth, as students have access to a variety of job openings through career fairs.

3. Local Economic Development: In collaboration with the regional government, Bukhara State University has established a platform for matching local job seekers, including 1,151 individuals in public education, 611 in primary education, 380 in healthcare, 826 in industry, 115 in construction, and 130 in agriculture, with 4,000+ available job openings. This partnership contributes to Decent Work and Economic



Picture 1. 7

- Growth, by promoting employment and labor market efficiency.
4. Professional Development: The university offers specialized courses in partnership with the Business Accelerator Center (Picture 1. 7), led by experienced professionals, to provide in-depth training for individuals interested in tax and accounting-related fields. These courses have been contributing to providing quality education within the university.

5. "Buxoro Varnet" and Business Tours:

The university organizes business tours for students, connecting them with local enterprises and organizations.

Collaboration with the "BUKHARA DESERT OASIS & SPA" tourism cluster opens opportunities for hosting 24,000 international tourists and 270,000 local tourists annually. These initiatives promote career development and foster



meaningful connections, addressing Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth goals, as it drives tourism-related job creation and economic growth. Also, students from the 3-2 IQT-20 and 3-3 IQT-20 groups of the Faculty of Economics and Tourism at Buxoro State University had the privilege of attending a fascinating event. Under the guidance of their instructor, O.H. Rahimov, the students visited the Uzbekistan-Germany joint venture, KNAUF, which is a leading company in innovative manufacturing. During the visit, they had the opportunity to explore various aspects of the KNAUF enterprise. Atayev Sanjar Sattorovich, the head of the KNAUF educational center, along with his team, conducted interactive lectures and discussions. The topics covered a wide range, including the history of the company, new product types, innovative management strategies, and quality standards of the company. The students



actively participated in these enlightening sessions, asking a plethora of questions, displaying their keen interest in understanding the intricacies of KNAUF's innovative manufacturing processes (Picture 1. 8). This visit to KNAUF not only provided the students with a firsthand insight into the world of innovative economics but also allowed them to gain practical knowledge about the successful operation of a major company in the field.



*Picture 1. 8*

In conclusion, Bukhara State University actively participates in NGO collaborations, fostering socio-economic development, employment opportunities, and responsible environmental practices. These initiatives, workshops, and partnerships collectively contribute to the advancement of several SDGs, particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and environmental sustainability (e.g., through recycling and tourism). The

university's holistic approach to addressing the SDGs signifies its commitment to building a more sustainable and inclusive future for the region.