

AZERBAIJAN STATE OIL AND INDUSTRY UNIVERSITY (ASOIU)

POLICY ON IDENTIFYING AND ENGAGING LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS FOR SOCIETAL IMPACT AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Approved: 2024

Developed by: Sustainable Development Center, International Relations Department, and Office of Community Engagement

Next Review Date: 2026

1. Purpose

The aim of this policy is to establish a clear and systematic approach for:

- Identifying key societal and institutional stakeholders.
- Managing communication and partnership mechanisms.
- Promoting inclusive collaboration that contributes to social, economic, and environmental well-being.
- Ensuring ASOIU's expertise and resources are effectively shared with society.

2. Advancing Knowledge through Innovation, Research, and Collaboration

ASOIU prioritizes innovation, applied research, and community collaboration as key instruments for societal transformation.

- The university implements stakeholder mapping to identify organizations, industries, and community groups whose missions align with ASOIU's educational and research goals.
- A structured process for preparing Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and Memoranda of Agreement (MoAs) defines mutual responsibilities, expected outcomes, and impact indicators for each collaboration.
- Regular forums, dialogues, and conferences are organized to facilitate open knowledge exchange and policy discussions between academia, government, and industry.
- ASOIU ensures that all research outcomes and innovative projects are strategically aligned with societal and industrial priorities, driving national progress in energy, environment, and technology.

3. Ensuring Access to ASOIU's Expertise for Society

ASOIU is committed to making its academic knowledge, technical expertise, and research capacity accessible to society to solve real-world challenges.

- Stakeholder engagement is guided by a structured identification and prioritization framework that focuses on mutual benefit and community relevance.

- The university collaborates with local businesses, government agencies, NGOs, and educational institutions to design joint initiatives, such as:
 - Research collaborations addressing sustainable energy, environment, and engineering challenges.
 - Internship and professional development programs for students and industry practitioners.
 - Knowledge-sharing seminars and capacity-building workshops for the broader public.
- These activities reinforce ASOIU's mission to act as a bridge between education, industry, and community needs.

4. Promoting Diversity, Inclusion, and Equal Participation

ASOIU integrates diversity and inclusivity principles into every aspect of its stakeholder engagement activities.

- The university promotes cross-cultural dialogue among students, faculty, and external partners, ensuring that cooperation reflects the diversity of Azerbaijan's academic and social landscape.
- Engagement procedures require that all partnerships adhere to the principles of equity, accessibility, and non-discrimination.
- ASOIU fosters an inclusive environment where diverse perspectives contribute to innovation, problem-solving, and mutual respect.
- By actively engaging with underrepresented groups and communities, ASOIU ensures that its public engagement truly reflects and enriches Azerbaijan's cultural and social diversity.

5. Building a Socially Responsible Generation

ASOIU emphasizes ethical awareness, sustainability, and social responsibility across all its educational and outreach activities.

- Students and staff are encouraged to recognize their individual and collective roles in shaping positive social change.
- All stakeholder collaborations are governed by ethical and sustainability principles, ensuring that partnerships contribute constructively to social and economic development.
- The university integrates community service, volunteerism, and SDG-oriented projects into its academic framework, enabling students to become active contributors to societal progress.
- Through initiatives like the SDG Learncast Program, Healthy Life Campaign, and Women in Engineering Mentorship, ASOIU cultivates a generation of graduates who are not only technically skilled but also socially conscious.

6. Implementation and Governance

- The Sustainable Development Center coordinates stakeholder identification and engagement strategies.
- The Office of International Relations and Community Engagement maintains a Stakeholder Partnership Database to track ongoing collaborations, community projects, and MoUs.
- Each faculty and department is responsible for integrating societal engagement into academic curricula and research projects.

7. Monitoring and Evaluation

- Stakeholder relationships are reviewed annually to ensure continued relevance, transparency, and mutual benefit.
- Feedback mechanisms (surveys, focus groups, partner evaluations) are used to measure satisfaction and community impact.
- Key indicators include:
 - Number and type of stakeholder partnerships established.
 - Number of community engagement events held annually.
 - Social and environmental impact of university-led initiatives.
 - Student and staff participation in community-based activities.