

17.2.5 – Does your university as a body collaborate with NGOs to tackle the SDGs?

At ASOIU, we recognise that meaningful advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) requires not just internal university efforts—but robust partnerships with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) that operate on the ground, engage communities, and mobilise resources globally.

1. Strategic alignment with SDG-facing NGOs

ASOIU has established formal collaborations with national and international NGOs whose mission and activities align directly with key SDGs—such as **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 7 (Affordable & Clean Energy)**, **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation & Infrastructure)**, and **SDG 13 (Climate Action)**. Through these partnerships, ASOIU leverages NGO expertise, networks and field-data capacities to help design, implement and measure interventions.

2. Joint projects, research and outreach

In cooperation with partner NGOs, ASOIU engages in joint research initiatives, student- and staff-led community outreach programmes, and data-gathering efforts aimed at assessing local needs, piloting sustainable solutions and reporting impact metrics. For example:

- Conducting community energy-efficiency surveys and awareness campaigns with an NGO active in clean-energy access in Azerbaijan.
- Co-developing infrastructure-innovation workshops with regional NGOs focusing on sustainable industry and resource-efficiency in rural or underserved areas.
- Collaborating on environmental-monitoring projects with NGOs that track emissions, waste-management or water issues, feeding into ASOIU’s institutional data framework.

3. Data sharing and impact measurement

These NGO collaborations enable ASOIU to access real-world contextual data (such as community-level energy access, waste-flow volumes, equity in education access) which we then integrate into our institutional sustainability reports and SDG-linked metrics. By working with NGOs that already collect field data, ASOIU enhances both the breadth (community reach) and depth (granularity of data) of its SDG-monitoring efforts.

4. Capacity building and mutual learning

Partnerships with NGOs also foster mutual capacity building: ASOIU provides academic, modelling and analytical expertise; NGOs offer operational insight, mobilisation capability and grassroots access. Together we hold workshops, training sessions and seminars for students, staff and community stakeholders centred on SDG-relevant themes such as sustainable engineering, renewable energy uptake, inclusive education and regional resilience.

Impact and significance

Through these structured collaborations with NGO partners, ASOIU amplifies its institutional contribution to SDG implementation—not just via campus operations or research in isolation, but through active community engagement, evidence-based impact, and data-driven decision-making. These partnerships represent a tangible embodiment of SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), reinforcing ASOIU’s role not just as an academic institution, but as a catalyst for sustainable development across Azerbaijan and the wider region.

Evidence and supporting documentation

- Formal memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and partnership agreements between ASOIU and NGO partners specifying sustainability/SDG objectives.
- Project briefs, reports or publications co-produced with NGOs, including field-data sets, community survey results or outreach event summaries.
- Institutional sustainability or SDG-impact reports in which NGO-partnership activities are documented (student engagement numbers, community reach, measurable outcomes).
- Workshop and training session records (agendas, attendee lists, presentations) held jointly with NGOs addressing SDG-aligned themes.