



Caucasus University

Sustainable Development Report

2023



PREAMBLE

In CU Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Annual Report, for 2023 year we try to describe unwavering dedication to drive positive change through learning opportunities, academic excellence and fruitful collaborations. With a grounding in our goals, aspirations and fundamental beliefs we are committed to playing a significant role in advancing the SDGs by aligning our educational initiatives, research endeavors and community involvement, with the pressing needs of our society and the broader global community.

The significant influence of education in promoting the Development Goals (SDGs) both locally and globally has shaped a complex perspective in recognizing the varied roles and importance of universities. Universities are strategically positioned to support development through their dedication to teaching, research efforts and engagement with the community. By nurturing knowledgeable individuals, creating knowledge and forming collaborations to tackle societal issues universities play a vital part in driving beneficial transformations.

In a time of growing challenges universities are transforming from closed off entities to open and connected establishments. (Universities without Walls). Nowadays they are seen as hubs deeply involved with their communities and the world at large. This shift, in perspective, highlights the significance of teamwork and engagement, outside the confines of campus enabling universities to broaden their impact and significance.

Caucasus University report illustrates its dedication to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by showcasing how it tackles both global issues through education and community involvement aligned with the SDGs principles for a future sustainability.

CU MISSION, VISION, AND VALUES



Mission: Caucasus University's mission is to prepare morally grounded, highly qualified professionals for both local and international markets. Through research-oriented teaching, we equip individuals with the skills and ethical values necessary to advance democratic ideals, fostering a knowledgeable, capable society that is responsive to modern educational demands.

Vision: We aspire to be a globally recognized institution where all stakeholders can realize their fullest potential. Caucasus University envisions an educational environment that promotes growth, inclusivity, and international outreach, upholding ethical standards and academic excellence.

Values: Guided by our values, we contribute to the SDGs by fostering a *Spirit of Innovation, Inclusion and Diversity, Academic Freedom, and Community Proximity*, along with a deep commitment to *Caring for the Country's Development*.

Our strategic priorities underpin our approach to sustainable development:

1. **Intensification of Scientific Research** to enhance relevance and innovation.
2. **Continuous Improvement of Teaching and Learning Quality** to uphold academic excellence.
3. **Internationalization** to foster cross-border collaboration and global competency.

These directions guide our contributions to the SDGs and serve as the foundation for the achievements highlighted in this report. Our guiding slogan, "*Studium Pretium Libertatis*" – *Knowledge is the Foundation of Freedom* – captures our commitment to advancing a more sustainable, equitable world.

Building Skills and Values for Sustainable

This section explores how **Caucasus University** integrates SDG principles into its curricula, ensuring that students are equipped with the competencies necessary for sustainable development. Through the preliminary mapping of Learning Outcomes (LOs) with SDGs and a review of curricula, where SDG-related courses are incorporated, we have identified key areas where sustainability principles are embedded within various programs.

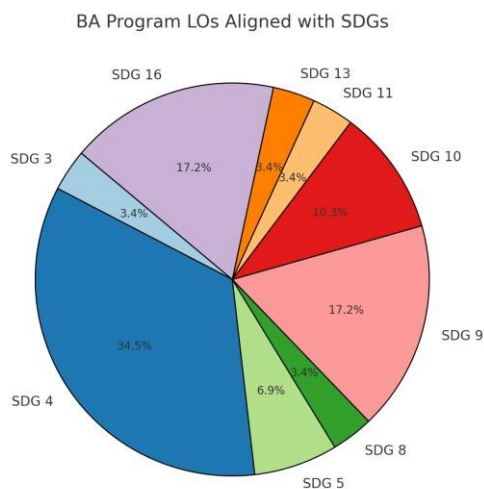
Our academic offerings are designed to cultivate competencies in critical thinking, ethical leadership, and problem-solving across diverse disciplines, fostering a profound understanding of sustainability concepts. By incorporating sustainability-focused courses, we aim to develop future leaders who are prepared to contribute meaningfully to global sustainability initiatives.

Curriculum Development: We embed sustainability principles across our programs by adapting teaching methods to include experiential learning, interdisciplinary courses, and real-world problem-solving. This approach ensures that students gain a comprehensive understanding of sustainable development and can apply these concepts in practical contexts.

Competency Building: Our programs emphasize core SDG-aligned competencies, such as systems analysis, ethical leadership, and civic responsibility. These competencies are developed through various courses that link theory with practice, enabling students to tackle challenges related to sustainability, social justice, and economic growth.

As mentioned above, preliminary mapping has been conducted to align the Academic program Learning outcomes with SDGs on three levels of study: Bachelor, Master, Doctoral.

Caucasus University's Bachelor programs demonstrate significant alignment with various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly emphasizing quality education, social responsibility, and technological innovation.

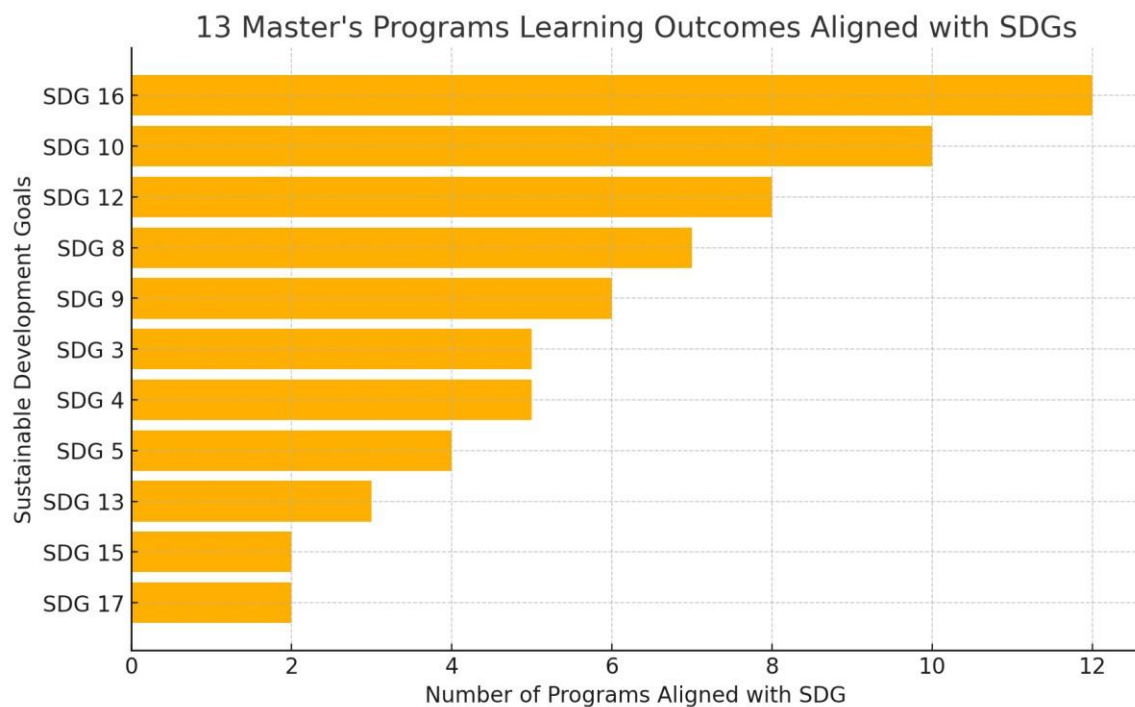


Key SDGs covered include:

1. **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Most programs aim to provide a high-quality educational foundation, focusing on discipline-specific knowledge, critical thinking, and ethical standards. Programs such as Primary Education Teacher Preparation, Law, and Public Administration directly contribute to improving educational standards and fostering inclusive, lifelong learning.

2. **SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure):** Programs like Computer Science, Cybersecurity, and Electronics and Computer Engineering are structured to enhance students' skills in technological innovation and infrastructure development, preparing them for roles that support industrial and infrastructural advancements.
3. **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** Programs such as Journalism and Mass Communication, History, and Law promote ethical standards, social justice, and governance, aligning with SDG 16 by equipping graduates to strengthen institutional integrity and responsible leadership.

This alignment reveals CU's commitment to producing graduates equipped to address societal, economic, and environmental challenges, fostering a sustainable, innovative, and socially responsible workforce.



As for the alignment between **Master's program** learning outcomes and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), illustrating the scope and impact of educational efforts across various fields. Programs are designed to foster competencies in areas like mental health, ethics, inclusivity, and sustainability, covering a range of SDGs from promoting good health and well-being (SDG 3) to advancing environmental sustainability (SDG 13). Each program integrates relevant skills and knowledge, enhancing students' abilities to contribute to specific global goals.

The visual highlights SDGs that are covered extensively, with SDGs 3, 4, and 16 standing out due to their frequent alignment across diverse programs. This reflects a strong emphasis on mental health, quality education, and ethical standards in professions such as clinical psychology, law, and IT management. Additionally, SDGs like 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) and 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) demonstrate

alignment in fields related to IT and logistics, emphasizing the importance of sustainable practices.

The analysis underscores how CU is contributing to sustainable development by embedding SDGs into program outcomes. This approach not only enhances academic rigor but also prepares students to drive positive change in various sectors, meeting global challenges through well-defined educational frameworks.

Accordingly, Educational Programs do have a number of the courses or the topics within the courses dedicated to Sustainable development: Media and environment; Corporate Social Responsibility; Sustainable development of Tourism; Circular Economy; Sustainable Architecture, Green Politics and Sustainable Development, Global Healthcare and Diplomacy, Democracy and Citizenship, Human Rights and Democracy, EU Institutions and Politics, Ethics of War - its Advantages and Limitations, International Organizations and Global Governance; Hybrid War, Strategic Communications and Cyber Security; Hybrid War, Strategic Communications and Cyber Security; UN Peacekeeping Operations; Conflict Management and Negotiations; Energy Security; Introduction to Peace Studies; Theories of Peace; Conflict In Abkhazia and others.

Generating Knowledge and Innovations for Sustainable Development

Caucasus University prioritizes research that addresses sustainability, with particular focus on issues like climate resilience, social equity, and educational innovation. Through partnerships and knowledge dissemination, our research informs sustainable practices and policies. This Chapter would bring several highlights from Research perspectives covering PhD programs; Research productivity of academic personal and outreach and Science popularization.

PhD program alignment with SDGs

Caucasus University (CU) PhD programs (Management, International Relations, Law, and Economics) support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 4 (Quality Education), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure). Through rigorous academic training in management,



international relations, law, and economics, CU fosters human capital development and research advancement, preparing graduates to address complex social, economic, and environmental challenges.

In terms of human capital development, CU's PhD programs encourage deep specialization, equipping graduates with advanced theoretical and practical skills across these disciplines. This

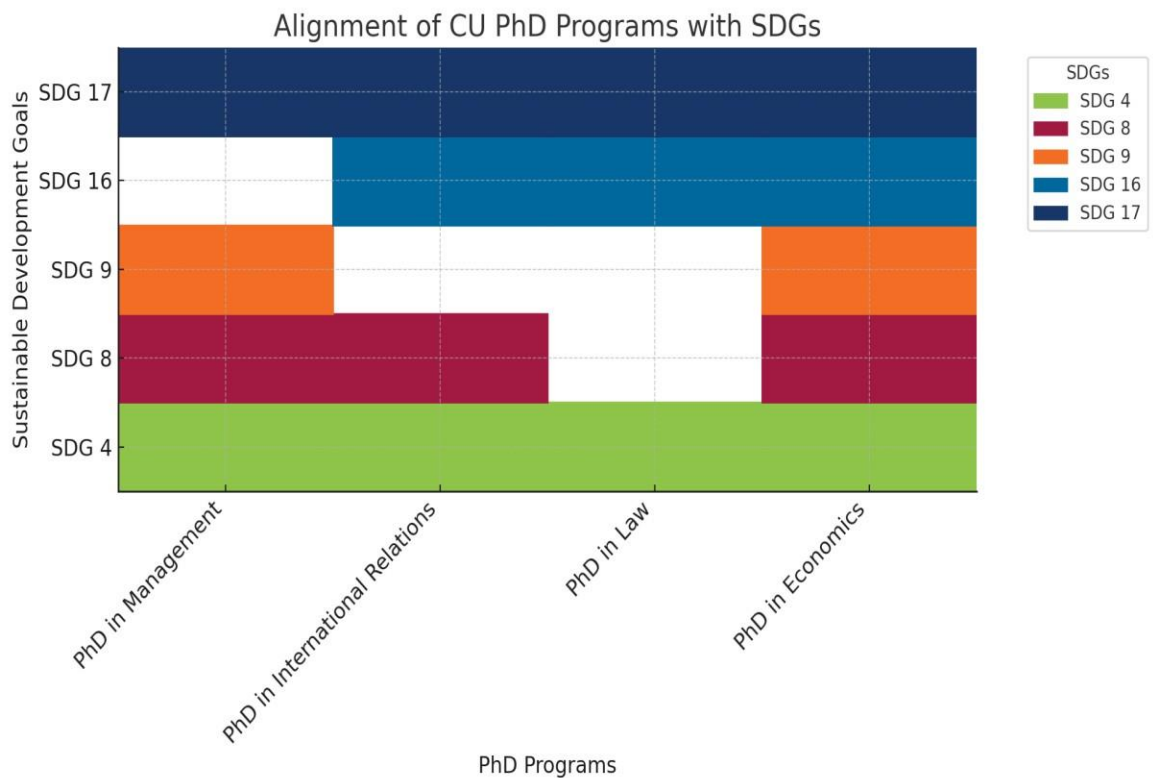
focus on specialization ensures that graduates are not only experts in their fields but are also well-prepared to navigate and influence evolving professional environments, enhancing workforce quality in both public and private sectors. Leadership development and ethical standards are embedded in each program, with students gaining strong foundations in responsible research and professional integrity. This alignment with high ethical standards supports SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by fostering transparent, ethical leadership across industries and institutions.

CU's commitment to adaptability and lifelong learning is evident in its PhD programs' emphasis on critical thinking, innovation, and problem-solving. By preparing students for lifelong learning, CU supports graduates in continuously adapting to new advancements and global challenges, fostering resilience and flexibility. This focus on lifelong learning aligns with SDG 4's objectives, reinforcing the importance of continuous education in a rapidly evolving world.

From a research perspective, CU’s doctoral programs prioritize innovative methodologies and high-impact research, encouraging students to contribute novel insights to their fields. This dedication to research innovation supports SDG 9, as it promotes sustainable economic development through technological and theoretical advancements. The university’s collaborative and cross-disciplinary research approach allows students to address real-world challenges, often integrating perspectives from various fields. This cross-disciplinary emphasis broadens the impact of CU’s research, enhancing its relevance to diverse societal needs and fostering connections between academia, industry, and policy.

CU’s PhD programs also support the global dissemination of knowledge, with a strong emphasis on producing research that meets international standards. By publishing high-quality research and promoting international collaborations, CU contributes to the global knowledge base, supporting SDG 4 and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals) through knowledge exchange and academic cooperation. This global focus amplifies CU’s research impact, fostering international recognition and supporting sustainable development on a broader scale.

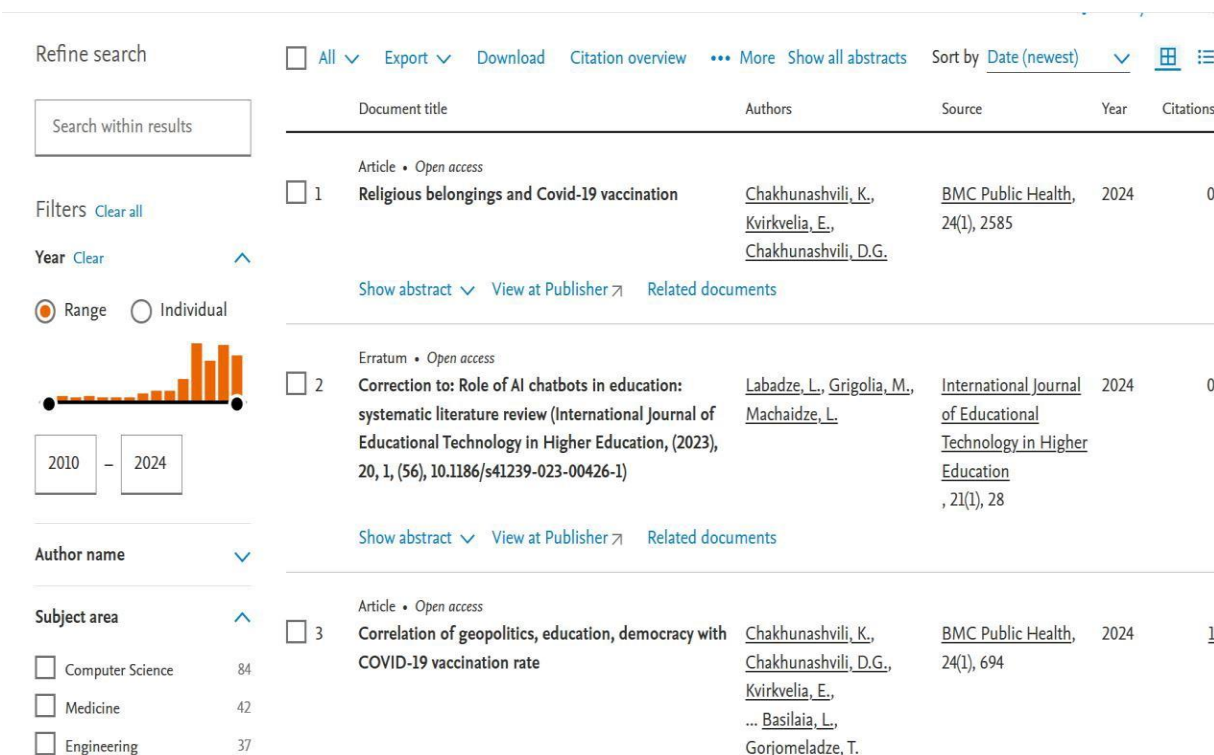
In essence, CU’s PhD programs embody a comprehensive approach to developing human capital and advancing research, directly contributing to the SDGs by fostering qualified, ethical, and adaptable professionals. The alignment of CU’s doctoral education with the SDGs not only enhances the university’s role in sustainable development but also strengthens its commitment to social responsibility, providing skilled professionals and impactful research for sustainable economic growth and institutional resilience.



SDG-ALIGNED SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

Caucasus University faculty have been intensely involved in scholarly/scientific research, and accordingly, the academic personnel scholarly work is prioritized, and this philosophy and the university vision are reflected in the amount of scholarly publications which are detected in various scientific journals and relevant scholarly data-bases. As an example, Scopus data-base reflects 175 publications throughout the recent decade. It is important to note that these publications reflect the scholarly activities and what the university prioritizes. The scholarly works are to be observed within the scope of the university third mission - how the educational institution contributes to the societal needs and aspirations; this opens up another perspective for the analysis - viewing scholarly activities within the scope of the United Nations sustainable development goals. Hence, the data from Scopus data-base provides food for thought - what makes the fulcrum of the university scholarly activities and which major directions are covered in connection to SDGs. The graph below shows that Caucasus University academic personnel's scholarly activities intensely cover almost all SDGs out of 17 sustainable development goals defined by the United Nations. Needless to say, these 17 SDGs present the most essential, and at the same time, most vulnerable trends in society and the global community; thus, the university scholarly focus can readily be observed, and specific trends identified.

Consistent scholarly work support policy developed by the CU administration resulted in a consistent rising trend in scholarly activities of the faculty, and, for example, Scopus data-base provides data which serves as an evidence for the statement:



Caucasus University

Paata Saakadze street 1, Tbilisi, Georgia ☎ 60113299

175

Documents ⓘ

47

Authors

 Set document alert

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Documents

Structure

Collaborators

Sustainable Development Goals 2023

New

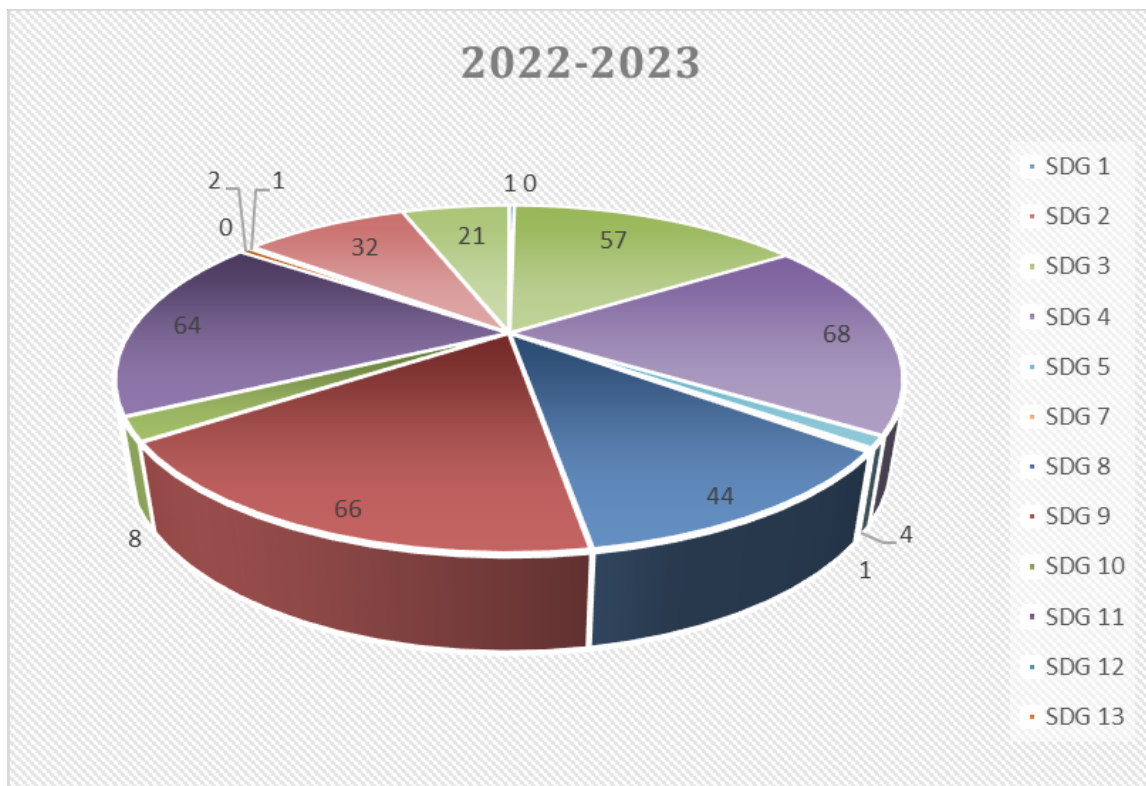
New: See at one glance Sustainable Development Goals mapped to this organisation

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are specific research areas that are helping to solve real-world problems. Elsevier data science teams have built extensive keyword queries, supplemented with machine learning, to map documents to SDGs with very high precision. Times Higher Education (THE) is using Elsevier SDG data mapping as part of its Impact Rankings. [More about SDGs](#) ↗

SDG contributions

 Goal 1: No poverty	1 document	 Goal 10: Reduced inequalities	8 documents
 Goal 3: Good health and well-being	19 documents	 Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities	2 documents
 Goal 4: Quality education	9 documents	 Goal 12: Responsible consumption and production	1 document
 Goal 5: Gender equality	2 documents	 Goal 13: Climate action	2 documents
 Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy	2 documents	 Goal 15: Life on land	1 document
 Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth	10 documents	 Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions	5 documents
 Goal 9: Industry, innovation and infrastructure	13 documents	 Goal 17: Partnership for the goals	47 documents

The CU administers its own internal data-base for the academic personnel's scholarly activities and the analysis of the data of most recent academic years shows intense scholarly activities; however, this data also provides evidence for substantiated decisions and policy development for further support of research activities.



2022-2023 publications per SDG.

The provided data offers an invaluable overview of the alignment of Caucasus University's scientific-scholarly activities with the UN SDGs. While the data provides an insight into a major trend of increased research activities in specific areas, a more scrutinized analysis shows what major remedial policies are to be employed by the university. It is also essential to state that the two sets of data should be differentiated; once the data-sets are grouped according to academic years, the academic year 2022-2022 provides complete data, however, the academic year 2024-2025 is not complete yet, and judging from the rising trends of the recent years, by the end of 2025, more publications will see the daylight.

The analysis of scholarly activities shows major trends – there is a constant increase in scholarly interest in connection to, e.g., SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 5, SDG 10, SDG 12, SDG 15, SDG 16, and SDG 17. This reflects a sustained focus on these areas or emerging scholarly interests, which is explicable through the specificity of the Georgian context – Georgia's aspiration for European integration and active participation in global partnerships for sustainable development; besides, Georgia is trying to reform state institutions, enhance infrastructure, raise the quality of social services, e.g., health services, education provision, etc. It in no way means that all the reform initiatives are successful and there is no room for improvement, however, awareness is high, that all these directions should be explored, hence the CU academic personnel's scholarly interest in these trends.

SDG-aligned research is of crucial importance for Caucasus University from many perspectives:

- **Institutional Reputation:** Vigorous SDG-aligned research is sure to enhance the university's reputation as one of the active participants of sustainable development initiatives in Georgia, which should be viewed from institutional and national perspectives; from institutional perspective, it is expected that these scholarly endeavors should attract more talented students and more qualified academic staff; from a broader, national perspective, the university is sure to be an active participant of creating public good, which is aligned not only with Caucasus University mission and vision, but with a broader context of university third mission philosophy.
- **Global impact:** By aligning research activities with global priorities, Caucasus university can have modest, but essential contributions to address global challenges – climate issues, enhancing quality of life, safety and security, equality and equity, health care and quality education, etc.
- **Societal Relevance:** By addressing real-world issues, the University can safeguard harmonization of its activities, policies, approaches and initiatives to increase its social impact, relevance of its activities and approach the concept of 'social responsibility' with more comprehensive, logical and cohesive research agenda and specific projects and activities.
- **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** Leading scholars and scientists, as well as education practitioners agree that the world has become so complex that a single attitude or approach cannot prove efficient, hence, interdisciplinarity is broadly encouraged. Studying any aspect of life requires a more complex approach and various disciplines should work hand in hand to provide a deeper and more comprehensive overview. SDG-focused research can intensify interdisciplinary collaboration, and it can lead to innovative solutions and a more holistic vision for problem-resolution; besides, it can lead to a more efficient use of resources and more effective exchange of knowledge and expertise from specific fields of study.
- **Employment and Employability:** Integrating SDGs into the curriculum is supporting the philosophy of the classical university model – unity of teaching and research. Research integration in the process of teaching and learning is sure to provide students with the most up-to-date knowledge and expertise, which is a decisive factor in this fast-changing environment where knowledge and expertise may become outdated instantly. Accordingly, introducing this approach in teaching and learning philosophy will support Caucasus University graduates for real-world challenges, and better prepare them to grasp the opportunities which 21st century is sure to offer.

FUTURE PROSPECTS

Based on the analysis of the scholarly activities of Caucasus University's academic personnel, specific future actions can be shaped:

- More emphasis on interdisciplinary research and encouragement and support to address multiple SDGs from interdisciplinary perspective;
- More focus on impact assessment to evaluate the real-world impact of Caucasus University research and scholarly activities.
- More initiatives for knowledge dissemination, e.g., through integration of research outcomes into the curriculum in order to intensify the curriculum and expose students to state-of-the-art facilities and most up-to-date knowledge and expertise so that they are better prepared for real-world challenges and possess not employment, but employability skills.
- More capacity building projects, policies and initiatives to enhance and expand research activities and the researchers' capacity to address real-world, SDG-related challenges so that their scholarly works reflect these necessities and provide effective solutions.

SDG-ALIGNED RESEARCH PROJECTS:

1. Hospital Health Care Anti-Crisis Management Issues in Georgia

This study supports **SDG 3** by evaluating hospital preparedness for crisis situations, which is essential for delivering consistent, high-quality healthcare in emergency contexts. In terms of **SDG 4**, this research enhances education in healthcare management by providing data-driven insights into crisis management, valuable for training healthcare professionals in disaster preparedness and response. By sharing these findings, CU fosters knowledge dissemination and skill-building among future healthcare leaders, promoting continuous learning in emergency healthcare education.

Link: <https://umbalk.org/hospital-health-care-anti-crisis-management-issues-in-georgia/>

2. Funding of Hospitals Based on Diagnosis-Related Groups (DRG)

The study on DRG funding aligns closely with **SDG 3**, as it explores effective financial models for healthcare access, ensuring equitable treatment through diagnosis-based funding. For **SDG 4**, the research serves as an educational tool for policymakers, healthcare managers, and students, advancing their understanding of innovative healthcare financing models. It also reinforces the importance of continuous professional development and evidence-based decision-making in healthcare economics, supporting educational objectives within healthcare management fields.

Link: <https://rustaveli.org.ge/geo/200916032045tsignebi/diagnozit-shechiduli-djufebit-saavadmkofoebis-dafinanseba-msofliio-gamotsdileba-da-rekomendatsiebi-saqartvelostvis>

E-book:

<https://rustaveli.org.ge/res/docs/35960b449a1b38c8575aedb1a8694e07514b4878.pdf>

3. Cooperation with Young Scientists

This study relates to **SDG 3** by investigating motivation and job satisfaction among healthcare workers, highlighting factors that impact workforce well-being and retention. Its contribution to **SDG 4** is significant, as it provides a foundation for educational programs that emphasize career development, job satisfaction, and motivation in the healthcare sector. By offering insights into workforce management and supporting the professional development of young healthcare scientists, CU promotes lifelong learning and a well-educated healthcare workforce.

Link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00185868.2024.2383909>

4. Scientific Publication on Certain High-Quality Services Not Covered by the Universal Healthcare Program

This research addresses **SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being)** by exploring financial access to high-quality medical services, particularly knee arthroplasty surgery. The study highlights the barriers to essential healthcare services, especially for older populations, and advocates for improved financial models to ensure equitable access to healthcare. It also aligns with **SDG 4 (Quality Education)** by providing valuable insights into the economic aspects of healthcare, which can inform educational curricula in health economics and policy-making. By analyzing the shortcomings of the DRG model, this research contributes to ongoing education and discourse on healthcare financing. Additionally, it supports **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** by emphasizing the need for strong governance in health systems to ensure that policies do not exclude vulnerable populations and are fair and inclusive.

Link: <https://forbes.ge/health/saqhovethao-jandatsvis-sakhelmtsipho-programith-garkveuli-maghalkhariskhiani-servisebi-ar-phinansdeba/>

5. Caucasus University has been awarded the Basic State Research Grant for 2023, amounting to 179,400 GEL, to conduct groundbreaking research on "CSR Disclosure, Earnings Management, and Corporate Governance: A Georgian Perspective." Led by Prof. E. Pirveli, this research project aims to explore the relationships between corporate social responsibility (CSR) disclosure, earnings management practices, and corporate governance structures within Georgian companies.

Each of these projects aligns with **SDG 4** by promoting educational advancements and research-based insights that enhance training programs, curricula, and professional development in healthcare fields. This emphasis on continuous education ensures CU's research has a broad, lasting impact on healthcare quality and innovation.

INTERDISCIPLINARY AND COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH:

At Caucasus University, we engage in partnerships with medical and health organizations to address global healthcare challenges through collaborative, cross-disciplinary research. One example is our study on critical case reporting systems, which enhances patient safety and care quality by developing proactive incident management strategies. Collaborating with institutions like the Chapidze Emergency Cardiology Center, we integrate academic insights with clinical expertise to improve healthcare practices.

This research aligns with SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by ensuring safer healthcare environments through better incident management. It also contributes to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing valuable insights for developing curricula on clinical risk management and quality assurance. By sharing best practices and knowledge, we enhance the skills of healthcare professionals, fostering continuous learning and improving patient safety.

Furthermore, the research supports SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by promoting innovation in healthcare systems, making them more resilient and effective. It also aligns with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by fostering transparency, accountability, and ethical standards within healthcare organizations. Lastly, it advances SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), strengthening collaborations between academia, healthcare institutions, and professionals, which is crucial for achieving global health and education objectives.

Link: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S2603647921001007?via%3Dihub>

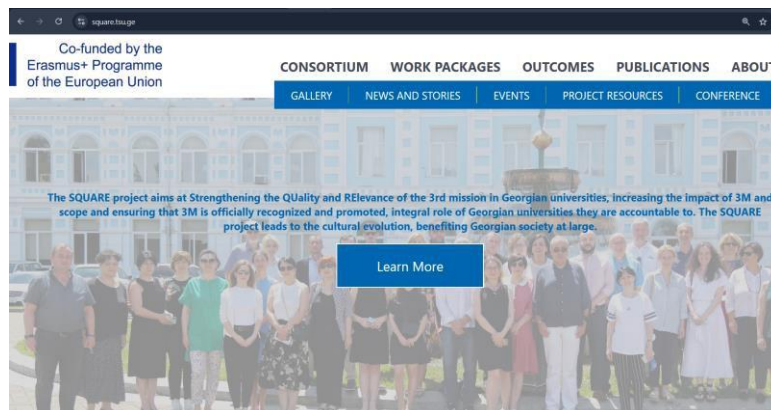
Through these collaborations, we bridge the gap between theory and practice, creating an ecosystem of shared knowledge that addresses pressing healthcare challenges and promotes sustainable development.

THIRD MISSION:

ENGAGING WITH SOCIETY FOR SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS

This report provides an analysis of Caucasus University's initiatives in continuous education, knowledge and technology transfer, and social engagement, illustrating the university's alignment with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under its third mission. During 2023, Caucasus University undertook a strategic development plan renewal, aligning its initiatives with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to enhance its impact on society. This renewal led to the modification of several strategic objectives, notably the P5 goal: "Development and implementation of new educational programs and projects (including innovative programs and projects) based on market demands." An important addition to this goal emphasized the university's commitment to its Third Mission: "In accordance with the university's Third Mission and taking into account market and community needs, the development and implementation of programs/activities (including innovative ones) will be carried out."

This enhanced focus on societal engagement directly relates to Caucasus University's involvement in the Erasmus+ project, "Strengthening the Quality and Relevance of the Third Mission in Georgian Universities" (SQUARE) <https://www.square.tsu.ge/>,



funded by the European Commission. Within this framework, the university has worked to describe ongoing activities, develop a declaration document, and integrate specific activities and indicators into its strategy to bolster its Third Mission profile in support of the SDGs. During the 2023 final conference, a

special panel was dedicated to Sustainable Development Goals, further emphasizing the university's third mission relevance to the SDGs.

(<https://www.square.tsu.ge/assets/js/source/Conference/SQUARE%20-%20Addressing%203rd%20Mission%20in%20Universities%20%20Agenda.pdf>)

In the reporting year, the university planned and executed 102 projects related to its Third Mission, with 24 activities focused on Continuing Education (CE), 30 on Knowledge and Technology Transfer (KTT), and 48 on Social Engagement (SE). These initiatives not only reflect Caucasus University's commitment to quality education but also demonstrate its vital contributions to community development, highlighting its dedication to promoting sustainable practices, fostering innovation, and advancing social equity as outlined in the SDGs.

CONTINUOUS EDUCATION



Diverse LLL Educational Programs

The Caucasus University (CU) Training Centre <https://cu.edu.ge/ka/training-center/trainings> offers a broad range of training programs designed to meet the diverse needs of external stakeholders, supporting lifelong learning and fostering an inclusive, diverse educational environment. With a commitment to continuous education, CU provides accessible, tailored programs that empower individuals across various sectors, including healthcare, management, design, and customer service.

By addressing topics relevant to modern society—such as occupational safety, patient communication, export management, and sustainable practices—CU’s training center ensures that participants from different backgrounds and industries have the opportunity to gain skills that are both practical and socially impactful. The inclusive nature of these programs is evident in their adaptability and focus on equipping participants with tools for success in an interconnected, globalized world. Through these training courses, CU actively contributes to social inclusion and workforce diversity, ensuring that people from all walks of life have access to quality education and professional development.

2022-2023 Academic Year					
#	Name of the Training	Hours	Participants	ad-hoc/programmed basis	Campus/Beyond Campus
1	Accredited Occupational Safety Specialist Training Program	230 hours	11	Programmed basis	Campus
2	Patient Communication Skills	12 hours	8	Programmed basis	Campus
3	Sales Management	18 hours	10	Programmed basis	Campus
4	Management of the Registry of Medical Institutions	16 hours	10	Ad-hoc	Beyond Campus
5	Interior Design	66 hours	9	Programmed basis	Campus
6	Certified Course for Export Managers	78 hours	25	Programmed basis	Campus/Beyond Campus
7	General Management	154 hours	15	Programmed basis	Campus
8	Gastronomic camp	12 hours	15	Programmed basis	Campus
9	Service +	16 hours	11	Ad-hoc	Online

The training programs offered span a wide array of topics, each designed to enhance specific skills while contributing to sustainable development goals (SDGs) aimed at creating a prosperous, equitable, and sustainable society.

1. The Accredited Occupational Safety Specialist Training Program is a comprehensive course spanning 230 hours, aimed at equipping participants with the knowledge and skills needed to maintain safe work environments. This aligns directly with SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), as it promotes safe, secure working conditions essential for productive employment. Additionally, by

emphasizing safety, the program supports SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), ensuring that workers can thrive in environments where health hazards are minimized.

2. Patient Communication Skills is a focused 12-hour course dedicated to improving communication between healthcare providers and patients. This training serves SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) by enhancing the quality of patient care and supporting positive health outcomes. Effective communication within healthcare settings reduces misunderstandings, fosters trust, and leads to better treatment adherence, ultimately improving public health.
3. Sales Management offers participants 18 hours of targeted training in sales strategies, preparing them for success in the business world. This course contributes to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by empowering individuals with practical sales skills, which enhances their employability and supports the growth of businesses, directly impacting local and national economies.



4. Management of the Registry of Medical Institutions provides an essential 16-hour training for managing healthcare records and data. This ad-hoc course aligns with SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by promoting transparency, accountability, and efficiency within healthcare institutions. Accurate and reliable medical records support the overall

health system's integrity and improve service delivery to patients.

5. Interior Design is a 66-hour program that prepares participants to think creatively about space and design. This training is aligned with SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) as it can encourage sustainable design practices that contribute to environmentally friendly urban development. By incorporating sustainability principles into interior design, participants are equipped to create spaces that are not only aesthetically pleasing but also resource-efficient and eco-conscious.
6. Certified Course for Export Managers is an intensive 78-hour program aimed at developing export skills and understanding global trade dynamics. This course supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by fostering skills that enable businesses to enter and thrive in international markets. Additionally, it aligns with SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals), as it promotes international trade partnerships, enhancing global economic cooperation.

7. General Management is a foundational 154-hour program focused on building robust management competencies. It supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic



Growth) by improving organizational leadership and operational efficiency, which are critical for sustainable economic development. Participants in this program gain the skills necessary to lead teams effectively, ensuring business resilience and productivity.

8. Gastronomic Camp is a unique 12-hour experiential training that

provides insights into culinary arts, with an emphasis on sustainable practices. This program aligns with SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) by encouraging participants to adopt and promote sustainable cooking practices. By highlighting responsible sourcing, waste reduction, and environmentally friendly food preparation, the program fosters awareness around the importance of sustainability in the food industry.

9. Service + is a 16-hour online course designed to refine customer service skills, making it ideal for participants looking to excel in service-oriented fields. This training supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by enhancing employability in the service industry and SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing accessible learning opportunities that improve professional competence. Strong customer service is crucial for business success, making this program valuable for individuals and organizations alike.

Each of these programs not only imparts valuable skills to participants but also contributes to broader societal goals, supporting sustainable development in diverse ways. By fostering expertise in areas such as safety, healthcare, business management, and sustainable practices, these training initiatives empower individuals and communities to thrive in alignment with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

Specialized Language Support:

The **English language course** offered to students from Abkhazia represents a significant initiative in promoting equitable access to education and fostering inclusion. This program not only provides essential language skills but also serves as a bridge for students from

conflict-affected regions, helping them connect with wider educational and professional opportunities.

By making high-quality language education accessible, this initiative aligns closely with **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**, as it aims to level the playing field for students from

marginalized communities. Language proficiency is a powerful tool for empowerment, enhancing students' abilities to engage in broader academic, cultural, and economic contexts, thus reducing educational and social disparities.



Furthermore, this initiative supports **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions)** by fostering

understanding, integration, and regional cohesion. Providing students from Abkhazia with educational opportunities not only strengthens their personal development but also contributes to a culture of peace and collaboration across regions. By investing in skills that build mutual respect and understanding, this course becomes more than just a language program—it becomes a pathway for healing divisions, strengthening community bonds, and promoting lasting peace and stability.

The broadened educational offerings and tailored language programs reflect CU's commitment to inclusive education, helping bridge regional gaps in educational access. These programs contribute to both skill development and intercultural understanding, promoting a more inclusive learning environment.

KNOWLEDGE AND TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER

Strategic Contributions and Initiatives

- **Educational Outreach Beyond Campus:** CU's Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center engaged with local schools, technoparks, and regional areas, promoting entrepreneurial education and fostering innovation beyond campus. These outreach efforts directly contribute to SDG 4 (Quality Education) by providing educational opportunities in communities that might otherwise have limited access to entrepreneurial and technological knowledge. By extending learning beyond traditional settings, CU helps bridge the educational gap and ensures inclusive, equitable access to knowledge, which is vital for personal and professional development.



- **Mentorship and Skills Development:** The acceleration programs at CU provide startups with critical mentorship from experienced entrepreneurs, business leaders, and investors. This process not only aligns with SDG 4 (Quality Education) by offering practical, hands-on learning but also supports SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by equipping participants with the skills needed to grow their businesses, create jobs, and contribute to the local economy. The programs focus on fostering skills essential for sustainable economic growth, helping to establish startups that are ready to compete in global markets.

Acceleration programs took place in Kvemo Kartli and

Samtskhe Javakheti regions.

- **Pre-Acceleration Programs in Regional Areas:** By visiting regions outside major urban centers, CU extends pre-acceleration programs to young entrepreneurs and small businesses, empowering them with the tools they need to succeed. These efforts contribute to SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth) by promoting inclusive economic growth and supporting job creation in underdeveloped areas. These programs also align with SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by fostering innovation in regions where infrastructure may be underdeveloped, thus helping to close the regional gap in technological and industrial progress.



- **Supporting Sustainable Economic Growth:** CU's acceleration programs help startups access resources, funding, and markets, enabling them to scale and create jobs. This directly contributes to SDG 8 by promoting economic growth through entrepreneurship and innovation. By providing a platform for new businesses, CU supports the long-term development of sustainable industries, particularly in high-tech and innovative fields, in line with SDG 9.



- **Collaboration with Innovation Agencies:** CU collaborates with the Georgian Agency for Innovation and Technology to enhance the

commercialization of innovative ideas and technologies. These partnerships foster technological development, contributing to SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by supporting infrastructure for innovation and facilitating the growth of new industries. This collaboration also strengthens local and national innovation systems, creating platforms that help startups scale and reach new markets.



- **SDG Innovation Program for Young Professionals:** Caucasus University Innovation and Entrepreneurship Center, in collaboration with the Global Compact Network Georgia, launched the SDG Innovation Accelerator for Young Professionals program. The program, held for the first time in Georgia, includes four intensive camps at CU, where participants learned about the UN

Sustainable Development Goals and develop sustainability projects to implement in their companies. Facilitated by experts and mentors, this program empowers young professionals to drive SDG-focused innovation within their organizations, enhancing sustainable business practices and supporting Georgia's alignment with global sustainability standards. Caucasus University's



Business School (CSB) has initiated similar activities, establishing a sustainable practice.

Visits in Technoparks: [Gurjaani](#), [Zugdidi](#), [Batumi](#), [Ozurgeti](#), [Senaki](#), [Kaspi](#)
SDG Innovation Accelerator link: <https://www.cu.edu.ge/en/news-page/sdg-innovation-acceleration-camp-cu-march>

- **Promoting SDG Awareness in Vocational Education:** Caucasus University, in partnership with Batumi State Maritime Academy and Skills Agency, created a project to enhance awareness and integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within vocational education. The initiative addressed Active Citizenship, Green Skills, and Ecology, with training courses covering SDG topics such as Quality Education, Climate Action, Life Below Water, and Partnerships for the Goals. This collaboration has enabled participants to engage with sustainable practices and deepen their understanding of key SDGs in vocational education.



- **Child Rights Center at Caucasus University**

Following a memorandum signed between Caucasus University and UNICEF, a Child Rights Center has been established at Caucasus University with the goal of promoting and advancing children's rights. The center supports the study of children's rights, child-friendly justice systems, and restorative justice, as well as the integration of children's rights as a standalone academic discipline in university programs. It aims to develop recommendations for institutionalizing children's rights within various organizations.

The Child Rights Center continues to plan public lectures and events, creating a platform for dialogue and learning around children's rights and justice reform.

On November 20, 2023, Caucasus University, in collaboration with international organizations, hosted the First International Conference on "Child-Friendly Justice Systems and Children's Rights: Best European and American Practices" in Tbilisi, Georgia. The conference aligned with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it addressed critical aspects of child justice reform and the protection of children's rights. This initiative contributed to:

- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Promoting educational initiatives to inform and train stakeholders on child-friendly justice practices.
- **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** Focusing on justice system reform and creating safe, inclusive environments for children in legal settings.
- **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Addressing inequalities by protecting vulnerable children's rights and ensuring equitable treatment in justice processes.

Key discussions included strategies for child protection, fair legal processes for minors, and best practices from Europe and the USA, with participation from Georgian government representatives, international legal experts, and human rights advocates.

SOCIAL ENGAGEMENT

- **Community-Focused Projects:** CU led multiple initiatives aimed at community support, such as providing internet access to schools in Abkhazia, supporting mental health awareness, and organizing cultural events that foster social cohesion and development. These projects help bridge the gap between communities, promoting social inclusion and addressing inequalities, thus contributing to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities) and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).
- **Targeted Financial Support:** Scholarships for students from occupied regions and ethnic minorities directly address educational disparities, promoting equitable access and contributing to SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). By supporting marginalized students, CU ensures that education becomes a tool for social mobility, enabling all students, regardless of background, to access quality education.
- **Environmental and Community Sustainability Projects:** Projects such as waste recycling and green tourism workshops underscore CU's dedication to SDG 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). These initiatives promote environmental consciousness and community sustainability, encouraging local residents to participate in eco-friendly practices while supporting the growth of sustainable cities and communities.
- **Collaboration with Innovation Agencies:** CU collaborates with the Georgian Agency for Innovation and Technology to enhance the commercialization of innovative ideas and technologies. These partnerships not only support SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure) by developing infrastructure for innovation and facilitating the growth of new industries, but they also contribute to SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals). The collaboration strengthens local and national innovation systems, creating platforms that help startups scale and reach new markets, thus fostering sustainable economic development and community resilience.
- **The Caucasus University Jean Monnet Center of Excellence for EU Policy Transposition (EUPOLTRANS)** actively promotes teaching, research, and policy debates on specific EU policies, including environment, consumer protection, competition policy, labor, public administration, and foreign and



security policy, which are covered by the AA/DCFTA and scheduled for transposition in Georgia from 2022 to 2024. EUPOLTRANS encourages the development of relevant courses, research initiatives,

and discussions to foster greater understanding of EU policies. Through these activities, EUPOLTRANS enables Caucasus University and the broader society to enhance citizens' participation in promoting EU policies and values, while assessing the progress, gaps, delays, and alignment of Georgia's policies

with those of the EU under the AA/DCFTA. This contributes to a more effective, inclusive, and knowledge-driven AA implementation process covering SDGs: 4,8, 10, 13, 16.

- **Sports and Local Community, Popularization of Healthy Lifestyle:** Caucasus University supports local community engagement by offering its campus football



stadium free of charge to the futsal team “Ritsa” for regular training sessions. Additionally, the university provides the team with essential resources, including sports equipment, access to dressing rooms, and uniforms. The “Ritsa” football club comprises young individuals who have graduated from schools in Abkhazia, thereby fostering inclusive participation and community support through shared university facilities.



- **European Learning and Civic Education Project for IDPs and Ethnic Minority Schools.** With funding from the European Commission's Erasmus+ program, Caucasus University recently implemented a project aimed at providing European learning experiences for students and teachers from IDP and ethnic minority schools. This initiative raised awareness on European integration and the Association and Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Area Agreements, involving students, graduates, and academic staff from the European Studies Education Undergraduate Program.

The project encompassed:

- Workshops in public schools;
- Roundtable discussions for school teachers with European experts;
- Competitions for students and teachers;
- Meetings with the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport to develop civic education standards;

- Development of European Integration Guidelines for Civic Education in four languages.

In collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Science of Georgia and various educational associations, including the History Teachers Association and Civic Education Teachers Association, the project reached around 800 beneficiaries, including students, teachers, and parents. Educational resources and project materials are accessible online, including a textbook issued within the project's framework.

Aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this project contributes to:

- **SDG 4 (Quality Education):** Providing educational resources and strengthening civic education in diverse communities.
- **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities):** Supporting IDP and ethnic minority schools, reducing educational disparities.
- **SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions):** Promoting knowledge of European integration, civic education, and democratic values.

The project's results strengthened interactive teaching-learning methods in lectures and inspired future student conferences, ensuring the sustainability of project outcomes and fostering continued collaboration with schools.

CONCLUSION

Caucasus University's commitment to develop its approach to Sustainable Development highlighted the integration of SDGs principles into its core values and academic programs like quality education and social justice to prepare students for addressing challenges and fostering sustainable change, through research and community engagement efforts.

The university's Third Mission initiatives involve projects that prioritize education and knowledge sharing while promoting social inclusion to benefit the community outside its campus boundaries. By forming partnerships and engaging in research endeavors the university enhances its impact by connecting academic theories with real world applications in areas such as healthcare, environmental sustainability and economic development.

Caucasus University seeks to enhance its influence by broadening flexible learning options, funding disciplinary research and fortifying ties with the community. These efforts will further establish the university as a pioneer in sustainability, capable of tackling obstacles and aiding in the drive for a sustainable and fair tomorrow.