

# **DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH**

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**Lankaran State University**

# TABLE OF CONTENT

- Policy Purpose
- Policy Commitment
- Strategic Areas of Implementation
- Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
- SDG 8 Monitoring Dashboard
- Governance and Implementation
- Monitoring and Review
- Expected Impact

# POLICY PURPOSE



Lankaran State University recognizes the important role of higher education institutions in promoting sustainable economic development and supporting productive employment. In alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth, the university actively contributes to increasing employment opportunities, encouraging entrepreneurship, and supporting regional economic development.

According to the International Labour Organization, decent work is based on four fundamental pillars: employment opportunities, rights at work, social protection, and social dialogue. These principles guide institutions and governments in creating inclusive labor markets and ensuring fair and sustainable working conditions.

Through education, research, innovation, and collaboration with industry partners, the university aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and professional competencies necessary to contribute to sustainable economic growth and societal development.

# POLICY COMMITMENT

Lankaran State University is committed to fostering an academic and institutional environment that promotes productive employment, professional development, and responsible economic activity. The university integrates labor market–relevant competencies into its academic programs, research activities, and partnership initiatives. Through practice-oriented education, entrepreneurship initiatives, and international cooperation, the university aims to prepare graduates who can successfully adapt to the evolving demands of the labor market and contribute to inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

# STRATEGIC AREAS OF IMPLEMENTATION

## **Education for Economic Development**

Lankaran State University offers academic programs designed to strengthen students' knowledge and skills in economics, management, and business-related fields. In particular, programs delivered by the Faculty of Economics and Management focus on preparing qualified professionals capable of supporting sustainable economic development and responsible business practices.

## **International Cooperation**

The university maintains partnerships with more than 50 international universities and actively participates in international academic programs. Within this framework, initiatives such as Erasmus+ and Orhun Exchange Program support academic mobility, internships, and joint research projects involving students and academic staff.

# **PRACTICE-ORIENTED LEARNING ENVIRONMENT**

The university places significant emphasis on experiential learning. Facilities such as experimental agricultural fields and a tourism practice center provide students with opportunities to gain practical experience. These environments support students studying in various programs within the Veterinary, Tourism and Hospitality, Agricultural, and Engineering faculties by enabling them to develop applied professional skills.



# SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT



Lankaran State University contributes to regional economic development through sustainable agricultural initiatives. The university manages tea plantations and supports the cultivation of various citrus fruits, which provide both practical training opportunities for students and economic contributions to the local community. In addition, environmentally sustainable projects such as fish farming in rainwater-fed artificial lakes are being explored.



## **RESEARCH, INNOVATION, AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

The university promotes research activities related to economic development, labor markets, and sustainable industry practices. Entrepreneurship education and innovation initiatives encourage students to develop new ideas, create start-up initiatives, and contribute to economic activity and job creation.

## **INDUSTRY AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS**

Lankaran State University collaborates with local businesses, public institutions, and international organizations. These partnerships support internship opportunities, applied research projects, and professional development activities that enhance students' readiness for the labor market.



# KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS (KPIs)

To assess the effectiveness of activities related to SDG 8, the university applies a set of measurable performance indicators. Participation of students and academic staff in international mobility programs is also monitored annually.

**Graduate employability** is monitored by assessing the percentage of graduates who obtain employment or continue their education within twelve months after graduation.

**Student participation in internship and practical training programs** is another important indicator. The university records the proportion of students engaged in internships or professional training opportunities during their studies. A number of alumni from Lankaran State University pursue master degree programmes at universities in Türkiye, contributing to their academic and professional development.



Research projects and academic publications related to economic development and labor markets are also considered key indicators.

The number of **entrepreneurship-related courses, seminars, and start-up initiatives** organized within the university is evaluated as part of efforts to encourage innovation and entrepreneurial thinking.

Additionally, the level of cooperation between the university and industry partners, as well as student participation in professional skills development training programs, are regularly monitored.



# SDG 8 MONITORING DASHBOARD

In order to ensure the effective implementation of the SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth policy, Lankaran State University utilizes a dedicated SDG 8 Monitoring Dashboard. This system allows the university to track its activities related to employment, economic development, and student career readiness through measurable indicators.

Within this monitoring framework, key indicators such as graduate employment rates, student participation in internship programs, involvement in international academic mobility initiatives, entrepreneurship activities, research projects addressing economic development, and collaborations with industry partners are regularly assessed.

The systematic monitoring of these indicators enables Lankaran State University to evaluate the effectiveness of its initiatives supporting SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth and to continuously improve institutional policies and practices.

## **Governance and Implementation**

The implementation of this policy is coordinated by the university leadership in collaboration with faculties, research centers, and relevant administrative units. Institutional leadership ensures the integration of SDG principles into teaching, research, and community engagement activities.

## **Monitoring and Review**

The implementation of the policy is evaluated regularly through the university's sustainability and institutional accountability mechanisms. Annual assessment of KPIs ensures continuous improvement and alignment with international university ranking methodologies and sustainability frameworks.

## **Expected Impact**

Through this policy, Lankaran State University aims to strengthen its contribution to SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth by increasing graduate employability, promoting entrepreneurship, and supporting regional economic development.

By integrating academic knowledge, practical experience, and strategic partnerships, the university contributes to the preparation of professionals who support sustainable economic progress and societal well-being.