

BRIEF REPORT ON ZHETYSU UNIVERSITY NAMED AFTER ILYAS ZHANSUGUROV'S 2024 ACTIVITIES IN RELATION TO THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

In 2024, the activities of Zhetysu University named after Ilyas Zhansugurov were aimed at improving the quality of education, advancing research, providing social support to students, fostering an inclusive educational environment, developing young people's potential, promoting digitalization, and expanding international cooperation.

The University provided education at the bachelor's, master's, and PhD levels. The key areas of the University's activities were aligned with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

SDG 1. No Poverty

In 2024, measures were implemented to support students from socially vulnerable groups. During the 2024-2025 academic year, 51 orphaned students studied at the University, 33 of whom were enrolled under state educational grants. Free accommodation in student dormitories was provided to orphaned students, with 15 students receiving free accommodation.

Free meals were provided to students from low-income and large families, as well as to orphaned students. A total of 25 students received free meals.

Under the educational grant programme of the "Qazaqstan Halqyna" Public Foundation, access to education was provided to 8 students from socially vulnerable groups.

Thus, students requiring social assistance were provided with support related to education, accommodation, and meals.

SDG 2. Zero Hunger

To ensure access to food for students from socially vulnerable groups, 25 students were provided with free meals. Canteens and cafeterias operated in the University's academic buildings and student dormitories.

As part of its research activities, the University conducted studies in the areas of agricultural crop productivity, genetic resources, and agrobiodiversity.

An international scientific seminar on wheat genetics and genomics in Central Asia was organized, during which issues related to developing wheat varieties resistant to climate change were addressed.

SDG 3. Good Health and Well-being

The University's sports infrastructure was actively used to promote students' health and encourage a healthy lifestyle.

Students were provided with access to a stadium, swimming pool, fitness facilities, sports and gymnastics halls, an athletics hall, a sports arena, and a shooting range.

A total of 201 students held sports titles and rankings, including winners and prize-winners of international and national competitions.

In addition, activities aimed at supporting the health and physical activity of senior citizens were carried out within the framework of the Asyl Qazyna University initiative.

SDG 4. Quality Education

In 2024, activities were carried out to update and improve higher and postgraduate educational programmes. Educational programmes were updated in accordance with professional standards and labour market requirements.

Innovative educational programmes, dual education, trilingual education, digital educational technologies, and open online courses were developed and implemented. Measures were also undertaken to ensure inclusive education.

Within the framework of trilingual education:

- 193 students studied in 16 bachelor's programmes;
- 421 master's students studied in 23 master's programmes;
- 58 doctoral students studied in 10 PhD programmes.

In total, 672 students were enrolled in 49 educational programmes.

As part of continuing education, 19 professional development courses and seminars were conducted, involving 307 participants. A total of 137 participants completed training under seven language programmes.

In addition, 52 people participated in educational programmes offered within the framework of the Asyl Qazyna University initiative.

SDG 5. Gender Equality

The University implemented the principle of equal opportunities for students and employees. Equality is incorporated into the University's corporate values.

Equal opportunities were provided for women and men to participate in educational, research, social, creative, and sports activities.

Female students were provided with opportunities to participate in sports competitions, student self-government bodies, and public activities.

SDG 6. Clean Water and Sanitation

Measures were implemented to maintain appropriate sanitary and hygienic conditions in the University's academic buildings and student dormitories.

The dormitories were equipped with sanitary facilities, showers, and rooms designed to meet students' everyday needs.

Measures were also undertaken to maintain University facilities in proper sanitary condition.

SDG 7. Affordable and Clean Energy

Maintenance of engineering and utility infrastructure was carried out to ensure the stable operation of the University's academic buildings, student dormitories, library, sports facilities, and other premises.

Activities were undertaken to upgrade the University's material and technical resources and ensure the reliable operation of its infrastructure.

SDG 8. Decent Work and Economic Growth

Activities were carried out to prepare students and graduates for the labour market and facilitate their employment.

Surveys and studies involving the general public, employers, and educational institutions were conducted to identify current labour market needs.

Cooperation with government authorities and employers was maintained, and analyses were conducted to identify specialists required for the future development of the regional economy.

In 2024, 1,297 students graduated from the University. Activities were undertaken to coordinate graduate employment, organize meetings with employers, publish graduates' CVs, and monitor employment indicators.

During the 2024–2025 academic year, the University employed 746 staff members, including 314 members of the academic and teaching staff.

SDG 9. Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure

Activities were undertaken to develop research and innovation.

In 2024, the University implemented 22 research programmes and projects. Total research funding amounted to KZT 756.9 million.

Within the framework of the internal Jas Galym competition, KZT 15 million was allocated to eight research projects.

The research activities resulted in copyright certificates, patents, and other scientific and technical outcomes.

The University continued to develop its digital infrastructure. It operated:

- 1,144 computers;
- 31 computer laboratories;
- 73 interactive whiteboards;
- 21 interactive panels.

Cooperation with Huawei was carried out in the areas of ICT specialist training, research, and the *development of innovative products*.

SDG 10. Reduced Inequalities

Measures were implemented to create an inclusive educational environment for students with special educational needs.

Within the activities of the Academic Council, issues related to comprehensive support for students with special educational needs were addressed.

Social support was provided to orphaned students, students from low-income families, and students from large families.

The Student Assembly operated to promote interethnic harmony. It included 45 students representing 23 ethnic groups.

SDG 11. Sustainable Cities and Communities

The University's social and educational infrastructure was utilized to provide students with a comfortable and safe environment for learning and personal development.

The University operated three student dormitories with a total capacity of 917 places, providing accommodation for students.

Internal and external video surveillance systems and night-time lighting were used to enhance security on the campus and in student dormitories.

Appropriate conditions were provided for students to study, live, participate in sports, and engage in creative activities.

SDG 12. Responsible Consumption and Production

Activities were carried out to ensure the efficient use and proper maintenance of the University's material and technical resources.

Computer equipment was repaired, components were replaced, and existing equipment was upgraded.

Material and information resources required for the educational process were also updated.

SDG 13. Climate Action

Scientific research addressing climate change issues was conducted.

The research project entitled “Climate Migration in Kazakhstan: Understanding the Consequences and Improving Adaptation Strategies” was implemented for the 2024–2026 period.

Research was also carried out on the development of agricultural crops resistant to climate change.

International scientific events focusing on wheat genetics and genomics were organized.

SDG 14. Life Below Water

The University utilized its educational and research infrastructure located in natural areas.

The operation of the University’s educational and recreational facilities in the areas of Lakes Balkhash and Alakol was maintained.

These facilities were used for educational, practical training, and other relevant University activities.

SDG 15. Life on Land

Scientific activities aimed at preserving biodiversity and plant genetic resources were carried out.

A research project focusing on the production of seedlings of rare wild fruit species of the Zhetysu Alatau through vegetative propagation was implemented.

Research activities were also conducted in the areas of preserving and studying agrobiodiversity and the genetic resources of agricultural crops.

SDG 16. Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

The University maintained a system of collegial and corporate governance.

The governance system included the Board of Directors, Management Board, Academic Council, and Scientific Council.

Between January and December 2024, 17 meetings of the Board of Directors were held. During these meetings, 55 issues were considered and 76 decisions were adopted. According to the University’s report, all adopted decisions were implemented.

Measures were undertaken to ensure academic integrity. Codes of Honour for students and academic staff were applied, and students’ written assignments were checked through an anti-plagiarism system.

A Student Ombudsperson operated to protect students’ rights and interests.

Communication and feedback between the University administration and students were maintained through social media, the Rector’s blog, email, and WhatsApp.

SDG 17. Partnerships for the Goals

Activities were carried out to develop international educational and scientific cooperation.

The University maintained cooperation with foreign higher education institutions and research centres under 70 agreements, including:

- 18 agreements with European universities;
- 40 agreements with universities in CIS countries;
- 2 agreements with universities in Southeast Asia;
- 10 agreements with universities in Türkiye.

During the 2024-2025 academic year, memoranda of cooperation were signed with an additional 14 higher education institutions.

International cooperation was implemented through Erasmus+, Horizon, DAAD, and other international programmes.

A double-degree programme with the Polytechnic University of Marche, Italy, was implemented.

Activities related to academic mobility, the engagement of international professors, and participation in international research projects were also carried out.

Conclusion. In 2024, Zhetysu University named after Ilyas Zhansugurov implemented a range of educational, research, social, youth-oriented, innovative, and international activities aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Support was provided to students from socially vulnerable groups, including free meals and accommodation. Educational programmes were updated, while trilingual and inclusive education initiatives were implemented. Conditions were created to support students' health and participation in sports.

Research projects were implemented in the areas of climate change, biodiversity, agriculture, and other fields. Activities were undertaken to support student and graduate employment, while the University's digital infrastructure continued to develop.

The principles of academic integrity and collegial governance were implemented, and international cooperation with universities and research organizations was expanded.

These activities reflect Zhetysu University's ongoing commitment to integrating the principles of sustainable development into its

ZHETYSU UNIVERSITY 2024 REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 17 SDGs

Reporting format: completed and implemented activities | Basis: University Official Activity Report for 2024

No.	SDG	Activities completed / implemented in 2024	Specific results and indicators	Implementation status	Source
1	No Poverty	Support measures for students from socially vulnerable groups were implemented. Orphaned students received support through state grants, free dormitory accommodation and free meals. Social support was also implemented through educational grants of the "Qazaqstan Halqyna" Foundation.	51 orphaned students; 33 studied under state grants; 15 received free dormitory accommodation; 25 received free meals; 8 studied under "Qazaqstan Halqyna" grants.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
2	Zero Hunger	Free meals were provided to socially vulnerable students. Food service facilities operated in academic buildings and dormitories. Research was conducted in agriculture, genetic resources and agrobiodiversity.	25 students received free meals; canteens and cafeterias operated; an international scientific seminar on wheat genetics and genomics was held.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
3	Good Health and Well-being	Activities were carried out to strengthen student health and provide opportunities for sports. Sports infrastructure was used, and measures supporting physical activity among senior citizens were implemented.	A stadium, swimming pool, fitness, sports and gymnastics halls, sports arena and shooting range operated; 201 students held sports titles and rankings.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
4	Quality Education	Higher and postgraduate programmes were updated and aligned with professional standards and labour-market requirements. Trilingual, dual, digital and inclusive education, professional development and continuing education were implemented.	49 trilingual programmes with 672 learners; 19 courses and seminars with 307 participants; 7 language programmes with 137 participants; 52 participants in Asyl Qazyna University.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
5	Gender Equality	The principle of equal opportunities for students and employees was implemented. Equal conditions were provided for women and men to participate in educational, research, social, creative and sports activities.	Equality is embedded in corporate values; female students participated in sports, student self-government and public activities.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Measures were carried out to maintain sanitary and hygienic conditions in academic buildings and student dormitories.	Dormitories were equipped with sanitary facilities, showers and utility rooms; University facilities were maintained in proper sanitary condition.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
7	Affordable and Clean Energy	Engineering and utility infrastructure was maintained to ensure stable operation of University facilities. The material and technical base was upgraded.	Stable operation of academic buildings, dormitories, the library, sports and other facilities was ensured.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Measures were implemented to prepare students and graduates for the labour market and support employment. Labour-market needs were studied and cooperation with employers and public authorities was maintained.	1,297 graduates; 746 employees, including 314 academic and teaching staff; employer meetings and employment monitoring were conducted.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
9	Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	Research and innovation activities were developed, research projects were implemented, and digital infrastructure was strengthened. Cooperation with Huawei was carried out.	22 research programmes and projects; KZT 756.9 million in research funding; 8 Jas Galyim projects — KZT 15 million; 1,144 computers; 31 computer labs; 73 interactive whiteboards; 21 interactive panels.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
10	Reduced Inequalities	An inclusive educational environment and comprehensive support for students with special educational needs were developed. Social support was provided to vulnerable students and interethnic harmony was promoted.	The Student Assembly included 45 students representing 23 ethnic groups; support was provided to orphaned students and students from low-income and large families.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Social and educational infrastructure was used to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning and accommodation.	3 student dormitories with a total capacity of 917 places; internal and external video surveillance and night lighting were used.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
12	Responsible Consumption and Production	Activities were carried out to ensure efficient use and maintenance of material and technical resources. Computer equipment was repaired and upgraded, and educational resources were renewed.	Computer equipment was repaired, components were replaced and equipment was upgraded; material and information resources were renewed.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
13	Climate Action	Scientific research on climate change and adaptation was conducted. A climate migration project and research on climate-resilient agricultural crops were implemented.	2024–2026 project "Climate Migration in Kazakhstan: Understanding the Consequences and Improving Adaptation Strategies"; international scientific events on wheat genetics and genomics were held.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
14	Life Below Water	The University's educational and research infrastructure in natural areas was used. Educational and recreational field facilities were maintained.	Educational and recreational facilities operated in the areas of Lakes Balkhash and Alaikol.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
15	Life on Land	Scientific work was carried out to preserve biodiversity, plant genetic resources, agrobiodiversity and agricultural crop resources.	A project was implemented to produce seedlings of rare wild fruit species of the Zhetysu Alatau through vegetative propagation.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	A collegial and corporate governance system operated. Measures on academic integrity, protection of student rights and feedback with University management were implemented.	17 Board of Directors meetings; 55 issues considered; 76 decisions adopted; anti-plagiarism, Codes of Honour and a Student Ombudsperson were in place.	Completed	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-
17	Partnerships for the Goals	International educational and scientific cooperation, academic mobility, engagement of international professors and participation in international projects were developed.	70 international agreements: Europe — 18, CIS — 40, Southeast Asia — 2, Türkiye — 10; 14 additional memoranda; Erasmus+, Horizon, DAAD; double-degree programme with the Polytechnic University of Marche.	Implemented	https://zhetysu.edu.kz/wp-content/uploads/2025/06/%D0%9E%D1%82%D1%87%D0%B5%D1%82-%D0%BE-%D0%84%D0%B5%D1%8F%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D0%BD%D0%BE%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B8-%D0%96%D0%A3-%D0%B7%D0%B0-