

Memorandum of Understanding
For SDG Partnership

1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

The Non-Profit Joint Stock Company "Al-Farabi Kazakh National University", represented by the Deputy Chairman of the Management Board – First Vice-Rector Mr. Yerkin Ermanovich Duissenov, acting under Power of Attorney No. 13 dated April 2, 2025, hereinafter referred to as Party 1, on the one hand, Matthias Kramer Director Network of Systemic Competencies and Innovations (NETSCI), hereinafter referred to as Party 2, collectively referred to as the Parties, have entered into this Memorandum of Cooperation (hereinafter – the Memorandum) as follows:

2. PURPOSE OF THE MEMORANDUM

This Memorandum defines the procedure for organizing and implementing international cooperation between **Al-Farabi Kazakh National University** (hereinafter – **KazNU**) and other universities in the collection of data and exchange of best practices for the integration of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** into the educational, research, and administrative activities of the university.

This Memorandum has been developed in accordance with international principles and instruments in the field of sustainable development, including:

- the **United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**;
- the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**;
- **UNESCO** framework documents on sustainable higher education;
- **ESG principles** and the guidelines of global academic networks for sustainable development;
- strategies and internal regulations of the participating universities.

The purpose of this Memorandum is to establish a sustainable system for international knowledge exchange, governance models, and best practices for the implementation of the SDGs within the university sector.

3. OBJECTIVES OF THE MEMORANDUM

The objectives of this Memorandum are as follows:

- To establish an open international network of universities exchanging best practices in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- To organize regular exchanges of methodologies, educational modules, sustainability policies, and ESG tools;
- To develop a shared database of practices (SDG Knowledge Hub) based on the exchange of materials among participants;
- To conduct mutual expert visits, internships, webinars, and round-table discussions;
- To maintain an open subscription-based model of participation through a "Letter of Accession", without limitation on the number of partners;
- To promote the development of an SDG Coordinators' Network and to initiate joint activities, including publications, grant projects, and pilot initiatives.

4. FORMS OF IMPLEMENTATION

The activities under this Memorandum shall be carried out through the following forms of cooperation:

- online and offline expert seminars;
- joint working groups;
- exchange of educational and methodological materials;
- publications, analytical reports, and policy briefs;
- academic mobility programs (for faculty, researchers, and students);
- joint sessions within the framework of forums and conferences;
- exchange of tools for monitoring SDG indicators.

Where necessary, the organization of specific activities may be formalized by separate agreements, such as a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), grant agreement, sponsorship agreement, or other relevant instruments.

5. FINANCING

The financing of activities under this Memorandum shall be carried out using funds available to the Parties, including but not limited to:

- own funds of the participating universities;
- targeted grants and programs of international organizations;
- sponsorship and charitable contributions;
- governmental and institutional development programs;
- other sources not prohibited by the legislation of the respective countries.

Each Party shall bear financial responsibility solely for the activities in which it participates. The program does not provide for any mandatory contributions or a fixed budget.

6. TERM OF VALIDITY

This Memorandum shall enter into force upon its signing by the Parties and shall remain in effect until either Party provides written notice to the other Party of its intention to terminate this Memorandum.

In such a case, the Memorandum shall be deemed terminated upon the expiration of ninety (90) calendar days from the date on which the relevant written notice is sent by one of the Parties.

7. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Notices between the Parties relating to this Memorandum shall be valid only if made in writing. Such notices may be delivered by postal service, express courier, or electronic mail.

All amendments and additions to this Memorandum shall be valid only if made in writing and duly signed by the authorized representatives of the Parties.

This Memorandum is executed in two (2) counterparts in Russian and English, each having equal legal force, with one (1) copy for each Party.

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University

Mr. Yerkin Ermanovich Duissenov
Deputy Chairman of the Management Board – First Vice-Rector

Network of Systemic Competencies and Innovations (NETSCI)

Matthias Kramer
Director, Professor, PhD, Honorary Doctor