

RAU's Approach to Sustainable Development

The Russian-Armenian University adopts a broad and holistic approach to sustainable development, based on principles outlined in the Brundtland Report (UN, 1987) and reaffirmed at the Rio de Janeiro Conference (2012). The focus is on intergenerational and global responsibility, as well as a commitment to social justice.

In light of global challenges (Grand Challenges), BOKU considers sustainable development one of its core missions. This approach includes contributing to the resolution of environmental, economic, and social issues at individual, institutional, regional, national, and international levels.

Interdisciplinary and Systemic Approach to Sustainability

RAU's approach to sustainability is based on a systemic and interdisciplinary perspective that encompasses all key aspects of sustainability — environmental, economic, social, cultural, and others. Emphasis is placed on ecology as the foundation of life. This approach assumes that ecological, social, and economic sustainability goals are closely interconnected and must be considered in a unified context.

Sustainable development implies that human systems — ways of life, governance, and production — are organized so as not to exceed the carrying capacity of ecosystems. Natural systems must retain their ability to self-cleanse, regenerate, and adapt, ensuring long-term ecological sustainability.

RAU's priority areas for sustainable activity include:

- Conservation of natural resources
- Transition to renewable energy sources
- Protection of biodiversity
- Development of circular economy
- Minimization of pollutant emissions
- Enhancement of soil fertility
- Rational land use and sustainable landscape formation

Social Sustainability

The core principle of social sustainability is the pursuit of social justice, including intergenerational, intercultural, and societal dimensions. This is reflected in participatory

governance, non-discriminatory practices, non-violent conflict resolution, and the development of a culture of cooperation.

Demographic challenges are also considered: population aging, growth, and cultural diversity. At RAU, social sustainability involves cultivating an internal university culture that supports tolerance, equality, transparency, and collaboration — directly impacting the quality of life and well-being of students, faculty, and administrative staff.

Economic Sustainability

Economic sustainability means rational and long-term resource management by both enterprises and consumers. It includes:

- Ensuring the economic viability of organizations
- Integrating environmental and social criteria into economic activities
- Adhering to principles of fairness, solidarity, and the common good
- Developing international and regional cooperation
- Enhancing efficiency, innovation, and long-term orientation

RAU strives to be a model of economic sustainability, combining responsible environmental and social policies with the preservation of its own economic stability.

Contribution to Sustainable Development through Education and Science

Through research and educational programs, RAU promotes sustainable development in the professional sectors it engages in. It also contributes to the development of competencies and innovations necessary for sustainable development at regional, national, and global levels.