



**AZERBAIJAN
STATE
UNIVERSITY
OF ECONOMICS**



Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC)

International School of Economics (ISE)

International Symposium on Sustainable Business Growth and Development (SBGD)

The International Symposium on Sustainable Business Growth and Development (SBGD), organized by the International School of Economics at Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), offers a high-level academic and professional platform to discuss contemporary challenges and innovative solutions in sustainable business development. In an era defined by climate change, digital transformation, geopolitical uncertainty, artificial intelligence and rapid technological progress, sustainable business growth has become a central priority for firms, policymakers, and financial institutions worldwide.

The symposium brings together scholars, practitioners, and policymakers from various countries to exchange knowledge, share empirical findings, and explore strategies that promote long-term value creation, responsible governance, and inclusive business growth. Special emphasis is placed on emerging topics such as ESG integration, green and sustainable finance, digitalization, innovation ecosystems, sustainable supply chains, artificial intelligence and low-carbon logistics, which are reshaping business models in both developed and emerging economies.

By fostering interdisciplinary dialogue and international collaboration, the symposium advances academic research and provides practical insights for businesses and public institutions. Hosting the event in Baku highlights UNEC's growing role as a regional hub for economic research and international academic cooperation. The symposium aims not only to deepen theoretical understanding but also to support evidence-based decision-making that aligns economic development with environmental and social sustainability goals.

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25. Assoc. Prof. Krishanthi Vithana, Southampton Business School, United Kingdom
26. Assoc. Prof. Kamran Malikov, Karabakh University, Azerbaijan

The following list provides general directions of the topics for participants, but it is not limited:

- Sustainable firm growth strategies in emerging and developed economies
- Long-term value creation and stakeholder capitalism
- Corporate sustainability as a source of competitive advantage
- ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) factors in business models
- Alignment of circular economy and resource-efficient business strategies
- Digitalization and productivity in sustainable economic systems
- Business growth and ethics
- Sustainability-oriented decision-making for business growth
- Business growth and corporate social responsibility
- Sustainable Finance and Investment for business growth
- Role of banks and financial institutions in the business development
- Growth management in small, medium and large enterprises
- Green finance and sustainable financial markets for new sustainable business models
- Innovation ecosystems and firm-level competitiveness
- Resource-based and capability-based approaches to sustainable business growth
- Global value chains and sustainability challenges
- Economic diversification and industrial policy for business growth
- Climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies in business
- Cross-border sustainability standards and trade regulations
- International development cooperation for sustainable business ecosystems
- Multinational corporations and sustainable supply chains
- Technological convergence and digital sustainability
- Universities as agents of sustainable regional development
- Knowledge transfer between academia, business, and policy
- Strategic management and innovation for business development
- Stakeholder theory and its applications
- Green logistics & decarbonization strategies for business development
- Technology & digitalization for sustainable logistics for business development
- Sustainable supply chain design & collaboration for business development
- Last-Mile innovation & urban logistics for sustainable business models
- Sustainable logistics in emerging markets for sustainable business ecosystems
- Logistics metrics, reporting & consumer influence for sustainable competitiveness

- AI-driven business models for sustainable growth
- Digital twins for sustainable manufacturing and logistics
- AI-enabled sustainable finance and impact investing
- AI-informed industrial policy and green competitiveness
- Autonomous and AI-optimized green logistics
- AI-driven sustainable urban planning and smart cities

About the Symposium

Scheduled to take place both virtually via Zoom and physically at the UNEC main building on Istiglaliyyat st. 6 in Baku, this peer-reviewed symposium requires no submission fees and accepts abstracts or full papers via *symposium.ise.unec@gmail.com* for inclusion in ISBN proceedings or potential selection for the Scopus indexed *The Journal of Economic Sciences: Theory and Practice*. Moreover, selected student papers or other works will be published as working or discussion papers on the *EconStor* platform under the title of the symposium and the International School of Economics.

The other partner journals for the symposium are

- *Agora International Journal of Economical Sciences (AIJES)*
- *Economic Insights – Trends and Challenges*
- *Central European Journal of Geography and Sustainable Development (CEJGSD)*

For participants needing assistance with visa applications, an invitation letter can be prepared on behalf of Azerbaijan State University of Economics (UNEC), International School of Economics (ISE), upon request. Please contact the responsible person for further details.

Please note that all costs associated for transportation and hotels during the symposium will be the responsibility of the participant.

Important Dates

Abstract submission and registration deadline	: 1 April 2026
Full text papers submission deadline	: 1 May 2026
Peer review deadline:	: 15 June 2026
Symposium Date	: 29-30 May 2026

Submission rules and guidelines

- Researchers and business practitioners, as well as students may submit any complete, original, and unpublished research papers;
- The works can be either conceptual or empirical;
- Abstracts must be between 200-300 words;
- The paper should not exceed 8,000 words limit together with references;

- Each submitted paper will be reviewed by another symposium participant or a representative appointed by the symposium organizers;
- Each participant must submit authors' names and full contact details;
- The Turnitin or any similar similarity index must be below 20%.

For participation, please fill in the Registration Form (Link: <https://forms.gle/LGjZ46HpesM5tjK38>) and send abstracts. Full papers have to be sent to the following email: symposium.ise.unec@gmail.com by 1 May, 2026.

For more information about the symposium please contact Ibrahim Niftiyev, by e-mail: ibrahim.niftiyev@unec.edu.az

Supporting organizations and companies

1. Small and Medium Business Development Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan (abbreviated: SME)
2. Azerbaijan Land Transport Agency (AYNA)
3. Agricultural Research Center
4. Azerbaijan Confederation of Entrepreneurs
5. NORM
6. "TuranBank" Open Joint-Stock Company (OJSC)
7. AZPromo