



United Nations Principles for Responsible Management Education Sharing Information on Progress Report 2017

PRME

This is our **Sharing Information on Progress (SIP)**
Report on the Implementation of the **Principles for
Responsible Management Education**

Letter of Renewed Commitment

Dear PRME Directorate and members of the PRME Secretariat,

Almaty Management University (AlmaU) presents its renewed commitment to the Principles for Responsible Management Education. We are proud to be a PRME signatory and hereby express our continued commitment to PRME principles. This report offers examples of the new AlmaU initiatives undertaken in support of the socially responsible agenda.

Yours faithfully,



President A. Kozhakhmetov, DBA
Almaty Management University

Statement of the President

Dear friends!

In XX century, we used to understand education as a process that is limited in time and space. Some of us are still captives of such beliefs. However, the modern education is far away from being measured in years spent at university or the amount of acquired knowledge. The sphere of knowledge itself becomes relatively small and outdated. Frequently, the things that students have learned during the first year of their studies could become irrelevant in fourth.

Therefore, it doesn't make sense to give knowledge as something absolute, rather we should give the foundation that would not change in 5 or 10 years, as well as we should emphasize the personal development, so that a man would learn to think critically, be active, and have no fear of mistakes. Thus, instead of a person in a shell, we would raise an individual who has a core strength, self-confidence, and a faith in family, business, Kazakhstan and the world as a whole. It is these qualities that I consider as the most important for future leader.

If we speak about leaders in business, then we know that they are responsible not only for economic results, but for the philosophy of their team as well. Akio Morita, founder of the Sony Corporation, once said: "True managers give people a sense of life". In my view, the same could be said about leaders. If you want to inspire people to follow your lead, then you need to set bright goals, which would fill their lives with purpose. After all, we were born to not only eat, sleep, and make money. Peter Drucker used to say: "Profit for a company is like oxygen for a person. If you don't have enough of it you are out of the game. But if you think your life is about breathing you're really missing something". Indeed, without oxygen, i.e. profit, there is no business, but it is not a goal. Proving something to the whole world, becoming an authority could be a goal. And for that you need to match the values you are representing.

This is the message and values that we are trying to put in our students in order to make leaders out of them as well as influencing the development of economy and society in the region and country as a whole through their involvement. This is how I see a truly worthy mission of the university!



A. Kozhakhmetov, DBA
President



Principle 1 | Purpose: We will develop the capabilities of students to be future generators of sustainable value for business and society at large and to work for an inclusive and sustainable global economy.

Almaty Management University (est. 1988) has taken a course on establishing a new model of education in Kazakhstan – entrepreneurial university. AlmaU, as an entrepreneurial university, solves social issues throughout increasing the importance of innovations and implementing socially responsible projects; in cooperation with entrepreneurs, emphasizing management and business education as well as by increasing the role of corporate culture, sets a clear goal of making a meaningful contribution to the development of Kazakhstan.

In addition, AlmaU sets as its priority to develop not only intellectual and professional skills of students, but also their human qualities. University prepares a new generation of managers and entrepreneurs, who have a deep awareness of their civic responsibilities.

In line with the PRME principles, our core mission is to foster the new generation of socially responsible business leaders with reliance on international integration and business collaboration to address the social and economic challenges of Kazakhstan and the region.

In September 2015, AlmaU introduced a new, mandatory course “Service Learning” for the first year bachelor degree students of all specialties. The course is aimed at nurturing strong sense of civic responsibility among students. During the course, students learn to serve the society and apply their theoretical knowledge on practice. AlmaU has partnered with 18 non-profit organizations and state-run institutions where students volunteer throughout the semester. AlmaU is the first university in Kazakhstan to teach such a course. In two academic years, 833 students had been trained in “Service Learning” program. More than 45 student social projects were implemented in various spheres:

- Helping elderly and single people, low-income families, disabled people;
- Environmental projects;
- Training and communicating with children from orphanages and refugee children;
- Monitoring socially significant problems of society;
- Organizing charity events and etc.

Service Learning has become inseparable part of AlmaU curriculum offered to all first year students. It teaches compassion, empathy and responsibility. The students have a chance not only to gain theoretic knowledge, but also to go for practical sessions at local NGOs and charities. Charity Wish Tree is one of the student projects emerged from the Service Learning study process. Charity Wish Tree project started in 2013. Then the group of students make more than 60 children’s from orphanage #1 (Baganashyl village) come true. The idea of the project is to help children from



orphanages. More than 700 kids from foster homes, orphanages and low-income families from Almaty city, Issyk, Kaskelen and also Talgar and Ili districts are waiting for New Year presents. They wrote their wishes on papers which were hung on “magic” trees. Every visitor of shopping centers in Almaty can get this paper and make any child’s wish come true. The project has grown from a student project to the city project, and is organized annually.

AlmaU has also taken on a mission to bring up the generation of young people with entrepreneurial spirit. The Bastau Camp has been launched by AlmaU in summer 2017 to bring together young leaders from entrepreneurship, NGOs, social entrepreneurship and SMEs, as well as students. This is a very unique project – summer entrepreneurship school. The Bastau Camp consists of guest lectures from business gurus, training sessions with coaches, intellectual games, start-up seminars with mentors, meetings with representatives from the NGO and business sectors, as well as networking, camping, sport events and of course an opportunity to win up to 1 million KZT for a business idea.

The project is run in cooperation with the Investment Industrial Corporation (ICC) “ZHERSU”. BastauCamp is the project of AlmaU and the ICC ‘ZHERSU”, launched this year, with a mission to prepare young entrepreneurial leaders of Kazakhstan. It is planned that project participants would prepare to launch their own business projects during the 10-day period spent in the BastauCamp. About 105 students are expected to participate in each intake. After submitting their applications, participants would present their 1.5-minute videos describing their business idea. The admission committee would choose the best applicants after this selection stage. Subsequently, participants would be divided into groups and start working on their business projects under the supervision of assigned mentors.

Finally, participants would present their projects to potential investors and the best seven startups would receive grants up to 1 million tenge. This project is aimed at establishing a pleasant environment for young entrepreneurs and supporting them in becoming local leaders, so both the business and community would benefit from new startups. This, in turn, fully meets the scope of our mission of producing new leaders in dynamically developing societies.

This year AlmaU has also launched a new acceleration program “Business incubator”. Business incubator works on an acceleration principle, which is devoted to support businesses during the early stage of their development and assumes an intensive development of the project in a short time period. In addition, business incubator provides seed stage investments, infrastructure, support in business modelling, and – most importantly – an opportunity to turn an idea into a working business in three months in order to accelerate the time that companies spend before entering the market. In this way, AlmaU embodies its mission of creating an entrepreneurial environment that would foster the development of local business and society at large.





Principle 2 | Values: We will incorporate into our academic activities and curricula the values of global social responsibility as portrayed in international initiatives such as the United Nations Global Compact.

AlmaU is firmly committed to acting ethically and to the development of an impactful and structured social responsibility and sustainability commitment from its students and staff.

AlmaU core values:

Continuous development. Directed, regular change of all processes, as the result of which the university gets to the new quality level.

Responsibility. Being aware of the necessity to be responsible for the results of our work to the university and community, for the quality of education and graduates.

Leadership. Preparing leaders, who have high professional skills, creativity, aspiration for success, and the ability to lead people towards a common goal and who can anticipate potential perspectives.

Integrity. Commitment to consistent and fair position in respect of yourself, customers, partners, colleagues through relying on strong moral principles and ethics.

Proactivity. Taking the initiative, foreseeing the needs of the society, establishing new trends, and working ahead.

Public engagement. Implementation of the «Win-Win-Win» principle, according to which any mutually beneficial cooperation between the two parties (Win-Win) should bring benefit to a third party - the society.

Synergy. A process, where collaboration within the University, as well as with partners and clients gives a result that is qualitatively superior than the effect of a simple addition of the individual components.

In addition, in realizing its core values AlmaU had become the co-initiator of establishing Kazakhstan Foundation for Management Development (KFMD). The decision on creation of the Foundation was adopted on the 23rd conference of business education CEEMAN, held in Almaty September 2015. The initiative of the President of AlmaU Assylbek Kozhakhmetov on the establishment of the Association was supported by the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Investment and Development of Kazakhstan as well as the conference participants, among which the leaders of Kazakhstan universities and

business schools, representatives of international organizations, public organizations and diplomatic missions in Kazakhstan. The organization defined the following main objectives:

- Strengthening the integration of education, science and business (Triple Helix);
- Development of business schools, business education and research in management and business development;
- Improvement of the quality of education through the rating system, national and international accreditations;
- Development of the platforms for dialogue (round tables, conferences, meetings);
- Exchange of experience in the development of management in the public sphere, the development of programs in management of NGOs, education, health.

Moreover, KFMD is challenged to solve the problems of the shortage of Kazakhstan authors' textbooks on management, marketing, finance, etc.; textbooks and curricula for Master's, MBA, doctoral studies in the Kazakh language; lack of contemporary business literature translated from English into Russian and Kazakh.

All the above mentioned efforts found its recognition by the CEEMAN experts who put a great value into the social responsibility and corporate spirit of its partner institutions. Thus, AlmaU is the only business school in Central Asia and Kazakhstan that have managed to regain its CEEMAN accreditation in the sphere of business education quality. In February 2017, International Association for Management Development in Dynamic Societies (CEEMAN) had informed AlmaU about their decision to reaccredit our University for six years. The peer reviewers point out the spirit of AlmaU as its uniqueness. It is worth of reminding that AlmaU (known then as IAB) had gained its first accreditation in 2010 – being the first university in Central Asia and Kazakhstan to do so. Regaining the IQA (International Quality Accreditation) accreditation shows how the Kazakhstani University had been recognized as a top level organization that possess resources, programs, and the structure to carry out its activities in accordance with international criteria and standards for business schools.



Principle 3 | Method: We will create educational frameworks, materials, processes and environments that enable effective learning experiences for responsible leadership.

Here at AlmaU we try to provide our students with the best environment that would foster their personal and academic development. Throughout this process, AlmaU is engaged in constant search of new ideas that would benefit our students in their endeavors. Thus, every year we organize different kind of projects and launch new courses to help our students to

become successful leaders. That said, our educational framework could be described in core seven areas in which we train our students:

2. Entrepreneurship

An ability to think and act as an entrepreneur
Starting from an idea to a startup that attract investments

1. Basic Knowledge

Emphasis on math and trilingual system
Minim 5.5 IELTS before graduating

3. Management

Understanding of business processes and all sizes project management

4. Professional knowledge and skills

- Our graduates are professional specialists with an international qualification
- A faculty with an up-to-date teaching methods



5. Personal Development

- Business communication
- Time management
- Critical thinking
- Leadership
- Service learning
- Design thinking
- “Life design” course

6. Project Management

Thesis dissertation in a format of a business project

7. Practical skills

- Internship at the companies
1. Six months internships during 2-3 years of study
 2. Pre-diploma internship

In May 2017, AlmaU gave a start to its annual free “Master English” courses for those who would like to apply for graduate programs at the University. “Master English” offers two months training, which is designed to help to prospective graduate students to pass their entrance exams. This way AlmaU gives its prospective graduate students an opportunity to enhance their knowledge and chances in seeking a better education.

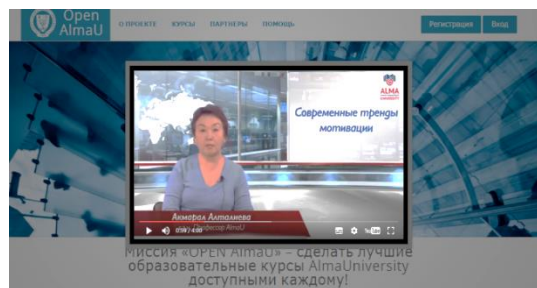
This year AlmaU also launched its new major program – “Business analytics and big data”. The start of the program and first classes were organized in collaboration with well-known Kazakhstani programmers Arman Suleymenov and Almas Tuyakbayev. The first cohort of students consist of only 11 people, however, university staff has no doubt that the number of students would raise rapidly. It is worth to mention that half of the students were transfers students from other universities and even some of them refused from their scholarships. Here at AlmaU, we strongly believe that establishing new major programs like

this would have its positive effect on the future generations and would help them to become competitive specialists on the global market.

AlmaU is also working hard towards making the education free and available to everyone. Thus, Almaty Management University within the framework of its Open AlmaU project has launched the first open online courses for masses.

Now everyone can start their studies at AlmaU by choosing the first six courses offered online: 1) HR management, 2) financial modelling of state-private partnership, 3) management, 4) insurance law of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 5) mathematics in economy, and 6) modern trends of motivation. These online courses embody our mission of making the best educational courses of AlmaU accessible for everyone. Thus, we believe that this project would make its contribution in creating high quality education that would be accessible to every strata of our society.

Our university is also focused on establishing a framework for social entrepreneurship. For that reason, in 2014, AlmaU established the Laboratory of “Social Entrepreneurship”. The idea of a Laboratory has emerged from the research made by young scientists of AlmaU on social entrepreneurship in 2014. The exploratory research was financed by AlmaU and presented in Kazakhstan, Malaysia and South Africa. Today social entrepreneurship is a broad process that includes a combination of resources, tools to enable acceleration of social change and meeting social needs of society. Main objective of the laboratory is to study the main approaches of social entrepreneurship in market economy and evaluation of the practical implementation of social entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan to develop recommendations for the further development of this institution. A number of conferences, meetings and workshops were organized to promote social entrepreneurship concept in the society. AlmaU



Principle 4 | Research: We will engage in conceptual and empirical research that advances our understanding about the role, dynamics, and impact of corporations in the creation of sustainable social, environmental and economic value.

AlmaU students have an opportunity to conduct research on a wide range of problems in collaboration with their academic advisors. Yearly, our University holds scientific-practical conferences where students and faculty present their research findings. Along with university activities, faculty and staff members form research groups and provide research and consulting services for stakeholders. For instance, there are two research projects made on the development of innovation policy of Almaty city and on the strategy of attracting foreign

investment to Almaty city. Both were made upon request from Almaty city administration. There is also an ongoing project by World Bank led by AlmaU researchers, with focus on technology commercialization.

In May of 2017, AlmaU organized the forum on “Entrepreneurial education in fast developing societies”. Prominent Kazakhstani and international experts, representatives of academia and business gathered at the forum to discuss the trends that form modern entrepreneurial education in fast developing societies.

This year AlmaU also held the 10th International i-START scientific-practical conference titled “Innovative entrepreneurship: reload 3.0”. This year the organizational committee received 184 applications from Kazakhstani and Russian universities. Seventy-one undergraduate and graduate students have attended the conference and presented their reports. Student reports were evaluated by the conference committee consisting of AlmaU faculty based on criteria like relevance, social and practical value, and creativity of presenting. The main goal in organizing such conferences is to engage our students in competitive and scientific environment where they would advance their theoretical and practical skills.

AlmaU puts a lot of effort to foster the business research capabilities of our students. Thus, in April of 2017, AlmaU Entrepreneurship and Innovation Center in cooperation with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken” had announced the start of the “Kemel Kasipker” business case solving championship. This championship represents a series of business games, during which students from Kazakhstan’s four regions offer various ways of solving different business tasks. In addition, participants are offered to take part in AlmaU summer entrepreneurship school. It is expected that approximately 50 students from each participating region would take part in the championship. This kind of events offer an immeasurable number of benefits to our future leaders such as learning from the leading experts of the country, networking with other participants, a chance to become a member of young entrepreneurs’ business club, and to enhance their knowledge and skills in business.



In addition, in April of 2017, AlmaU hosted an international intellectual business cases solving competition – “Bolashak business competition”, organized in partnership with JCS “Bolashak”. Students all over from the CIS region had attended this event. Moreover, Kazakhstani and Russian experts from the sphere of consulting and other major companies were also invited to the competition. The main purpose



of this event was to develop students' ability of searching for solutions and making decisions regarding the real business cases, enhancing their analytical and teamwork skills, demonstrating the implementation of concrete concepts and methods in practice, as well as stimulating the youth entrepreneurship development. We believe that organizing such events would open new doors for our students in terms of gaining new experience, testing their knowledge on practice, making connections, and broadening their horizons.

As a socially responsible university, AlmaU also pays a lot of attention to the development of the social awareness among our students. Therefore, we encourage our students to take part in social research projects. For instance, on January 23, 2017 there was a press conference: "Aman-saulyk" public fund announced the results of a sociological research on risk factors among university students of Almaty, which was carried out by 77 first-year students of Almaty Management University in the framework of the "Service Learning: learning through service to the society" project. The representative of University, a senior teacher of "Information technologies and general educational subjects" department - Gulnara Atamkulova emphasized that modern university education supposes the formation of professionals and is focused on strengthening the students' special training. However, an important part of classical education – "creation of a person" – finds its continuation in the idea of entrepreneurial university in preparing a new generation of socially responsible entrepreneurs into the life. Our students of all specialties within the subject of "Service Learning" learn to serve the society and apply their knowledge in practice, working in hospices, orphanages and other social institutions. City administration and a number of NGOs have already supported the introduction of this subject at AlmaU.



In order to foster the development and quality of graduate level research, AlmaU in collaboration with its partners from France (ESC Rennes School of Business) and Bulgaria (Varna University of Management) had established a new joint project – Eurasian Doctoral Summer Academy (EDSA). The main objective of EDSA is to raise the quality of scholarly



research, to acquire new research methods, and to get consultations on research and publishing from leading experts of Great Britain, France, Canada, Bulgaria, and Kazakhstan in the sphere of humanitarian and social sciences. Later on, this program was transformed into Silk Road Doctoral Academy (SRDA). SRDA serves as a main platform for scientific exchange between graduate students and thesis supervisors of PhD

and DBA programs in Kazakhstan.

SRDA's main activities:

- Organizing doctorate colloquiums once in two months period during an academic year;
- Workshops on research methodology in social sciences and publishing in peer reviewed journals;
- To hold the “Scientific Wednesday” in AlmaU
- To hold the “Silk Road Doctoral Academy of AlmaU” (SRDA) doctoral summer school in the Silk Road countries;
- Providing consulting services from the center of applied research.



Principle 5 | Partnership: We will interact with managers of business corporations to extend our knowledge of their challenges in meeting social and environmental responsibilities and to explore jointly effective approaches to meeting these challenges.

AlmaU takes a great deal of pride in its local and international network of partners. A wide range of partners from all around the globe shows the University's strive to acquire the best international practices and implement them here in Kazakhstan. In addition, AlmaU serves its mission of being an ambassador of Kazakhstan's intellectual and business community by sharing the local corporate values and finest traditions with the world. That said, AlmaU puts a great deal of effort into strengthening its cooperation with local businesses and activists in order to create the healthy environment for socially responsible, entrepreneurial, and progressive projects between academia, business, and the government. This year has been very fruitful to AlmaU in terms of establishing new projects and collaborations with both local and international partners.

2017 is a fruitful year so far in terms of establishment of new cooperation with a number of institutions in CIS, Europe, America and Asia. As of today AlmaU has 128 partners in 36 countries, developing double degree, exchange, short- and long-term projects and activities. AlmaU, as socially responsible university, is planning to conduct seminars for partner universities' staff and faculty, consulting and coaching regional young entrepreneurs and community leaders, as well as providing the space and equipment to local techno parks and laboratories for talented youth. We strongly believe that taking part in such initiatives is an important step in fulfilling the University's social duty. In addition, establishing a fruitful cooperation with our local and regional partners is a crucial part of realizing our strategic goals.

AlmaU is also an active initiator of joint projects with local business organizations and companies. In April of 2017, AlmaU in collaboration with the Eurasian Resources Group (ERG) and the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken” made an agreement to launch a large-scale project, which is aimed to establish an ecosystem

of youth entrepreneurship in Kazakhstan's student environment. Tel Aviv University as well as the Association of Tel Aviv University friends also supported the project. The project itself would be realized in four regions of Kazakhstan: Karaganda, Pavlodar, Kostanay, and Aktyubinsk. The project's main purpose is to develop young entrepreneurs in the regions by supporting the transformation of the regional universities into entrepreneurial ones.

In the beginning of April, Almaty Management University hosted a delegation from CEFAM, French American business school in Lyon (Hélène Kayser), and IGS Group (Valida Mechri). In the frame of this visit, a fruitful discussion was held on the further development of cooperation between AlmaU, CEFAM, and other HEI under IGS Group. Moreover, our guests conducted the final stage of selection process, and four out of seven pre-selected best AlmaU students who applied for Erasmus+ mobility grants were selected. All students participating in the contest proved their very good command of English language, presented their high motivation, and impressive study performance (GPA higher than 3.4). Furthermore, a meeting with AlmaU's academic and admin staff interested to participate in Erasmus+ staff mobility took place. Next academic year four University employees (two admin and two academic staff) will have a chance to be involved in a short-term exchange program. The IGS Group along with CEFAM, French-American University based in Lyon (France) are one of the most important partners of AlmaU. A further development of cooperation is planned, especially under Erasmus + program.



In addition, this year one of our closest partners from South Korea – SolBridge International School of Business, who has been a partner of Almaty Management University since 2012, had visited us in mid-January.



The issues of implementation of joint MBA programs in entrepreneurship and strategic management as well as principles of data management were on the agenda. Our partners offered to provide teachers and administrative employees of SolBridge International School of Business to help AlmaU in the organization of programs.

This year AlmaU is hosting students from MIT University who are having their internships in the framework of MISTI Kazakhstan program. MIT students would spend their summer at AlmaU working on the joint research project initiated by AlmaU and Almaty Municipality (Akimat). AlmaU students have joined the team of MIT students as buddies to help them settle in Almaty and for multicultural interaction purposes.

Master students from Columbia University School of Public Policy are passing internship at AlmaU over summer 2017. The purpose of the internship is to explore social entrepreneurship concept and to engage in research with focus on the region.



Principle 6 | Dialogue: We will facilitate and support dialog and debate among educators, students, business, government, consumers, media, civil society organizations and other interested groups and stakeholders on critical issues related to global social responsibility and sustainability.

AlmaU is a devoted mediator between its students, staff members, and a society. We are actively engaged in supporting and strengthening the interaction between academia and business environment throughout establishing joint projects. This objective resonates with AlmaU's core strategic aim of becoming a socially responsible entrepreneurial university. Furthermore, envisioning the goal to build the model of entrepreneurial university by 2020, in 2014 AlmaU decided to open the separate unit Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation Development. The goal of the center: Building the entrepreneurial university in Almaty Management University with entrepreneurial management method, strong corporate culture, and integration of Almaty Management University into the global network of entrepreneurial education.

The main functions of the Center:

- Provision of organizational, informational, methodical and consulting services for students, listeners, faculty and staff members of the University during the creation of project groups, starting and registration of small enterprises
- Provision of consulting services and practical assistance during state registration of the results of intellectual activity, created by youth project groups and subjects of small enterprises created on their basis.
- Provision consulting services related to property, organizational, informational, methodological issues aimed for development and promotion of innovational projects of student youth.

This year AlmaU also was the initiator of establishing the Kazakhstan Association of Entrepreneurial Education. The Association would be functioning with the support of the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan “Atameken” and has more than 20 universities from Kazakhstan as its members. AlmaU rector – Almagul Kanagatova, who was elected as a chair of the Association, mentioned the fact that nowadays universities are facing a necessity of transforming from traditional to an entrepreneurial university. It is also worth of mentioning that the establishment of the Association is an important step in promoting an entrepreneurial education in Kazakhstan. Therefore, AlmaU in cooperation with the National Chamber of Entrepreneurs are only planning to increase their joint effort towards popularizing this educational field.

In addition, AlmaU is actively engaged in supporting prospective students by organizing special competitions where they can get a chance of winning full scholarships and/or partial

discounts. One of such events is an annual “MegaChance” competition, which gives a unique opportunity for gifted and talented prospective students to win scholarships and discounts to study at our University. An interesting fact is that both local and international students can participate at this competition. According to the results of the competition, 60 students won the 100%, 50%, and 25% discounts to begin their studies at AlmaU. By organizing such competitions, AlmaU embodies one of its core missions of being a socially responsible university, which aims to support local communities.



Moreover, AlmaU, as a community, puts a great attention into developing a sense of unity and responsibility among our staff and students. One of such examples is a charity concert that was organized by our students and staff members to support our coworker who had recently undergone a very heavy surgery. All the funds collected during the concert were given to our colleague in order to show how much we care about our close ones. In this way, AlmaU shows its readiness to help and express compassion to its fellow members.

We also do our best to accommodate the needs of our future community members –



students and their parents. On 14th of January, AlmaU hosted the Parent’s Day for future students and their parents. They were lucky to be one of the first people to learn how to take National Testing in new format and how to choose a future career properly. They also got more information on international opportunities for students, as well as student activities and opportunities for scholarship and funding.

We are also pleased to say that AlmaU Graduate School of Business is successfully operating its social project “Unlimited opportunities”. This project is aimed to provide scholarships on a competitive basis to people with disabilities. AlmaU supports the aspiration of people to overcome the social inequality by acquiring new knowledge and developing personal careers and business ideas. The project’s target audience is the people with physical disabilities who want to start or improve their businesses and achieve success in their career.

AlmaU Summer School for faculty is the annual event for academic professionals to refresh their knowledge and network. Previously the Summer school has been organized locally at AlmaU and in Kyrgyzstan. In 2017 the location has changed to Azerbaijan. The idea was to combine professional development with personal and physical development. The recreational activities are cleverly combined with lectures and workshops on change management, emotional intelligence and so on. AlmaU website provides a day-to-day diary of the school.

AlmaU future plans:

This year AlmaU is planning to open its new building, which would fully meet the modern requirements of business-specific training. AlmaU's new campus building – the Knowledge building - is a 5400 square meters, high-tech building that would house coworking centers, food courts, relaxation rooms, modern conference halls, and lecture halls. An up-to-date infrastructure would foster the development of an academic and entrepreneurial environment at AlmaU, which would consequently benefit the region as a whole.



That said, AlmaU is planning to work on strengthening the existing ties as well as establishing new ones both at the national and international levels. In addition, the University aims to increase its involvement in social projects through various student initiatives and to become a mediating platform between academic, business, and governmental organizations. By doing so AlmaU would be able to spread and implement the ideas of social responsibility and sustainable development to the wider society.

Furthermore, AlmaU sets ambitious goals of making it into top 200 in QS World University Rankings, as well as becoming a top business-university among the Eurasian Economic Union countries by strengthening its academic and research programs. Overall, AlmaU's development strategy includes key segments like establishing new schools and academic courses, further developing an entrepreneurial university, enhancing the scientific and research activity, investing into civic and business development on national and regional level, internationalization, as well as expanding into new markets in line with the PRME principles.

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