



YouthPartnership

COUNTRY SHEET ON YOUTH POLICY AZERBAIJAN



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YouthPartnership
Council of Europe
European Commission



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1. Context of national youth policy

Youth policy is one of the main priorities of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The year 2007 was announced the Year of Youth in Azerbaijan. The Ministry of Youth and Sport is responsible for implementation of youth policy.

The main objectives of youth policy in the Republic of Azerbaijan is:

- to create the conditions for physical, mental and moral development of youth and help them develop their abilities and skills (*"Law on Youth Policy " of the Republic of Azerbaijan*);
- the elaboration of a legal framework;
- the implementation of national and international youth programmes;
- to monitor the developments in the youth field;
- the assessment of youth programmes in all social spheres;
- the launching of projects related to information, human rights, health, intercultural learning etc. ;
- to support the activities of youth associations and NGOs;
- the allocation of annual grants and the monitoring of the use of the funds allocated by the state for youth work;
- the counseling of young people;
- to develop international co-operation in the youth field;
- to work with young people from minorities and refugees.

Each of the priorities mentioned above implies a set of policy measures to be implemented on local, regional and national level.

Azerbaijan is one of the youngest states in Europe, with 65% of the total population under the age of 35.

2. Statistics on young people

Number and percentage of young people in global population:

Population of Azerbaijan : 9 000 000

Age : 14-29 years

Number of young people : 2.800.000 (31% of the total population)

Number and percentage of people by gender in global population

Women : 49%

Men : 51%

3. Actors and Structures

3.1 National Public authorities

After the collapse of the Soviet Union, the monopoly of the Comsomol (Communist Youth League) in conducting youth work came to an end. The new youth policy started to be implemented gradually and in a difficult context which needs to be taken into account to fully understand its development.

The Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.mys.gov.az) was established in 1994 by the Decree of the President of the Republic. The Ministry is the body that implements the state policy and the regulations related to youth issues.

Minister of Youth and Sport: Mr. Azad Rahimov ([nazir\(at\)mys.gov.az](mailto:nazir(at)mys.gov.az))

Deputy minister responsible on Youth: Mr. Intiqam Babayev ([bintigam\(at\)mys.gov.az](mailto:bintigam(at)mys.gov.az))

Director of Youth Affairs Department: Mr. Farhad Hajiyeu ([farhad\(at\)mys.gov.az](mailto:farhad(at)mys.gov.az))

Contact person in youth department competent for cooperation with European Youth policy:
Mr. Farhad Hajiyeu

Number of people who work in the Youth Department of this Ministry: 21

Structure of Youth Affairs Department:

The Department of Youth Affairs of the Ministry of Youth and Sport is composed of four sectors:

1. The sector for youth organizations affairs. Its aim is :

- a. to coordinate the work of the NGOs;
- b. to improve youth policies by conducting seminars, training courses, etc.;
- c. to support the participation of Azerbaijani youth in international events;
- d. to finance NGOs projects.

2. The sector for the promotion of a healthy life and social programs. Its work focuses on :

- a. the promotion of a healthy life style among youth and prevention against smoking, drugs, alcoholism, AIDS etc.;
- b. the realization of social programmes for youth and assistance in employment issues (development of skills and knowledge);
- c. the support of organizations involved in working with youth in difficulty.

3. The sector for work with creative and gifted young people and organization of leisure time for young people. It focuses on :

- a. the work with creative and talented youth;
- b. the organization of festivals, exhibitions, contests, science olympiads etc.;
- c. the organization of leisure events (f.e. camps, etc.)

4. The sector for patriotism and patriotic education. It focuses on :

- a. the organization of military-patriotic games among the school children;
- b. preparing the youth for military service through different events;
- c. the promotion of patriotic ideas by providing more information about history, national and traditional values
- d. promotion of idea of citizenship

Subordinate structures responsible for youth in the Ministry of Youth and Sport

1. Three head offices in Baku, Sumgait and Ganja
2. Regional youth and sport offices (83 in total)
3. A scientific-research center on youth problems

Other ministries:

The following ministries also deal, to a lesser extent, with children and youth or are responsible for questions relevant to children and young people.

1. The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.edu.gov.az
2. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan www.mct.gov.az
3. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population of Azerbaijan www.mlspp.gov.az
4. The Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies www.mincom.gov.az
5. The Ministry of Public Health www.sehiyye.gov.az
6. Azerbaijani State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs www.scfwca.gov.az

3.2 Non public actors/structures in the youth field

The number of youth NGO's in Azerbaijan exceeds **170**.

The main youth work institution which is the coordinating body and a cooperation platform for Azerbaijani Youth is the **National Assembly of Youth Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA)**.

NAYORA was created by 12 youth organizations on November 21st, 1995 and registered by the Ministry of Justice on January 31st, 1996. NAYORA has currently 65 member organizations.

The main goals of NAYORA :

- coordinate the work of youth organization;
- represent member organizations at the national and international levels;
- assist in the creation and the development of the youth NGOs and encourage young people to participate actively in the democratic process in Azerbaijan;
- find solutions to the problems of young people and protect their rights;
- promote good cooperation with international youth structures and other organizations abroad;
- Improve the well-being of the Azerbaijani youth.
- Creating cooperational links between NGO's and governmental bodies

Contacts: Orkhan Arabov – Secretary General of NAYORA

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Website: www.nayora.az

The **“IRELI” Public Union** founded on the basis of the "IRELI" Countrywide Youth Movement which was founded on 26.08.2005. During the 3 years period of functioning "IRELI" Countrywide Youth Movement been able to involve more than 6 000 active young people to its activities and become to one of the most active organizations of the country. According to the decision made by the founders of the "IRELI" Countrywide Youth Movement the organization been dissolved on 09.12.2008. The idea of creation of the “Ireli” Public Union been initiated after the dissolvment of the Movement.

Contacts: Osmanli Ceyhun – President of IRELI Countrywide Youth Movement

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Website: www.ireli.az

The **Azerbaijan Volunteers’ Union** (to become AVPU), founded in November 2000, is a non-governmental, non-commercial, non-political organisation registered voluntary organization acting in Azerbaijan. The aim of AVPU is to develop volunteers’ work in Azerbaijan, promote solutions to the problems of society and improve the well - being of vulnerable populations. The youth of AVPU, with the help of other volunteers, give gratuitous benevolent assistance to the vulnerable people; promotes education to human rights in various regions and settlements across the country.

Based on democratic principles, the AVPU will be engaged in conducting the following activities:

1. promote volunteerism in Azerbaijan;
2. support the development of civil society in Azerbaijan;
3. create projects to solve social and ecological problems;

4. ensure partnership with world organizations;
5. organize educational seminars, social polls and conferences among different groups of population;
6. work on human rights issues
7. promote a healthy life style and fighting HIV/AIDS, drug abuse, use of alcohol, use of tobacco, etc.
8. support public activities which have a positive impact on young people.
9. Acquaintance and study of wide experience of advanced foreign countries in many life spheres ;
10. protect national, moral and worldly values;
12. Co-operation with international and national structures which are not prohibited by legislation
13. Representation in the international and national structures which are not prohibited by legislation
14. Involvement in other kinds of activities which are not opposite to the legislation and constitution of the Azerbaijan Volunteers' Public Union Since the moment of its creation, the AVPU has been carrying out its functions for active implementation of the established tasks.

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The **National Youth Forum** is the biggest youth platform. It starts at a very grass root level and used to be held once in 3 years. The proposals from local level are transferred to regional level (Azerbaijan is divided into 10 administrative regions), and the regional meetings' results are brought to the National Forum of youth. The President of the country and his cabinet participate in this Assembly and each Minister chairs a relevant working groups together with a young people. The National Youth Forum adopts a three-year program.

4. Legislation

4.1 Articles of the constitution concerning youth :

[Article 17 concerns family and state, Article 42 concerns the right for education](#)

4.2 National legislation on youth

The law on "State youth policy" (adopted on 13 November 2001 (amendments in 2006 and 2007)), determines the juridical, economic, and political foundations on which this policy will be based.

5. National Programme on Youth

The State Program of Youth of Azerbaijan (2005-2009) was successfully implemented and served to facilitate the further development of state youth policy. It covered different fields of life of young people.

New program for the next 5 years is on the way. Special group of experts representing government, NGO's and international organizations was established to create new 5 years program of development of youth.

6. Budget / Public expenditure allocated to youth

The Budget of the department of Youth Affairs for 2010 year increased 3.8 times in comparison with 2006 year and increased 1.7 times in comparison with 2008.

7. European Dimension of youth policy

7.1 Cooperation with the Council of Europe

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a member of the Council of Europe since 2001.

a. European Steering Committee for Youth (CDEJ)

Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

Mr. Farhad Hajiyev (Director of Youth Affairs Department of the Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan) is the Member of the Programming Committee for Youth of the Council of Europe.

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b. All different-All equal Program

The conference "[Beyond religious differences: Islamophobia and other forms of discrimination based on religion or belief: consequences for young people and youth work responses](#)" was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, from 5 to 8 November 2008 in the spirit of consolidating the results of the "**All Different – All Equal**" European youth campaign, including the Istanbul Youth Declaration. The conference was co-organised by the Council of Europe's Directorate of Youth and Sport, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan and in co-operation with the European Youth Forum and the Islamic Conference Youth Forum for Development and Cooperation; it brought together over 100 participants from 42 countries.

7.2 Cooperation with the European Union

Azerbaijan was active in the Youth in Action Programme