

# COMPENDIUM

## CULTURAL POLICIES AND TRENDS IN EUROPE

### COUNTRY PROFILE

# AZERBAIJAN

**Last profile update: June 2016**

This profile was prepared and updated by **Mr. Yashar HUSEYNLI (Baku)**.  
It is based on official and non-official sources addressing current cultural policy issues.

The opinions expressed in this profile are those of the author and are not  
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<sup>1</sup> This profile was originally produced by Nigar Akhundova in 2000 and updated until 2005. Since 2006 this profile was reproduced and updated by Yashar Huseynli.

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## 1. Historical perspectives: cultural policies and instruments

The Republic of Azerbaijan is located at the crossroads where historical routes and ancient cultures in and through the Caucasus intersect.

Over the 20th century, the Northern Azerbaijan experienced a great number of extraordinary events, influencing the implementation of cultural policies and instruments: such as severe changes of political regimes, economic booms and recessions, national liberation movements, and involvement in world and regional wars.

The Azerbaijan Democratic Republic – the first secular parliamentary republic of the East – was proclaimed as an independent state on 28 May 1918 and existed for almost two years. The Northern Azerbaijan then fell under Soviet rule for more than 70 years. Official politics, through both direct and more indirect ideological instruments, aimed to gradually "sovietise" the country's national identity, culture and the arts. The alphabet used in Azerbaijan was changed twice during this time: in 1929 from Arabic to Latin and again in 1939 from Latin to Cyrillic. This instability made it difficult for people and researchers to study and transmit the intellectual and cultural heritage.

On a more positive note, efforts were made to ensure universal literacy and to broaden participation in the arts and culture. "Art to the masses" was not merely rhetoric, but also a guideline for action. Culture was wholly financed by the state. As a Soviet Republic, however, the arts were ideologically streamlined. The first signs of individualism and rejection of the principles of socialist realism became visible at the end of the 1950s and the beginning of the 1960s. Since that period, the arts have gradually emancipated themselves from state control. In some sectors, this process was more intense than in others, but it resulted in a powerful surge of national awareness around the middle of the 1980s.

On 18 October 1991, the *Constitutional Act* was passed and the North Azerbaijan's state independence was restored. With many internal and external problems, the Republic of Azerbaijan passed through a difficult period of establishment (See more at 4.3). In 1993, the National Leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, was returned as the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, in accordance with the request of the Azerbaijan people. In a very short time, internal political stability was restored, new strategies introduced and the main direction for the further development of the country was defined. The next stage in the social-political progress of Azerbaijan started and contemporary Azerbaijan's cultural policy was initiated at that time.

Azerbaijan's cultural policy today is, first and foremost, the policy of a country which has regained its state independence for the last two and half decades of its existence. Its political transformation, which brought radical organisational, economic and social changes, had an immediate impact on culture and cultural trends. The greatest achievement of the last years has probably been the birth of a new social, intellectual and cultural self-consciousness. Fundamental social and cultural changes, globalisation, new cultural priorities, the irruption onto the cultural scene of mass culture and the culture industries, the communications explosion, new approaches to preserve and transmit artistic heritage, and a new awareness of culture's vital role in development – are factors which have contribution to new concepts of culture and national cultural policy.

## **2. General objectives and principles of cultural policy**

### **2.1 Main features of the current cultural policy model**

The cultural policy system in Azerbaijan is very state-supportive in all respects, with the state taking the main decisions, providing financial support and coordinating the activities of the various partners involved in culture, in particular the regional and local authorities and professional organisations. This approach was necessary in order to protect culture and the arts, as well as secure artists and cultural workers, in the transition period.

At the same time, considerable societal changes during recent years have led to the development of a new model of cultural policy. The national cultural policy, following rapid economic development, has a good opportunity to flourish in the near future, combining flexible management at central level with activeness and initiatives at local level, an increase in the state cultural budget, together with improvements in fundraising and marketing skills of independent cultural managers, entrepreneurs and producers.

As outlined in the Constitution and in the new *Law on Culture*, the national cultural policy is based on the principles of equal opportunities to create and use cultural values and to preserve the heritage in Azerbaijan. Every person has the right to create, use and disseminate cultural values, irrespective of their social and material status, nationality, race, religion and gender. The Law guarantees freedom of intellectual and creative expression and provides a legal basis for the development of national culture as a constituent part of world culture. These principles, as well as equality, democracy, humanity, integration, quality, secularism, productivity, continuity and talent factor, adequately reflect the Council of Europe principles advocating democracy, human rights and cultural policy priorities such as the promotion of identity and cultural diversity (e.g. freedom of expression), encouragement of creativity and participation in cultural life.

### **2.2 National definition of culture**

The understanding of an official national definition of culture comes from the new *Law on Culture (2012), Article<sup>o</sup>1*, which considers culture as "a set of features that defines material, moral, intellectual and emotional peculiarities, including literature and arts, of society or social groups, and covers the lifestyle of the people, the co-existence rules and a system of moral values".

### **2.3 Cultural policy objectives**

According to the "Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan", approved by the *Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (No. 273 dated 14 February 2014), which is developed to streamline with the main European cultural policy principles, the main cultural policy objectives in Azerbaijan comprise the adjustment of culture policy mechanisms to actual requirements: protection of cultural heritage, support and development of creative activity with the focus on the integrity of the people, promotion of identity and diversity, and participation in cultural life.

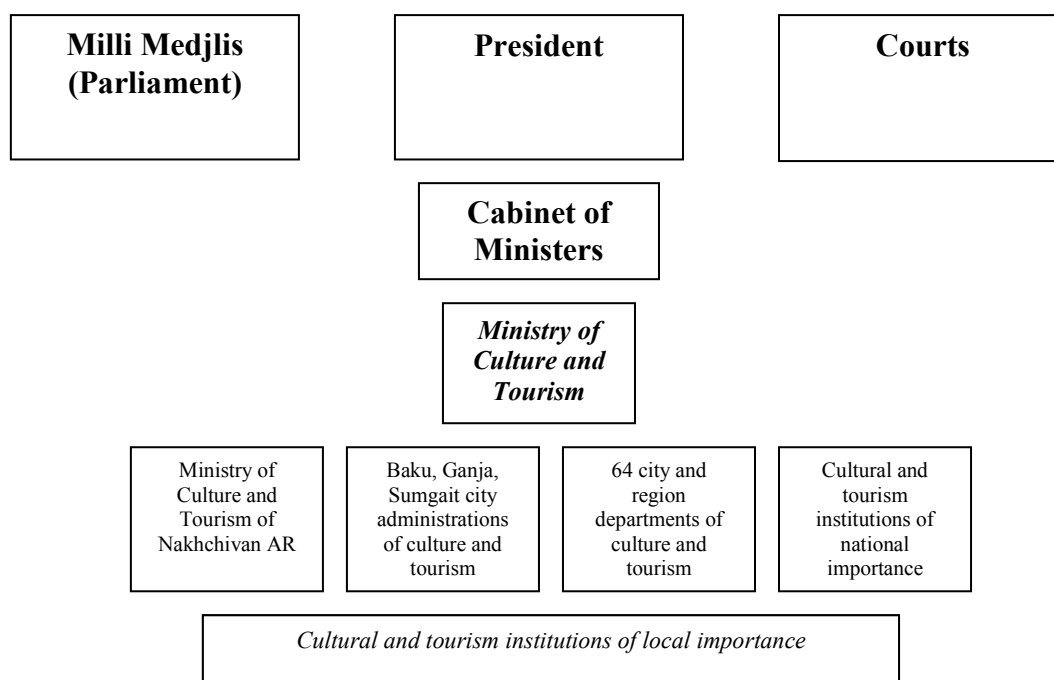
The "Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan" lists the following objectives in the field of state cultural policy as: development of legal guarantees, implementation of modern methods in culture and arts administration, diversification of financing sources, enhancement of information provision, human resources development, modernisation of the material and technical bases, and development of international cooperation. In the areas of cultural activity, the "Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan" defines the state

policy as safeguarding of cultural heritage (intangible cultural heritage; historical and cultural monuments and preserves; the museum branch; library stocks), support to professional art (theatres, music, fine arts) and development of cultural industries (cinema, book-publishing).

### 3. Competence, decision-making and administration

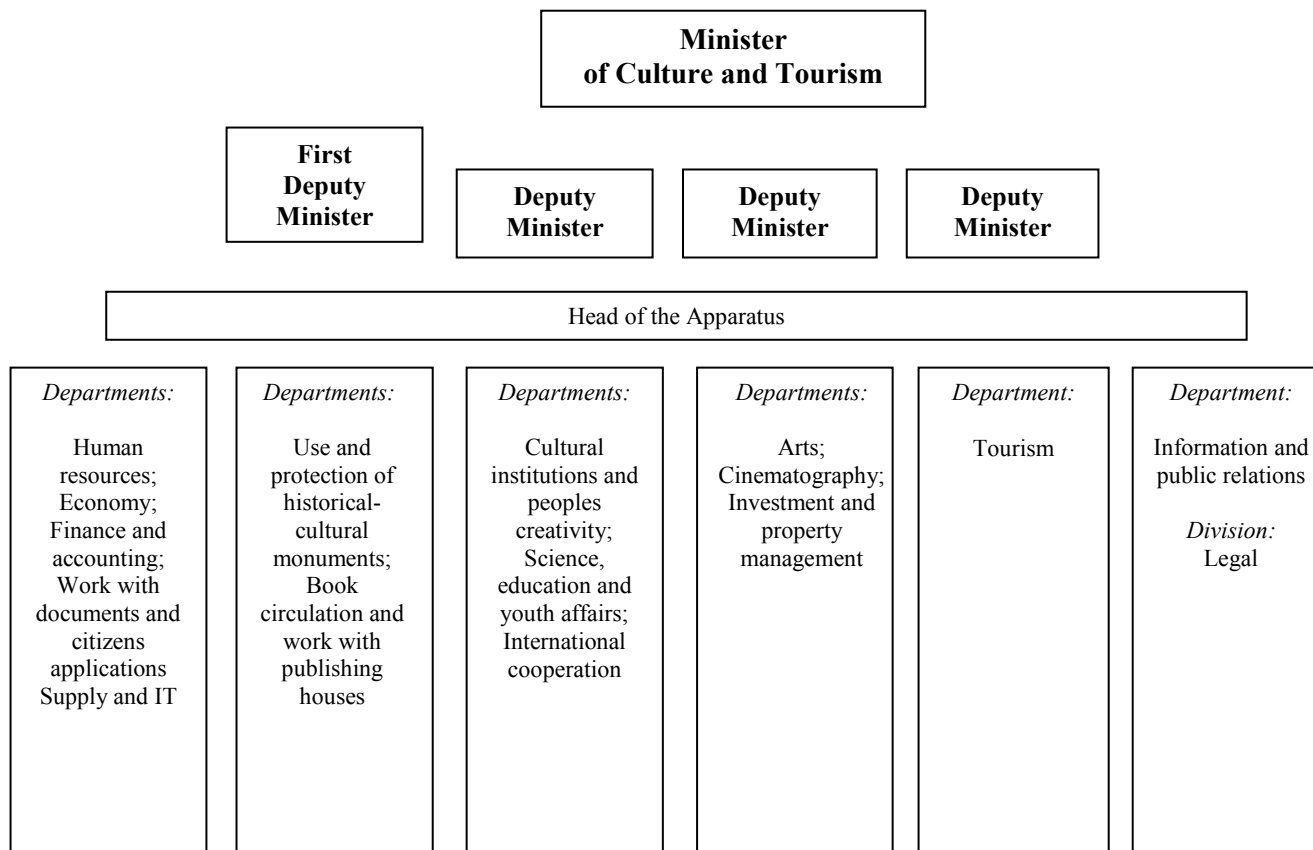
#### 3.1 Organisational structure

Chart 1: State cultural policy administration in the Republic of Azerbaijan



Source: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

According to *the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev* on improvement of the structure of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, signed on 29 March 2016, the Baku City Main Department for Culture and Tourism was created on the basis of the Baku City Culture and Tourism Department. Also, 15 regional departments of culture and tourism are being established on the basis of Ganja, Sumgait city administrations of culture and tourism and 64 city and districts departments of culture and tourism. The Cabinet of Ministers was instructed in a three month period to develop and submit to the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan proposals on bringing the acts of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the present Decree and solve other issues arising from the present Decree. The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan was instructed to ensure a transition of the culture sector to centralized funding from January 1, 2017.

**Chart 2: The Central Office of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

Source: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

### 3.2 Overall description of the system

Azerbaijan is a democratic, law-based, secular, unitary republic. The only one source of state power in the Republic of Azerbaijan is the people of Azerbaijan. The Constitution, approved by general referendum on 12 November 1995, provides the principle of division of powers: Milli Medjlis (Parliament) exercises legislative power; executive power belongs to the President; and law courts exercise judicial power.

Milli Medjlis - one chamber body comprising 125 deputies, elected by direct elections for a 5 year term. The Culture Committee drafts legislation for culture.

Judicial power in Azerbaijan is implemented through the Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, ordinary and other specialised law courts.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the Head of the Azerbaijan state. The President is elected for a 5-year term by way of general, direct and equal elections, with free, personal and secret ballot. The President appoints the Prime-minister, by consent of the Parliament. For implementation of executive powers, the President establishes the Cabinet of Ministers, which is subordinated and reports to the President.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan is an organ of central executive power, realising state policy and adjustments in the fields of cultural policy, cultural heritage (intangible cultural heritage, historical and cultural monuments, museums and libraries), professional arts (theatre, music, and fine arts), cultural industries (book publishing and cinematography) and tourism (internal, external, licensing, marketing, etc.).



The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (NAR), city administrations of culture and tourism in Baku, Ganja, Sumgayit, as well as 64 towns and districts departments of culture and tourism, are responsible for local executive cultural and tourism policy issues (see also chapter 3.1).

The Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan demands implementation of modern methods in culture and arts administration by optimising decentralisation processes in state administration by managing the balance between central and local executive authorities; realisation of de-monopolisation by forming arts-management and producer institute systems and promotion of contemporary administration; sustainable democratisation in order to form civil society, preserve national identity and encourage private initiatives.

### **3.3 Inter-ministerial or intergovernmental co-operation**

Taking into account that there are many areas where joint efforts of two or more institutions are required, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism cooperates closely within the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan with other ministries, state committees and relevant executive bodies, while drafting and putting into practice the national cultural and tourism policy – see Table 1 below.

**Table 1: Intergovernmental co-operation by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism**

<b>Field of activity</b>	<b>Cooperation with</b>
<b>General administration</b>	Administration of the President Cabinet of Ministers Local executive authorities
<b>Legislation on culture</b>	Milli Medjlis (Parliament) Ministry of Justice
<b>Copyright issues</b>	Republican Authors' Rights Agency
<b>Funding for culture</b>	Ministry of Finance
<b>Taxes for culture</b>	Ministry of Taxes
<b>Education, training and research in culture</b>	Ministry of Education Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences
<b>Infrastructure provision, information-communication technologies</b>	Ministry of Economy Ministry of Communications and High Technologies State Committee on Property Issues State Urban planning and Architecture Committee
<b>Social welfare</b>	Ministry of Labour and Social Security of Population Ministry of Health
<b>Human resources</b>	Ministry of Youth and Sport State Committee on Family, Women and Children's Issues State Examination Center
<b>Civil society</b>	Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organisations under the President
<b>Cultural minorities</b>	State Committee on Work with Religious Organisations
<b>Parks and landscape planning</b>	Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources
<b>Statistics</b>	State Statistical Committee
<b>International cooperation</b>	Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Committee on Work with Diaspora
<b>Security and Armenian aggression consequences</b>	State Security Service Ministry of Internal Affairs Ministry of Defence State Committee on Refugees and IDPs Affairs Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)

Source: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

In a number of cases, the President, or the Cabinet of Ministers, sets up specific organising committees and working groups, including representatives from the respective levels of government, to facilitate inter-ministerial cooperation and realise long-term state programmes or concrete projects. Examples of the work they carry out are concepts on the economy, science, education, culture, health, transport, "State Programme on Socio-economic Development of the Regions for 2014-2018", etc.

Governmental commissions can also be established in order to prepare national reports for international organisations e.g. the Second Periodical Report of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the "International pact on economic, social and cultural rights", which was prepared by a Governmental Commission, with the participation of high-level representatives of foreign, internal, justice, health, culture and tourism, education ministries and other relevant state bodies.

### **3.4 International cultural co-operation**

#### **3.4.1 Overview of main structures and trends**

Since Azerbaijan regained independence, international cultural ties have become one of the important instruments of the new foreign policy. The main aims of the policy have been to foster relations based on mutual understanding and trust with other countries, work with them on the basis of mutual benefit and equal rights, and to give to the world a clear, objective picture of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Culture has played a major part in forming the young state's image, and achieved as much as political and economic developments in creating a strong and persuasive impression of the country. Democratisation, decentralisation and de-monopolisation in areas of culture have also been reflected in Azerbaijan's international cultural relations. Collaborative links have been formed with many countries in Europe, Asia, America and Africa, at national, regional and city levels, and between artists' associations and individual artists, which now operate often autonomously. Besides the traditional forms of bilateral cultural relations e.g. exchanges of theatre and concert ensembles, days of culture etc., the Ministry of Culture and Tourism is developing, in a very successful and productive way, multilateral cultural co-operation with international organisations such as the UN, UNESCO, Council of Europe, EU, WTO, OIC, ISESCO, TURKSOY, BSEC, CIS, GUAM, IFESCO, etc.

Development of international cooperation by promoting multilateral collaboration in the framework of international organisations; strengthening of bilateral relations with leading European, American, Asian and African states; supporting the Azerbaijan national cultural centres functioning abroad are the main directions of international cultural cooperation.

#### **3.4.2 Public actors and cultural diplomacy**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism drafts and implements bilateral and multilateral foreign cultural policy, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which is the central executive body in Azerbaijan that is responsible for realisation of all international relations and cooperation issues. The Republic of Azerbaijan regards the development and strengthening of international standard-setting activity as a matter of high importance and has, accordingly, acceded to a number of international conventions with a vital bearing on the secure and extensive cultural interchange with other countries – which demands compliance with up-to-date standards of international law.

Cultural Centres under Embassies of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Tashkent (Uzbekistan), Paris (France) and Vienna (Austria) were established according to the *Decrees of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev*.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has signed (15/02/2010) the UNESCO *Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions*. The main ministries dealing with implementation of this Convention are the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO.

#### **3.4.3 European / international actors and programmes**

The Republic of Azerbaijan participates in a series of multilateral cultural projects. Co-operation with the Council of Europe (CoE) is one of the key elements of multilateral engagement. The Ministry started working with the CoE Steering Committee on Culture in 1999 (i.e. before officially joining the Council of Europe in 25 January, 2001), taking part in the CoE / ERICarts project "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe". The years from 2001 to 2005 were remarkable for Azerbaijan in terms of participation in the Council of Europe "STAGE" Project ("Support for Transition in the Arts in Greater

Europe"), aimed at establishing new cultural policies, supporting cultural identity, cultural diversity, creativity and the participation of all groups of society in the cultural life of the South Caucasus. The main achievements of this project were to produce, by a joint team of Azerbaijani and Council of Europe experts, the National Report on Cultural Policy in Azerbaijan (2002) and to hold a National Debate on Cultural Policy (June, 2003, Baku). The country's library, museum and city policies were also observed by European experts and different seminars and training on current importance issues, such as fundraising, management, etc, were organised in the framework of the STAGE Project.

The Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme (KI) for the South Caucasus countries plus Moldova and Ukraine was initiated during the 5th (enlarged) Ministerial Colloquy of the countries participating in the STAGE Project in September 2005, Kyiv. It started implementing, in the framework of the KI, multilateral projects such as Heritage Management, Wine Culture Tourism Exchange (WCTE), Alexander Dumas Route / Cultural Routes, Cross-Border Cinema Culture (CBCC), Cultural Policy and Exchanges.

Azerbaijan joined UNESCO in 1992. Since then, special celebrations have been organised at UNESCO headquarters in Paris to mark the 1300th anniversary of the epic Azerbaijani legend Kitab-i Dede Qorqud (1998), the 800th anniversary of the birth of Nasir ad-Din Toosi (2001), the 200th anniversary of the birth of Mirza Kazem-Bey (2002), the 100th anniversary of the birth of academician Yusif Mammadaliyev (2005), the 100th anniversary of the birth of carpet-maker artist Latif Kerimov (2006), the 100th anniversary of the first opera in the East: "Leyli and Majnun" (2008), the 100th anniversary of Musa Aliyev, geologist (2008), the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mir Jalal Pashayev, writer (2008), and the 100th anniversary of Sattar Bahlulzadeh, painter, etc.

The National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for UNESCO chaired now by the Minister of Foreign Affairs was created in 21 February 1994. National Committees have been established for the following Intergovernmental Programmes of UNESCO: International Council of Museums (ICOM), International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), International Music Council (IMC), International Institute of Theatre, etc.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has been selected as a Member of the UNESCO Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage and the Eighth session of the Intergovernmental Committee was held in Baku, Azerbaijan, on 2-7 December 2013. Celebration activities marking the 10th anniversary of the Convention were carried out during this session.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is rapidly developing collaborative ties with the Islamic Scientific, Educational and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO); the Cooperation Protocol between the Ministry and ISESCO was signed during the Fifth Session of the Islamic Conference of Tourism Ministers (September, 2006, Baku). The Republic of Azerbaijan was nominated as a member of the Consultative Council for the Implementation of the Cultural Strategy for the Islamic World for 2005-2008. The National Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) chaired by Minister of Culture and Tourism was established in January 2016.

Azerbaijan has been invited to enter into intensified political, security, economic and cultural relations with the EU, regional and cross border co-operation and shared responsibility in conflict prevention and conflict resolution. The EU-Azerbaijan Action Plan enhances cultural co-operation, by investigating the possibilities for co-operation in the framework of EU programmes in the field of culture. It also involves exchanging views on the UNESCO Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions and promoting the ratification and implementation of the text. Besides these developments, Azerbaijan collaborates within an Eastern Partnership, a project which was

initiated by the European Union, and includes Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and South Caucasus states. The Twinning project of EU for the benefit of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan aimed on cultural sector policy and governance reform plus institutional development of cultural heritage management is realising in partnership with The Ministry of Cultural Heritage and Activities and Tourism of the Italian Republic.

The Ministers of Culture of the Turkic-speaking countries (the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Republic of Kyrgyzstan, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Republic of Turkey and Turkmenistan) founded, on an Azerbaijan initiative, TURKSOY – the International Organisation on Joint Development of Turkic Culture and Arts, in July 1993. The Turkic-speaking republics and regions of the Russian Federation, such as Tatarstan, Bashkortostan, Khakasia, Tyva, Altay, Saha-Yakitiya, Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Gagauz Yeri Autonomous Oblast of the Republic of Moldova, joined later as observers.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan actively participates in the Council on Cultural Cooperation of the Commonwealth Independent States (CIS), and joined in 2008 the Intergovernmental Foundation for Educational, Scientific and Cultural Cooperation of the CIS (IFESCO).

#### **3.4.4 Direct professional co-operation**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism encourages, on a continuing basis, trans-national co-operation between arts and heritage institutions, professional associations, networks and other NGO actors in fields such as cultural policy, heritage protection, theatre, dance, film, music, etc. For example, the 10th anniversary meeting of the project "Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends in Europe" was held in Baku on 4-5 December 2008, with the participation of a number of eminent researchers from the Council of Europe countries and ISESCO area, offering an important opportunity for the promotion of intercultural dialogue and examining new opportunities for future trans-national co-operation.

Following the recommendations of the Council of Europe's White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue and the Declaration of the Baku Conference of Ministers of Culture (2008), Azerbaijan is taking part in the "Artists for Dialogue" initiative conceived as a scheme for encouraging collaboration and co-operation between artists and cultural actors / mediators from Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East, and Central Asia, in a long-term perspective.

At present the Ministry of Culture and Tourism funds yearly membership fees to a number of international organisation and supports participation of Azerbaijan specialists at conferences of the European Music Council, World Congresses of Dance Researchers, European Council of Artists conferences, etc.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism supports national and international conferences and festivals organised by different professional communities. Support for international festivals are one element of direct professional cooperation by the Ministry, for example The International Mugham Festival (4th was held in 11-18 March 2015), The International Music Festival in memory of Uzeyir Hajibeyli (6th was organised in 18-28 September 2015), The International Qabala Music Festival (7th was held in 25-31 July, 2015), The International Mstislav Rostropovich Festival (7th – from 12-18 May 2014).

The 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC) which was held in Baku, Azerbaijan (25-27 April 2016) can be mention as a brilliant example of international and even global cultural activity of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Global Forum, during which 40 discussions and panels were conducted, brought together more

than 4 300 participants representing 147 countries, including Heads of State and Government, political officials, civil society representatives, religious and youth leaders, who exchanged their perspectives under the main theme on "Living Together in Inclusive Societies: A Challenge and A Goal." Among the major outcomes from the Global Forum Baku 2016 was the unanimous adoption by delegations of the Baku Declaration, a political document that will guide future efforts towards achieving the goals of UNAOC - a body mandated to promote harmony among nations.

### **3.4.5 Cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation**

In accordance with the working plans of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, the performances of artists, theatre and music collectives and exhibitions organised abroad during the Days of Culture, as well as international competitions and festivals are covered by the Ministry. There is no special system of fellowships and financial aid, however, at the same time, the Ministry of Culture and Tourism assists artists and NGOs functioning in the field of culture. Furthermore, funds, banks and other financial institutions, operating in Azerbaijan, give considerable sponsorship to assist and promote the mobility of artists and artworks.

One new, and particularly significant, priority of Azerbaijan's cultural policy abroad is maintaining links with cultural centres and associations run by Azerbaijanis living in other countries. According to the latest data, there are more than 100 of these, in a broad range of countries - Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Russia, Spain, Sweden, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan, etc. Many of these associations / centres were represented at the First, Second and Third World Congress of Azerbaijanis, held in Baku in November 2001, in April 2006 and in July 2011. The State Committee on Work with Azerbaijanis Living Abroad (now, the State Committee on Work with Diaspora) was formed in accordance with the *Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2002*.

Another popular form of cross-border intercultural dialogue and co-operation is active involving of relevant cities of the Republic of Azerbaijan in different Culture Capitals Programmes initiated by international organisations:

- at the 5th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Tripoli, 21-23 November 2007), the capital of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku was proclaimed Islamic Culture Capital for 2009;
- Qabala city was proclaimed Commonwealth Culture Capital for 2013 by decision of CIS;
- Sheki city was proclaimed Culture Capital of Turkic World for 2016 by TURKSOY;
- Ganja city was proclaimed European Youth Capital for 2016 by European Youth Forum; and
- Nakhchivan city was proclaimed Islamic Culture Capital for 2018 by decision of the 6th Islamic Conference of Culture Ministers (Baku, 13-15 October 2009).

### **3.4.6 Other relevant issues**

The "Baku Process" is based on the interregional specifics of Azerbaijan, resulting from its geographic situation, social-political aspirations, and historical-cultural traditions, which has contributed historically to the transformation of this region as a meeting place for experts from the East and West as well as from the South and North. Proceeding on this basis, with the modern Republic of Azerbaijan being the only state member both of the Council of Europe and the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (ISESCO), the Baku Process has been initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of

the Republic of Azerbaijan recently in order to bring closer these regions consisting of CoE and ISESCO member states.

Formalising the Baku Process involved three initial stages:

- Organising a Council of Europe Conference of Culture Ministers in Baku, to which ISESCO and some of its member states were invited (The Baku Conference of Ministers responsible for Culture met on 2-3 December 2008, on the theme of "Intercultural dialogue as a basis for peace and sustainable development in Europe and its neighbouring regions").
- Holding an ISESCO Conference of Culture Ministers in Baku, to which the Council of Europe and some of its member states were invited (The VI Ministers of Culture Conference of the Organisation of Islamic Conference member states was held in Baku from 13-15 October 2009, following the Baku Process, and in celebration of Baku as Islamic Culture Capital for 2009).
- Establishing a regular biennial Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue with the participation of relevant intergovernmental organisations, culture ministers and all over the world.

The Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue has taken responsibility for delivering the global agenda on the Dialogue among Civilisations adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (November 2001), the UNESCO Convention on Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2005), the Islamic Declaration on Cultural Diversity, which was adopted by ISESCO in 2004, Declaration and Action Plan of the Third Summit of the Heads of State and Government of the Council of Europe member states, the Council of Europe White Paper on Intercultural Dialogue (May 2008), as well as the Baku Declaration for the Promotion of Intercultural Dialogue. Azerbaijan has already hosted the First Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue under the motto - "United Through Common Values, Enriched by Cultural Diversity" (7-9 April 2011), The Second Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue on the subject of "Living Together Peacefully in a Diverse World" (29 May - 1 June 2013) and The Third Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue dedicated to the theme "Sharing Culture for Shared Security" (18-19 May 2015) under the patronage of the President of Azerbaijan in cooperation with UNESCO, the UN Alliance of Civilizations, UN World Tourism Organization, the Council of Europe, ISESCO, with the participation of culture ministers of numerous states, heads of leading international organisations, mayors of various world cities, diplomats, media organisations, international NGOs, scientists, scholars, distinguished cultural experts, practitioners, intellectuals and activists.

## **4. Current issues in cultural policy development and debate**

### **4.1 Main cultural policy issues and priorities**

Following the reforms implemented in state management bodies of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and in order to ensure the best structural formation, the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism were reformed; the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Ministry of Youth and Sport were established by a *Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on 30 January 2006*.

This structural measure was aimed at improving the management of the cultural and tourism sectors, organising these fields according to modern requirements, bringing new optimism and calling for the need to reconsider the existing national cultural policy.

In this connection, it was decided that all cultural policy issues and priorities should be developed together, hand in hand with national tourism and cultural tourism strategies. Azerbaijani culture, arts and cultural heritage are the main attractions for local and international tourists, and therefore need to derive as much benefit as possible from tourism sector development, which is traditionally more self-sufficient from an economic point of view. At the same time, the national tourism industry must use all potential advantages from its close links with the cultural administration, so as to make a real contribution to the nation's welfare and to assist in its integration with the world community.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has already elaborated strategies and programmes in different spheres of state cultural and tourism policies such as "State Programme on Development of Library-information spheres 2008-2013", "State Programme on Development of Azerbaijan Cinema 2008-2018", "Development Programme on improving the activities of children's music and art schools in the Republic of Azerbaijan from 2009-2013", "State Programme on Azerbaijan Theatre 2009-2019", "State Programme on Development of Tourism 2010-2014", "Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan", etc.

The main cultural policy priorities have been declared as:

- upgrading and updating cultural policy legislative, administrative, financial, informational, personnel, infrastructural and international mechanisms;
- preservation and restoration of national tangible (historical and cultural monuments, museum exhibits and library stocks) and intangible (local-lore, folklore and crafts) cultural heritage;
- support for professional creativity in theatre, music and fine arts fields; and
- revival of the national cultural industries (cinematography, book publishing, etc.).



**Table 2: Main indicators of culture, 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2014**

	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of public libraries</b>	<b>4 605</b>	<b>4 374</b>	<b>3 947</b>	<b>3 291</b>
of which - library stock million copies	45.3	38.7	36.1	<b>33.2</b>
per 1 000 population, copies	6 280	4 867	4 012	3 501
<b>Number of clubs</b>	<b>3 680</b>	<b>3 354</b>	<b>2 772</b>	<b>2 729</b>
<b>Number of movie theatres*</b>	...	...	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>
number of attendees at cinema shows	...	...	83 000	236
per 1 000 population	...	...	9	25
<b>Number of professional theatres</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
number of attendees of theatres, thsd person	1 376	925	540	728
per 1 000 population	192	117	61	77
<b>Number of concert organisations</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
Number of attendees of concert organisations	994 000	339 000	277 000	452
per 1 000 population	138	43	31	48
<b>Number of museums</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>233</b>
number of attendees of museums, thsd person	1 154	1 196	1 804	2 531
per 1 000 population	161	151	202	269
<b>Number of circuses</b>	...	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
number of attendees of circuses	...	179 000	127 000	126
per 1 000 population	...	22	14	13
<b>Number of zoological gardens</b>	...	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
number of attendees of zoological gardens	...	64 000	121 000	70
per 1 000 population	...	8	14	7
<b>Number of cultural and recreation centres</b>	...	<b>61</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>247</b>
<b>Number of historical, cultural, architectural, art and ethnographic reserves</b>	...	...	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Number of immovable historical and cultural monuments</b>	...	<b>6 628</b>	<b>6 308</b>	<b>6 308</b>
<b>Number of children's musical, art and painting schools - total (at the beginning of school year)</b>	...	<b>231</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>237</b>
Of which number of pupils- total, person	...	69	71	68.5

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

\* Data for 2000 is missing in connection with dissolution of the State Committee on Cinematography.

A significant decline in the number of public libraries and the number of recreational / cultural centres indicated in the Table 2 is explained with structural reforms in these spheres, namely merger and extension of small neighbouring rural branches of Regional Centralised Library Systems and establishing of City (region) Cultural Centres at the expense of closing of some non-operating clubs.

## 4.2 Specific policy issues and recent debates

### 4.2.1 Conceptual issues of policies for the arts

The art traditions of Azerbaijan are accepted as a key part of the country's uniqueness and its future development; they are also accepted as an important part of Azerbaijani society and its people. Support for professional art is directed to the development of theatre, music and fine art.

## Theatre

The rich history of Azerbaijan national theatre has laid a foundation for the establishment and development of current day professional theatre. These professional theatres include The Azerbaijan State Academic Opera and Ballet Theatre, Azerbaijan State Theatre of Musical Comedy, Young Spectators Theatre, Poetry Theatre, Azerbaijan State Pantomime Theatre, drama, musical-drama, puppet and other theatres. The following main duties are determined in the field of theatre art:

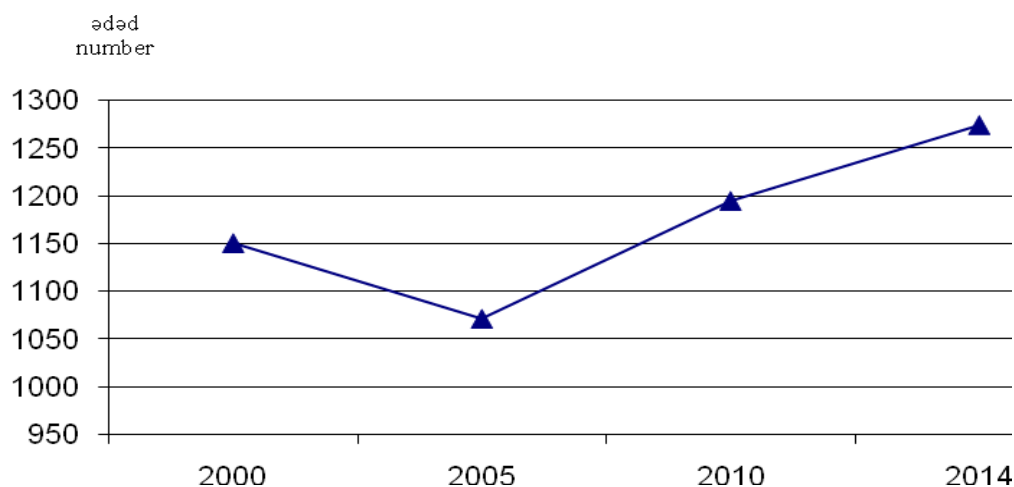
- wide and effective use of state orders for providing the creation of new works with high artistic value in different genres of theatrical art and their presentation;
- stimulation of the staging of productions in all of the theatres in the republic; organisation of theatre festivals, contests, etc. at international and state level; support for participation in international theatre festivals, contests and other events; and
- protection of rare theatres; provision of material and creative aid to displaced theatres.

**Table 3: Professional theatres, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2014**

	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of theatres</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
<i>Including:</i>				
opera and ballet	1	1	1	1
drama, musical-comedy and musical drama	15	20	19	19
children and young people's theatre	4	6	8	8
<b>Number of seats in theatres</b>	<b>7 690</b>	<b>9 073</b>	<b>8 733</b>	<b>7 721</b>
<i>Including:</i>				
opera and ballet	1 068	1 068	1 072	5 257
drama, musical-comedy and musical drama	6 019	6 894	6 161	5 271
children and young people's theatres	603	1 111	1 500	1 392

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 3: Number of attendees of professional theatres, thsd. persons, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014**



Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 4: Professional theatres by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

<b>Economic and administrative regions</b>	<b>Number of professional theatres</b>	<b>Number of attendees, thsd person</b>
The Republic of Azerbaijan	28	<b>727.5</b>
Baku city – total	10	<b>411.6</b>
Absheron economic region – total	1	<b>36.6</b>
Ganja-Gazakh economic region – total	3	<b>91.2</b>
Shaki-Zagatala economic region – total	3	<b>37.6</b>
Lankaran economic region – total	1	<b>26.6</b>
Guba-Khachmaz economic region – total	1	<b>3.9</b>
Aran economic region – total	2	<b>35.3</b>
Yukhari Karabakh economic region – total	4	<b>46.3</b>
Nakhchivan economic region – total	3	<b>38.4</b>

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### Music

There is a big infrastructure in the Republic for the development of Azerbaijan classical music, which has ancient historical traditions, and for holding concerts in this field; there are numerous music-schools and concert salons. The following support is provided to the music sphere in Azerbaijan:

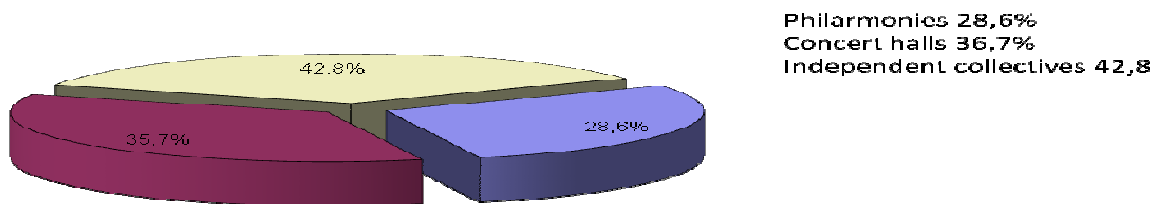
- regular implementation of complex measures related to the promotion of composers' activities in order to create new music works with high artistic quality;
- organisation of festivals, contests, concerts in different musical genres and provision of Azerbaijani art collectives and support for participation of soloists in international events;
- offering all necessary facilities for extended participation of Azerbaijan's regions in local and international musical-cultural projects; and
- digitalisation of important Azerbaijan classical music examples.

**Table 5: Main indicators of concert organisations activities, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	<b>1990</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2014</b>
Number of concert organisations	10	13	13	<b>14</b>
Number of realised concerts	2 566	1 517	1 061	<b>1404</b>
Number of attendees of concert organisations	994 000	339 000	277 000	<b>452</b>
Per 1 000 population	138	43	31	48

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

Baku Crystal Hall with a capacity of 25 000 spectators and abilities to meet all technical requirements of world pop stars was built in order to host the Eurovision Song Contest 2012; these facts influenced to a rise of attendees in the last years.

**Chart 4: Main indicators of activities of the concert establishments in 2014**

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 6: Main indicators of concert organisations activities by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

Economic and administrative regions and towns	Number of concert organisations	Number of organised concerts	Number of attendees, thsd person
The Republic of Azerbaijan	14	1 404	452.3
Baku city - total	10	1 098	389.1
Ganja-Gazakh economic region - total	1	204	13.9
Yukhari Karabakh economic region - total	2	-	-
Nakhchivan economic region - total	1	102	49.3

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### Visual Arts

The fine and decorative art of Azerbaijan has an ancient history and is rooted in traditions. The development of modern fine and decorative-applied art is related to the support of artistic creativity and the promotion of creative works both nationally and internationally.

Support is provided to the visual arts in the following ways:

- publication of books, discs, booklets, catalogues, etc. dedicatee to modern fine and decorative-applied art of Azerbaijan, and creation of related internet sites;
- support for interesting projects in the different categories of fine and decorative-applied art;
- holding national and international symposia, festivals, contests, and support for the participation of professionals in international projects and contests;
- support and stimulation of the activities of talented young people;
- offering all necessary facilities for transforming picture galleries into art centres;
- formation of respective art collections, support for exhibition and educational activity of galleries;
- enriching the collections of local galleries with art works, application of new information technologies.

#### **4.2.2 Heritage issues and policies**

National cultural policy in the fields of cultural heritage includes protection, restoration and use of immovable historical and cultural objects, modernisation of museum and library systems, support of intangible cultural heritage, development of the networks of local cultural centres with their local-lore, folklore and crafts branches. The Republic of Azerbaijan provides protection for its historical and cultural objects giving priority to state cultural policy and international responsibilities.

##### **Protection, restoration and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments**

Historical Azerbaijan is rich in material and spiritual cultural monuments. World famous Azikh and Taglar caves, cave camps in Gazakh, Gobustan, and more than 10 thousand rock art paintings discovered in Gamigaya, Absheron, Kalbajar and Ordubad are excellent examples of these cultural monuments. 6 308 historical and cultural monuments (21 of them are of world importance and 44 are of world archaeological importance), garden-parks, monumental and memorial, decorative-applied art monuments (national sculpture monuments) are on the ratified list according to the historical and cultural importance of the monuments protected by the state. The following duties are of main importance in the field of protection, restoration and use of immovable historical and cultural monuments:

- improvement of the social awareness system and existing governance in order to protect and keep the monuments for future generations;
- inventorying the monuments, preparation of normative documents, creation of protection zones, granting of documents, administration of property rights;
- application of modern technologies in restoration projects and in protection of the monuments;
- development of the cultural tourism infrastructure through the use and protection of monuments, definition of the routes and preparation of the maps;
- enlargement of the activities of historical and cultural preserves, preparation of their management and development plans; and
- systematisation of the information on the situation of historical and cultural monuments of Azerbaijan, in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan and abroad.

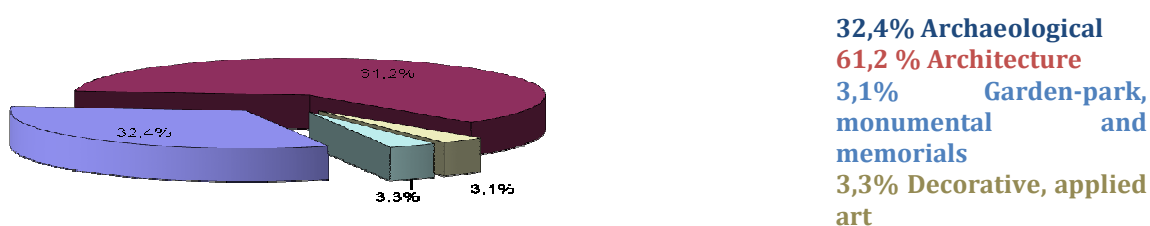
The government adopted a list of state-protected monuments in August 2001, which covers architecture, archaeology, formal gardens and parks, and which ranks monuments according to their importance - world, national or local. Buildings of world or national value may not be privatised. Residential buildings of local value, or apartments located in such buildings, may be privatised only with the consent of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Where such buildings or apartments are already in private hands, protection contracts, prohibiting any alteration from the original monument, are concluded with the owners.

State Service of Cultural Heritage Conservation, Development and Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was established according to the Presidential Decree on improvement of the structure of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, signed on 18 December 2014.

**Table 7: Immovable historical-cultural monuments at the state disposal, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of immovable historical-cultural monuments - total</b>	<b>6 628</b>	<b>6 308</b>	<b>6 308</b>
<i>Including:</i>			
Archaeological	2 218	2 045	2 044
Architecture	4 123	3 860	3 860
Garden-park, monumental and memorials	287	196	196
Decorative, applied art	-	207	208

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 5: Types of immovable historical-cultural monuments at the end of 2014, percent**

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 8: Number of historical, cultural, architectural, art and ethnographic reserves at the end of 2015**

	Number of reserves
<b>Total</b>	<b>28</b>
including:	
In the system of Ministry of Culture and Tourism	26
In the State Historical - Architecture Reserve Department "İcherisheher" under the Cabinet of Ministries	2

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2014; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 9: Division of immovable historical-cultural monuments at state disposal by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

Economic and administrative regions	World known		State known			Local known			
	archaeological	architecture	archaeological	architecture	garden-park, and monumental memorials	Archaeological	Architecture	garden-park, and monumental memorials	decorative, applied art
The Republic of Azerbaijan - total	44	21	1 616	359	59	384	3 480	137	208
Baku city	1	4	71	114	47	26	1 675	18	-
Absheron economic settlements	-	-	35	-	1	5	36	3	4
Ganja-Gazakh economic region	9	1	259	32	5	37	373	19	8
Shaki-Zagatala economic region	3	2	125	37	2	38	190	11	4
Lankaran economic region	2	-	313	2	-	81	230	7	121
Guba-Khachmaz economic region	4	1	119	7	2	56	126	12	9
Aran economic region	2	1	160	9	2	3	44	27	-
Yukhari Karabakh economic region	8	4	161	93	-	14	292	16	1
Kalbajar-Lachin economic region	-	2	27	27	-	9	97	7	16
Dakhlik Shirvan economic region	2	1	74	8	-	51	130	6	14
Nakhchivan economic region	13	5	272	30	1	37	287	10	31

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

Restoration and conservation works are conducted generally with financing from the state budget, the budget of local authorities and donations from individuals, as well as foreign and international organisations. One such example is the restoration of a small German church ("Kapelhaus") in Baku, which was fully financed by the German government. Archaeological works and restoration works on the Christian temple of the V-VI centuries, in the Kish village near Sheki city, have been financed by non-governmental organisations in Norway.

The Walled City of Baku, with Shirvanshakhs Palace and the Maiden Tower (2000) and Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape (2007) were added to the World Heritage List. A number of monuments have been submitted to the Tentative List: Surakhany, Atashgyakh (Fire - worshippers, temple - museum at Surakhany) (1998), The Mausoleum of Nakhinchevan (1998), Hyrkan State Reservation (1998), "Binigadi" 4th Period Fauna and Flora Deposit (1998), "Lok-Batan" Mud Cone (1998), "Baku Stage" Mountain (1998), The Caspian Shore Defensive Constructions (2001), Susha historical and architectural reserve (2001), Ordubad historical and the architectural reserve (2001), and Sheki, the Khan's

Palace (2001). The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan has joined the European Heritage Network and has already submitted the National Heritage Policy Profile.

### **Protection of the intangible cultural heritage**

Azerbaijan intangible cultural heritage, being created through centuries and being the development nucleus of national spirit and culture, is the pride of every Azerbaijani citizen. The government pays special attention to preserving, restoring and supporting Azerbaijan's intangible cultural heritage, which includes local lore (customs and traditions, ceremonies and festivities, symbols and mysteries), national folklore (music and dances, verbal literature traditions, games and performances), craftsmanship (traditional applied, visual and decorative arts). Monitoring of Azerbaijan's intangible cultural heritage, providing legal, administrative, financial, information, personnel, infrastructure and international mechanisms, was held by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism both on the central and local levels in 2009-2010. A draft of the "State Programme for Safeguarding Azerbaijan Intangible Cultural Heritage", elaborated according to the Monitoring results, is under consideration by the Cabinet of Ministers. "The Programme on the People's Creativity Capitals for 2010-2014" of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been approved. According to the programme, the relevant Action Plans are being implemented in the cities declared as "Folklore Capital of Azerbaijan": (the city of Qazakh for 2010, the city of Lenkoran for 2011, the city of Masally for 2012 the city of Zaqatala for 2013 and the city of Zagatala for 2014), "Crafts Capital of Azerbaijan" (the city of Sheki for 2010, city of Ismayilly for 2011, the city of Guba for 2012, the city of Goy-go for 2013 and the district of Absheron for 2014), and "Legends Capital of Azerbaijan" (the city of Gandja for 2010, the city of Shabran for 2011, the city of Gedabey for 2012 the city of Khachmaz for 2013 and the city of Gabala for 2014). Besides numerous actions, festivals, fairs, concerts, projects, etc., implemented during the realisation of "The Programme on the People's Creativity Capitals for 2010-2014", some local initiatives retained a traditional character, namely The Biennial International Ashigs Festival, The Annual International Masally Folklore Festival, The Annual Balaken International Folklore and Tourism Festival, The Annual Guba Apple Festivity, The Annual Gabala Jam Festivity, etc. Taking into account the success of this regional ministerial Programme, it was decided to extend it for the following years. This traditions was continued with realisation of new "The Programme on the People's Creativity Capitals" in framework of which there was chosen "Literature Capital of Azerbaijan" (the city of Shemaka for 2015), "Culinary capital of Azerbaijan" (the city of Gakh for 2015) and "Folklor Capital of Azerbaijan" (the city of Gusar for 2016).

The Information Bank of portfolios held by specialists, performers, collectives, researchers, NGOs, and private structures in the field of Azerbaijan intangible cultural heritage is being created. The State Register of Azerbaijan Intangible Cultural Heritage Examples and The Cadastre of the Infrastructural Units of Azerbaijan Intangible Cultural Heritage are also being created.

The Azerbaijani Mugham (2003), the Art of Azerbaijani Ashiq (2009), Novruz (multinational: Azerbaijan - India - Iran (Islamic Republic of) - Kyrgyzstan - Uzbekistan - Pakistan - Turkey 2009), the Traditional art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving (2010), Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked string musical instrument (2012), Traditional art and symbolism of Kelaghayi, making and wearing women's silk headscarves (2014) and Copper craftsmanship of Lahij (2015) were added to the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Heritage. Chovqan, a traditional Karabakh horse-riding game in the Republic of Azerbaijan were included to the UNESCO List of Intangible Cultural Heritage in Need of Urgent Safeguarding (2013). Relevant National Action Plans



have been designed and are being implemented in order to ensure the safeguarding of these internationally recognised examples of Azerbaijan intangible heritage.

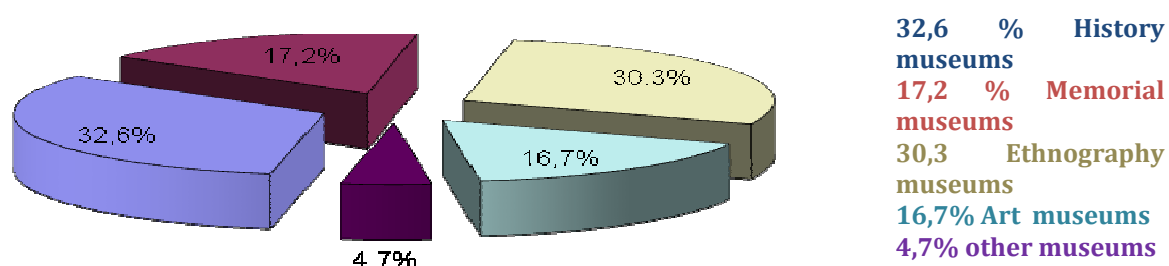
For more information see also chapter 8.4.1 and chapter 8.4.2.

### Modernisation of museum work

There is a large museum network in Azerbaijan of historical, historical-regional ethnography, scientific, political, art and literature, patriotic museums and house-museums of culture and art works. The main leading museums are Azerbaijan State Art Museum, Azerbaijan Carpet and Folk Applied Art Museum, Azerbaijan State Theatre Museum named after J.Jabbarli, Azerbaijan State Museum of Musical Culture, Azerbaijan State History Museum and Azerbaijan Independence Museum. The following work is required for modernisation of museum work:

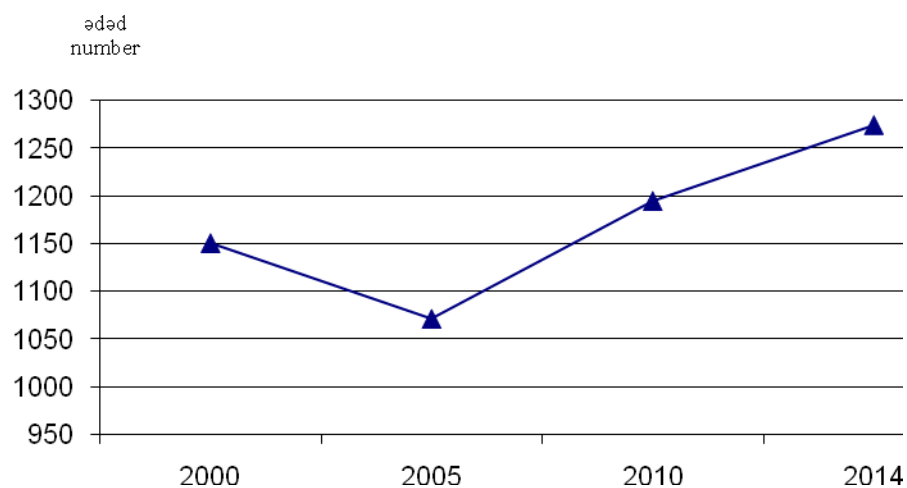
- improvement of preservation, pasportisation, restoration, conservation of museum objects, museum funds, and valuable art works and recruitment of museum collections, transfer of museum fund information to digital carriers, organisation of national integral museum information system through electronic catalogue;
- improvement of artistic design quality of museum exhibitions, organisation of conceptual expositions and exhibitions on various themes, to bring them into line with international standards;
- inclusion of museums into the tourist routes for development of tourism in Azerbaijan, preparation of education and interactive programmes, personal excursions, family programmes for children, youth, students and teenagers to improve access;
- development of museum marketing, preparation of special catalogues, calendars, brochures, souvenirs etc.

**Chart 6: Distribution of museums by types, 2013**



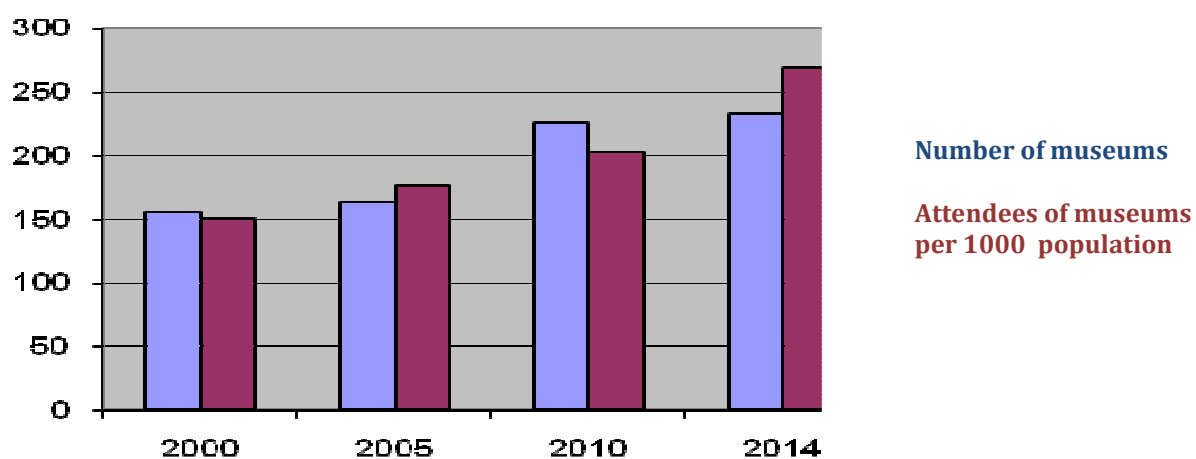
Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 7: Fund of museums, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014**



Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 8: Number of museums and visitors to museums, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014**



Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 10: Museum figures, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of museums - total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>233</b>
including:				
history	9	14	67	76
memorial	27	32	39	40
local lore	57	63	69	67
Art	24	37	39	39
Other	7	9	12	11
<b>Number of museums visitors - total, thsd person</b>	<b>1 154</b>	<b>1 196</b>	<b>1 804</b>	<b>2 531</b>
including:				
history	183	120	685	1 390
memorial	140	245	177	203
local lore	596	531	559	519
art	198	243	265	280
other	37	57	118	139
Per 1 000 population	161	150	202	269

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 11: Museums by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

<b>Economic and administrative regions</b>	<b>Number of museums</b>	<b>Number of museum visitors, thsd person</b>
The Republic of Azerbaijan - total	233	2 531.3
Baku city	35	553.2
Absheron economic region	7	24.9
Ganja-Gazakh economic region	35	289.1
Shaki-Zagatala economic region	21	198.2
Lankaran economic region	16	184.0
Guba-Khachmaz economic region	11	97.0
Aran economic region	46	654.1
Yukhari Karabakh economic region	19	44.3
Kalbajar-Lachin economic region	6	11.0
Daghlik Shirvan economic region	10	92.3
Nakhchivan economic region	27	383.2

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### **Modernisation of library-information network**

The mass library network of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan consists of the National Library of Azerbaijan, republic, mass and children's libraries and centralised library systems. There are about 40 million books, magazines, papers, notes, booklets, CDs, audiocassettes and etc. in the library funds of this network. 10 centralised library systems are in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan. The following work is required for the modernisation of libraries:

- acquisition, mutual application and development of an interlibrary connection system of the State Library Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan; preparation of a coordination plan for enrichment of their stocks with foreign literature and preparation of a republic-wide foreign literature bank and electronic collections;
- automatisisation of library-bibliographic processes, preparation and development of the republic-wide library-information network programme and national communicative

format for the establishment of electronic catalogues and libraries, publication of national catalogue collections etc.; and

- restoration of bibliographic materials, printing and publications and preparation of retrospective publication programmes, protection, restoration, conservation of library resources and rare copies, transfer to digital carriers, retro conversion of library catalogues, improvement in the service level according to international standards.

**Table 12: Public libraries, 1990, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

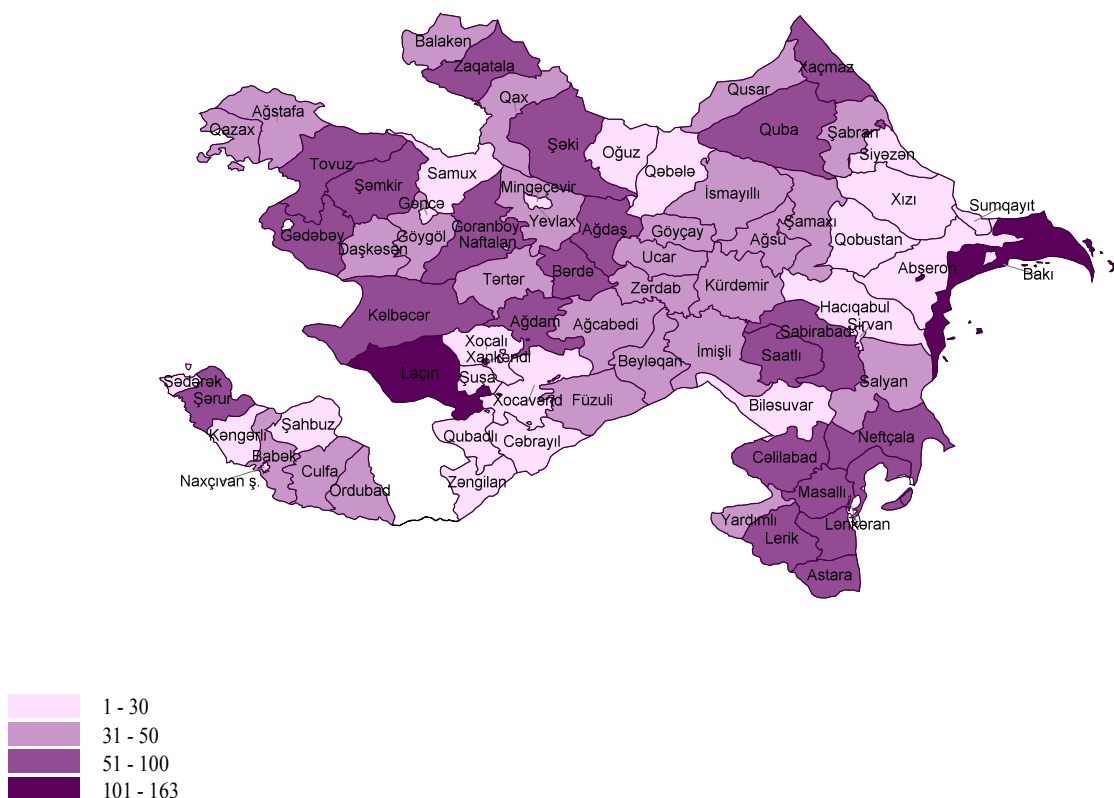
	1990	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of public libraries - total</b>	<b>4 605</b>	<b>4 374</b>	<b>3 947</b>	<b>3 291</b>
including:				
urban places	708	660	642	479
rural places	3 897	3 714	3 305	2 812
<b>Library stock total, million copies</b>	<b>45.3</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>33.2</b>
including:				
urban places	22.5	19.9	17.8	16.3
rural places	22.8	18.8	18.3	16.9
<b>Library stock per 1000 population copy</b>	<b>6 280</b>	<b>4 841</b>	<b>4 012</b>	<b>3 501</b>
including:				
urban places	5 845	4 775	3 676	3 241
rural places	6 779	4 763	4 280	3 796

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 13: Distribution of public libraries by ministries and departments, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2000	2005	2010	2014
<b>Total</b>	<b>4 374</b>	<b>4 004</b>	<b>3 947</b>	<b>3291</b>
including:				
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	4 313	3 966	3 880	3237
State Caspian Shipping Company	-	-	5	2
Confederation of the Trade Union	61	38	8	8
State Oil Company	-	-	7	2
Committee on Trade Union of Employees of the Education	-	-	10	2
Independence Trade Union of the Transport and Road Economy	-	-	37	40

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 9: Public libraries by towns and regions of Azerbaijan Republic at the end of 2014**

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 14: Public libraries by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

Economic and administrative regions	Number of libraries	Library stocks, thsd copies
The Republic of Azerbaijan	3 291	33 167.5
Baku city – total	107	9 727.9
Absheron economic region - total	47	910.3
Ganja-Gazakh economic region - total	516	4 031.3
Shaki-Zagatala economic region - total	255	1 763.7
Lankaran economic region - total	351	2 815.6
Guba-Khachmaz economic region - total	272	1 921.5
Aran economic region - total	785	6 040.4
Yukhari Karabakh economic region - total	370	2 237.1
Kalbajar-Lachin economic region - total	202	378.3
Dakhlik Shirvan economic region - total	149	1 182.5
Nakhchivan economic region - total	237	2 158.9

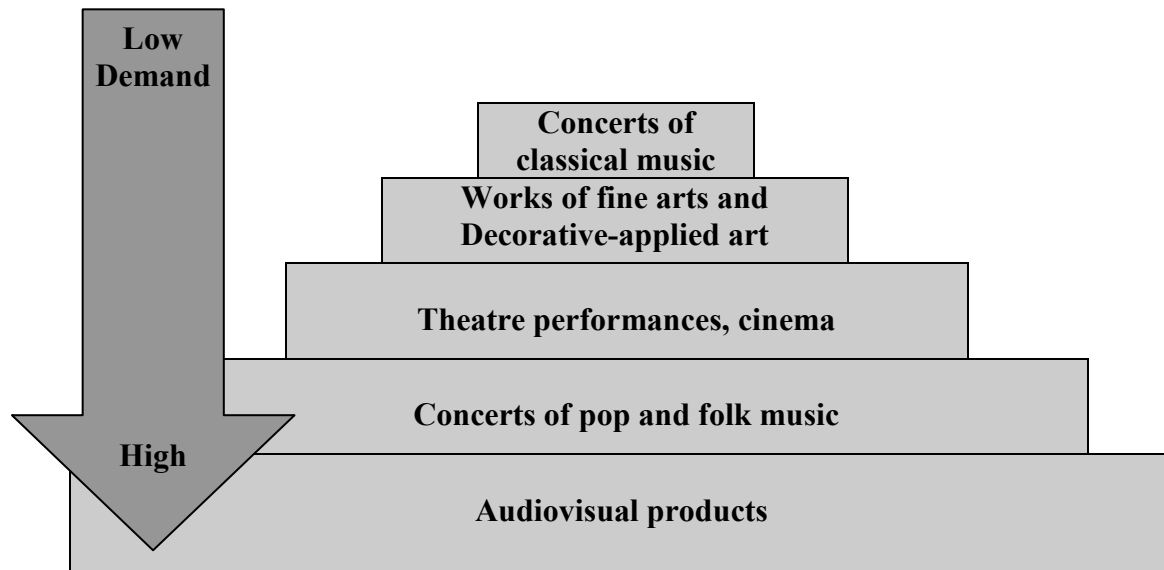
Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

#### 4.2.3 Cultural / creative industries: policies and programmes

Special attention and capital investment in the cultural industries that have played an important role in the formation of global and national cultural life and have gained serious achievements in several leading countries of the world, can lead to obtaining many economic and social dividends. Therefore development of the cultural industries like

cinematography and book publishing with historical traditions and future potential are positive directions of modern cultural policy.

**Chart 10: Pyramid of demand**



Source: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015.

The greatest demand is for digital audio and video discs, followed by participation in pop and traditional music concerts; visits to theatre performances and cinemas are in the middle, whereas the demand for concerts of classical music and works of fine arts and decorative or applied arts is considerably smaller.

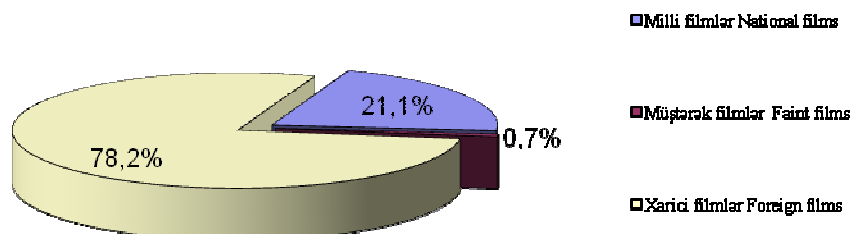
For more information see also chapter 4.2.6.

### **Revival of cinematography**

Azerbaijan is one of only a few countries in which the history of national cinematography began in the XIX century. This rich history has several stages and it reflects the processes happening in world cinematography as well as national ones.

At present the main financing source of film production in Azerbaijan is the state budget. Financial support is realised through grants to different studios and independent producers. The following duties are necessary for the revival of the national cinematography:

- creation of a modern production basis for revival of the national film production industry;
- supporting attractive film projects for creative and cinematography purposes;
- restoration of film distribution and exhibition systems, preserving a state cinema network that meets modern requirements and privatisation of other movie theatres;
- extension of relations with foreign distribution companies, restoration of film dubbing into the Azeri language, intensification of anti-piracy activity;
- restoration, conservation and digital transformation of national films, newly received ones and their primary materials kept at the State Film Fund; and
- study and promotion of film heritage.

**Chart 11: Origin of movies showing in cinemas at the end of 2014**

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 15: Movie theatres, 2005, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2005	2010	2013	2014
<b>Total number of movie theatres</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>
Including:				
State	20	8	7	5
Non-state	1	1	3	2
<b>Total number of seats</b>	<b>11 896</b>	<b>3 378</b>	<b>5 312</b>	<b>3 691</b>
Including:				
State	11 529	3 032	2 928	1 807
Non-state	367	346	2 384	1 884
<b>Number of visitors</b>	<b>115 400</b>	<b>83 400</b>	<b>183 900</b>	<b>235 800</b>
including:				
state	79 00	20 900	105 500	154 700
non-state	36 300	62 500	78 400	81 100
Number of attendees of cinema shows per 1 000 population	14	9	20	25

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 16: Movie theatres by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

<b>Economic and administrative regions and towns</b>	<b>Number of movie theatres</b>	<b>Number of attendees, thsd person</b>
The Republic of Azerbaijan	7	235 800
Baku city - total	5	221 000
Nakhchivan economic region - total	2	14 800

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### Revival of book publishing

Book publishing is carried out by state and private publishing houses in the republic. These publishing houses are acting under the *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Publishing* and other respective legislative acts. The state publishing network includes the publishing houses under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan ("Azerneshr", "Genjlik", "Maarif"), The Ministry of Education ("Tehsil"), Azerbaijan

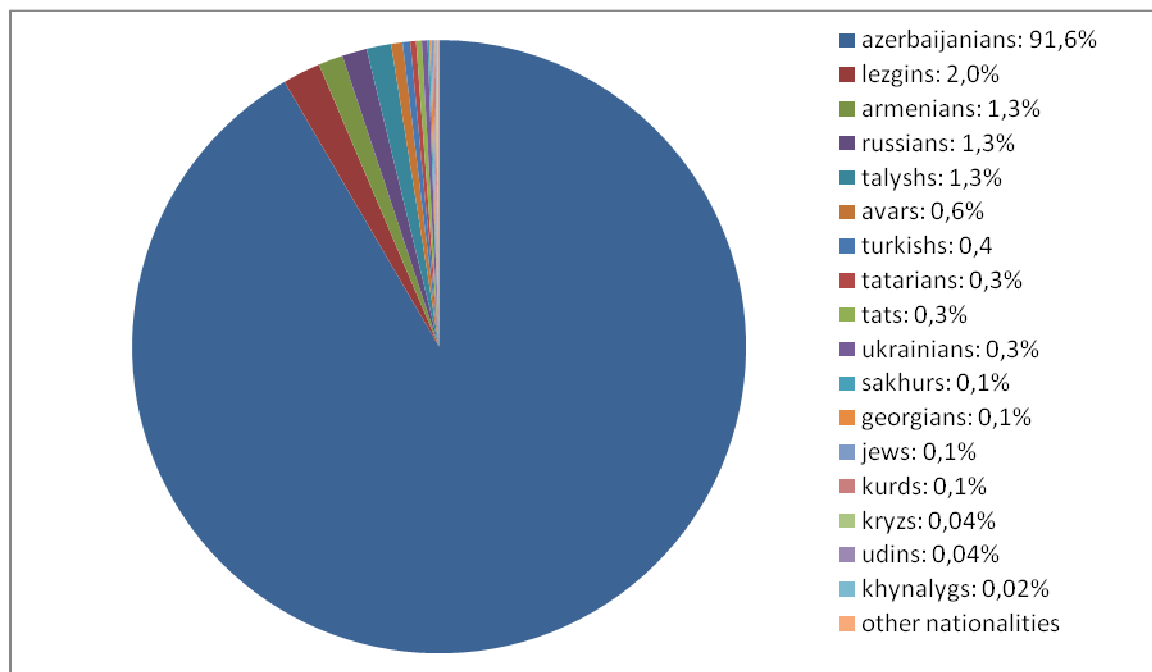
National Academy of Sciences ("Memorial Book" State Editorial Office, "Azerbaijan National Encyclopaedia" Scientific Centre) and some other ministries, state institutions and organisations. There are more than 100 private publishing houses in the country. The following work is necessary for the improvement of national publishing work:

- provision of book publishing on scientific, social-political, artistic, publicist themes (encyclopaedias, dictionaries, multi-volumes, collections, anthology, musical publications, etc.) to a high standard;
- promotion of the translation of Azerbaijan literature samples into foreign languages and world literature samples into Azeri language and also creation of new works;
- establishment of state distribution companies for improvement of the book distribution system, partial restoration of the state book-shop network, improvement of the enrichment of library funds through the Republic Library Collection system; and
- providing access of books published in Azerbaijan to the international arena, participation in international book exhibitions-fairs, holding international book exhibitions in the country.

#### 4.2.4 Cultural diversity and inclusion policies

Over the ages, and because of the historical, economic and cultural specifics characteristic of Azerbaijan, the population has operated in conditions of tolerance and respect for the cultures of other people and national minorities. There are many different cultural minorities living in Azerbaijan, including Russian, Ukrainian, Kurdish, Laks, Lezginian, Slavyan, Tat, Tatar, Georgian, Ingiloy, Talish, Avar, Community of Akhiska Turks, Jews, Germans, and Greeks etc. Representatives of the three largest religions – Islam, Christian and Judaism – participate in all initiatives and events at the state level, on a permanent basis.

**Chart 12: Ethnic composition of population \* (based on population census of 2009)**



\* Each interviewed person determined their own nationality and native language. Information about nationality and native language of children are obtained from the parents.

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2010.

Supporting and safeguarding cultural diversity is reflected in the state policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan. National policies have their basis in the Constitution of



Azerbaijan, which provides for equality of all citizens, irrespective of their ethnic, religious or racial background. All forms of discrimination and xenophobia, including ethnic, national and racial, are not acceptable. Ethnic minorities of Azerbaijan have equal cultural rights and the same access to cultural heritage of the country as the titular population of Azerbaijan.

Article 6 ("Providing rights and freedoms") of the Law on Culture states equal rights of national minorities in safeguarding and development of their culture and identity; Article 27 adds to the State monitoring of the sphere of culture also monitoring of situation with cultural diversity of national minorities; Article 30 declares that cultural examples of national minorities are the part of national cultural wealth of the Republic of Azerbaijan and are protecting by State. This guarantee is ensured also in other laws of the Republic of Azerbaijan referring to culture.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism carries out various activities connected with the safeguarding and development of cultural values of national minorities and ethnic groups living in the country, which includes cooperation with cultural communities and centres of ethnic minorities; organisation of art performances of amateur collectives in regions where ethnic minorities are concentrated; organisation of exhibitions reflecting ethnography, art and traditions of the ethnic minorities; tour trips of the ethnic collectives in the Republic and abroad; encouraging creation and performance of art compositions, promoting customs and traditions of ethnic groups; and supplying amateur collectives with traditional clothes, musical instruments, etc.

#### **4.2.5 Language issues and policies**

According to the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan of 1995, "The Azerbaijani language is the state language of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the state provides development of the Azerbaijani language. The Republic of Azerbaijan ensures free use and development of other languages spoken by the population (*Article 21*)." Russian is considered to be the second most important language and is widely used in most large cities. The share of pupils of state day general educational schools according to language teaching at the beginning of the 2007/2008 school year was 92% - in the Azerbaijani language, 7.2% - in the Russian language and 0.1% - in Georgian.

On 18 June 2001, the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a *Law on the Improvement of the Use of the State Language*. It points out the need for the comprehensive use of the state language and the general use of Latin script. The *Law on the State Language of the Republic of Azerbaijan*, which came into force in January 2003, prescribes using protection and development measures for the state language. There are no official language quotas in the mass media.

For more information see also chapter 4.2.4, chapter 4.2.7 and chapter 5.1.9.

#### **4.2.6 Media pluralism and content diversity**

At present there are more than 4 500 registered mass communication media, most of which are newspapers and more than 80 are services in TV and radio broadcasting. Only 15% of newspapers and magazines were founded by government structures, and more than 65% of newspapers belong to oppositional political and social organisations, private structures and legal entities. Anti-trust measures, to prevent media concentration, are foreseen by the *Law on Anti-monopoly Activity (1993)*, which gives a legal basis for protecting all officials and subjects of the market economy including mass-media from state, area, local, financial-credit, patent-license, spontaneous and other types of monopoly. There is no limitation in obtaining official information from government structures; it is the responsibility of the relevant press services to supply the public with official news.

There are no special arts and culture TV channels, but operating channels, depending on their broadcasting policy, offer a variety of regular programme series with cultural and artistic content, ranging from popular pop-shows to programmes on classical heritage. The international non-profit organisation "Internews Azerbaijan" has specific training programmes for journalists. It offers regular seminars, technical training (with more than 50 seminars since 1997, attended by more than 500 professionals) and targeted consultations, aimed at strengthening the professional skills of Azeri journalists and editors.

The National TV-Radio Broadcasting Council was established by a *Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan* and in accordance with the standards of the Council of Europe in January 2003. The Council's responsibilities are to realise state policy in the TV and radio broadcasting fields, issue licences to broadcasting channels and monitor their activities according to the *Law on TV and Radio Broadcasting* (2004).

The Press Council was established in March 2003 at the time of the first congress of Azerbaijani journalists. The main functions of this independent council, which acts without any interference from the state and is directed by journalists, are regulation relationships between the press and individuals, as well as private companies, monitoring newspapers, and implementation of the *Ethic Code* regulations developed by the Council of Journalists.

The *Law on Public Television and Radio Broadcasting*, which is based on the principles of transparency, impartiality and public interest, was adopted in 11 September 2004. In order to provide society with fair and impartial information and express the interests of different social groups, each of the following nominated two candidates to the Parliament to form the Broadcasting Council, which was established in March 2005: the Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation, the National Academy of Sciences, the Press Council, youth organisations, woman's societies, sports federations, religious groups and creative organisations. The opening ceremony of the Public Television and Radio Broadcasting Company took place on 29 August 2005.

On 31 July 2008, The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed a special *Decree on the adoption of the Conception on state support to the development of mass communication media in the Republic of Azerbaijan* and a *Decree on rendering one-time finance assistance to the mass communication media of the Republic of Azerbaijan*.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism conducts enhancement of information provision of cultural policies by conducting methodological research and public opinion polls, holding specialised conferences, seminars, etc; generating databases, drafting and implementing relevant conceptions, programmes and projects; presenting information about national arts and culture in national and international mass media and the Internet.

See also chapter 5.3.7.

#### **4.2.7 Intercultural dialogue: actors, strategies, programmes**

The multinational and multi-confessional nature of the Azerbaijan population is an important aspect for intercultural dialogue, being one of the priorities of the national cultural policy. The basic spirit of the national policy derives from the Constitution, which proclaims all citizens equal, regardless of ethnic or racial origin. The *Law on Joining the International Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination* (1996) has found its reflex in the *Law on Culture* (1998) and other relevant laws. On 16 June 2001, Azerbaijan joined the Framework Convention of the Council of Europe for the Protection of National Minorities. The main public actor responsible for implementing the programmes and policies to promote intercultural dialogue in Azerbaijan, at national and local policy levels, is the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. It closely cooperates with the

Ministry of Education, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Justice, State Committee on Work with Religious Formations, State Committee on Family, Women and Children's Issues, Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and the Republican Authors Rights Agency, depending on the matter under consideration.

Azerbaijan actively takes part in all relevant programmes and activities of UNESCO, the Council of Europe and other international organisations on the promotion of intercultural dialogue. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has implemented the project "Cultural Diversity in Azerbaijan", which was designed to highlight the country's ethnic and cultural diversity. It involved the cultural associations of the various national minorities, and helped to realise one of its chief strategic aims – to develop and support intercultural dialogue. A Declaration, adopted at the scientific conference "Cultural Diversity in Azerbaijan" (June 2002, Baku), states the necessity to have constant interaction and partnership between the state sector, private sector and civil society; to hold periodical monitoring on the situation in the sphere of preservation and support for cultural diversity. Another significant event, traditional festivals - "Azerbaijan – my motherland", was organised by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism in November 2006, October 2008, November 2011, June 2014, June 2016. Scientific conferences, photo-exhibitions and preliminary concert performances and gala-concerts, held in the framework of the festivals, attracted thousands of participants from different regions representing practically all national minorities and ethnic groups living in Azerbaijan.

The establishment of the Baku International Multiculturalism Centre in 15 May 2014 testifies to the country's commitment to principles of tolerance. Year of 2016 was declared the Year of Multiculturalism in the country what is aimed on preserving, developing and promoting multiculturalism traditions, noting that located at the crossroads of different civilizations, Azerbaijan is recognized worldwide as a country which has centuries-old national and cultural traditions, and where representatives of various nations and confessions live in peace, mutual understanding and dialogue.

For more information see also chapter 4.2.4.

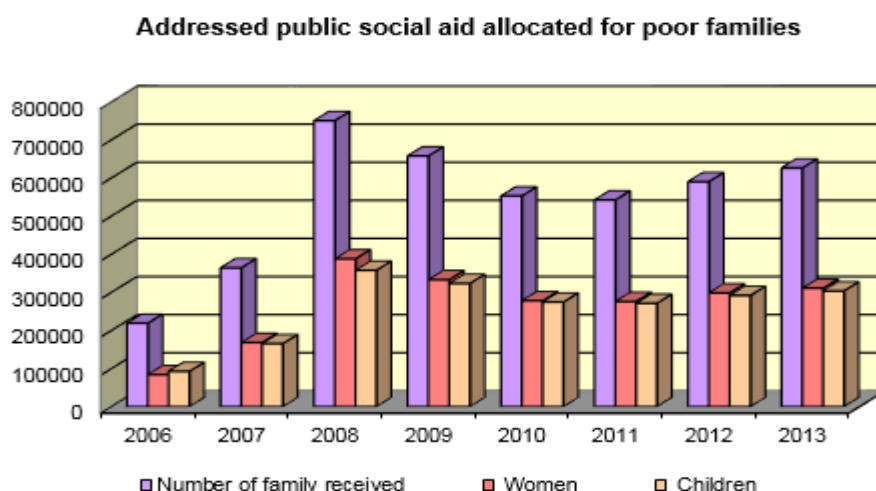
#### **4.2.8 Social cohesion and cultural policies**

Social cohesion, aimed at ensuring the welfare of all citizens and avoiding economic polarisation, is a national socio-economic as well as cultural policy issue in Azerbaijan. For instance, cultural policy issues within the "State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development 2003-2005", which was approved by a *Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan* in February 2003, was concentrated on 3 main areas:

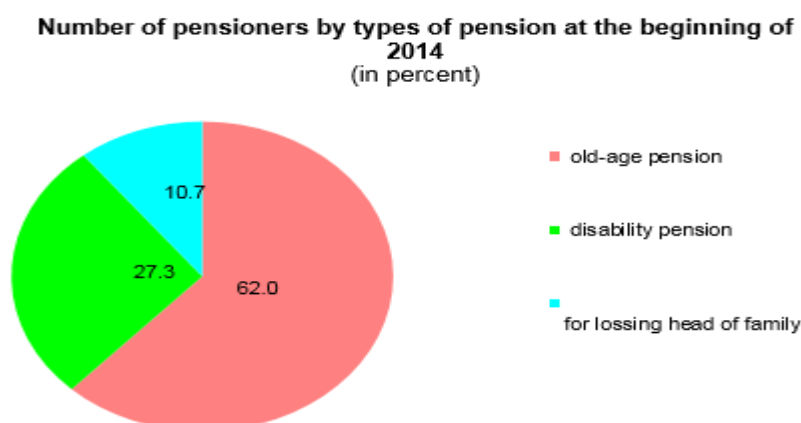
- stimulating cultural workers, increasing their professionalism and information provision;
- improvement of the capacities of cultural and arts institutions and objects in order to provide equitable use by all of the population; and
- preserving cultural heritage and establishing new cultural tourism roots in order to open new workplaces.

As a result of the "State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development 2003-2005", the poverty level in the country, being 46.7% in 2002, was considerably reduced to 29.3% in 2005 and 15.8% in 2007.

The subsequent "State Programme on Poverty Reduction and Economic Development 2008-2015" was also successfully implemented.

**Chart 13: Public social aid allocated for poor families, 2006-2013**

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2014.

**Chart 14: Pensions:**

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2014.

Besides the achievements in economic growth, there still remain unsolved problems in the socio-economic life of the country, especially in the areas of development and employment in the regions. The main directions of state support and policy, regarding factors accelerating economic development of different regions in the years of 2014-2018, were determined within the State Programme on the Socio-economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Social policy in the regions consists of meeting the social needs of the population, improving their living conditions, regularly increasing pensions, paying special attention to disabled people, war veterans, young families and vulnerable sections of the population. The strategic objectives of the measures in the cultural sector consist of protection and development of cultural potential, resources and traditions of the country, a systematic increase of budgetary financing of culture, and the development of the physical, technical and information infrastructure in the cultural sector. Development of the regions, in the directions mentioned above, and implementation of measures considered in the State Programme, is an important stage in the socio-economic development and improvement of the well-being of the population.

#### 4.2.9 Employment policies for the cultural sector

One of the main trends of social policy realised in the Republic of Azerbaijan during the last years is the formation of the employment policy and advantageous use of the labour

force. In 2014, the number of economically active population being increased for 470,5 thousand persons made 4840,7 thousand persons compared to 2000, of which 4602,9 thousand persons are engaged in the fields of economic activity, 237,8 thousand persons are unemployed.

**Table 17: Economic activity of population, 2000 and 2014**

Economic activity of population	2000	2014
Total number of economically active population in thsd persons	4370,2	4840,7
Total number of employed in summary quantity of economically active population in thsd persons	3855,5	4602,9
Total unemployed persons* in thsd persons	514,7	237,8
of which: persons received official unemployment status in employment service offices, total, person	43739	28,690
of which: receiving benefits as unemployed, total, person	2768	1613

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

\* Based on International Labour Organization's methodology (including unemployed persons receiving official status).

The realization of reforms in economy, especially privatization of enterprises and organizations in the state property were the reasons of significant changes in distribution of employment by state and non-state sectors. So, in 2000 if the share of persons employed in the state sector made 33,2% of total number of persons engaged in economy, that in 2014 this indicator was decreased up to 25,6% and the number of persons employed in non-state sector was increased for 1,3 times during this period.

In 2014, 2350,0 thousand persons or 51,1% of the total number of employed population in economy were engaged in production fields (agriculture, fishing, industry and construction) and number of persons employed in the field of service was 2252,9 thousand persons and that made 48,9% of employed population. (Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015).

The strategy of human resources development in the fields of culture and arts are provision for moral and material requirements of cultural workers; perfecting the educational and professional training systems; discovering young talents by holding specialised competitions, exhibitions, festivals, etc. The number of employees in the field of art, entertainment and recreation are approximately 50 000. Table 21 presents the number of employees in some areas of the cultural sector over the last decade.

**Table 18: Employment in selected cultural sectors, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014**

	2000	2005	2010	2014
In public libraries	8 242	7 832	7 607	8 397
In clubs	10 200	8 554	8 195	7 836
In museums	2 226	2 435	3 004	3 173
In culture and recreation parks	388	316	181	173
In children's music, art and painting schools	13 090	14 389	16 581	18 719

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2014; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

The increase in employees in public libraries listed in Table 18 can be explained with structural reforms in these spheres, namely merger and extension of small neighbouring

rural branches of Regional Centralised Library Systems and the decrease in clubs – with the establishment of Regional Cultural Centres at the expense of closing some non-operating clubs.

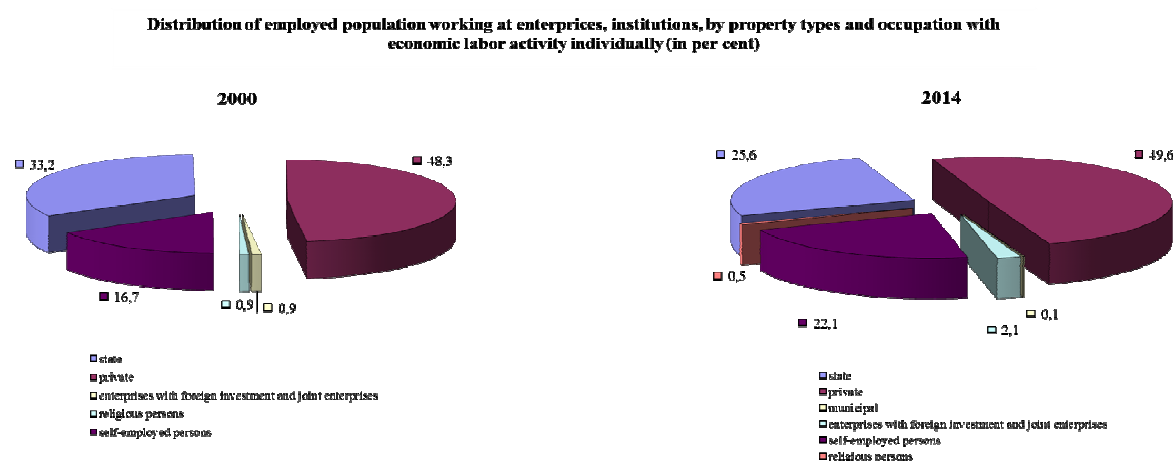
There is no special programme to stimulate employment in the cultural sector at present. This is due to the fact that there is much less unemployment in culture than in other fields. The problem is not so much unemployment as low earnings and the matter of social status for cultural workers, as well as a slight decrease in consumer demand for cultural products.

**Table 19: Number of employees and the average monthly nominal wage of employees in the system of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (at 2015)**

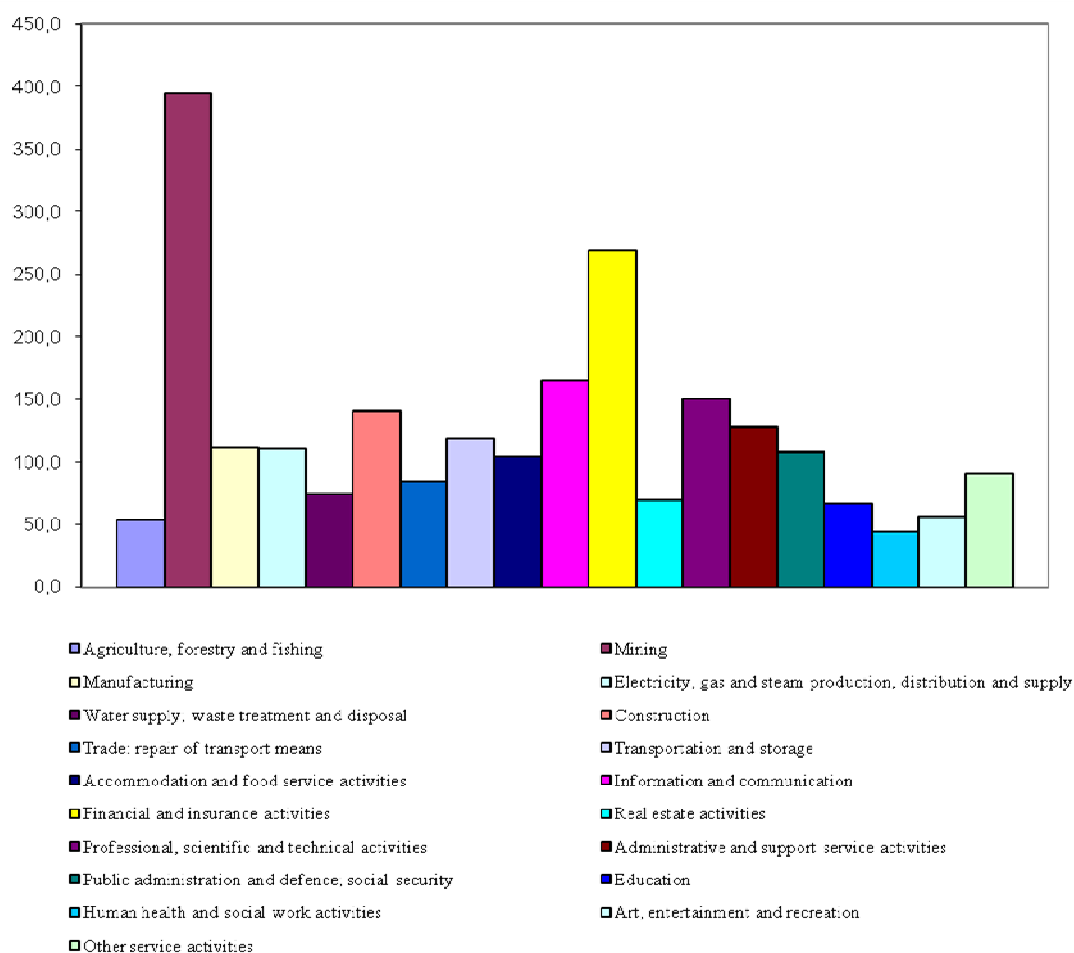
	Number of employees, in thousand	Average monthly salary in AZN*
In educational enterprises	18.4	221
In cultural-elucidative enterprises	23.7	146
In theatrical enterprises	3.2	220
In concert enterprises	1.8	221
In other enterprises	0.503	470
<b>In total</b>	<b>47.0</b>	<b>187</b>

Source: The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

**Chart 15: Distribution of the employed population working in enterprises, institutions, by property types and occupation with economic labour activity individually (in percent), 2000 and 2014**



Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 16: Average monthly nominal wages and salaries:****Average monthly nominal wages and salaries by kinds of economic activity in 2014  
(in per cent to total)**

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

#### 4.2.10 Gender equality and cultural policies

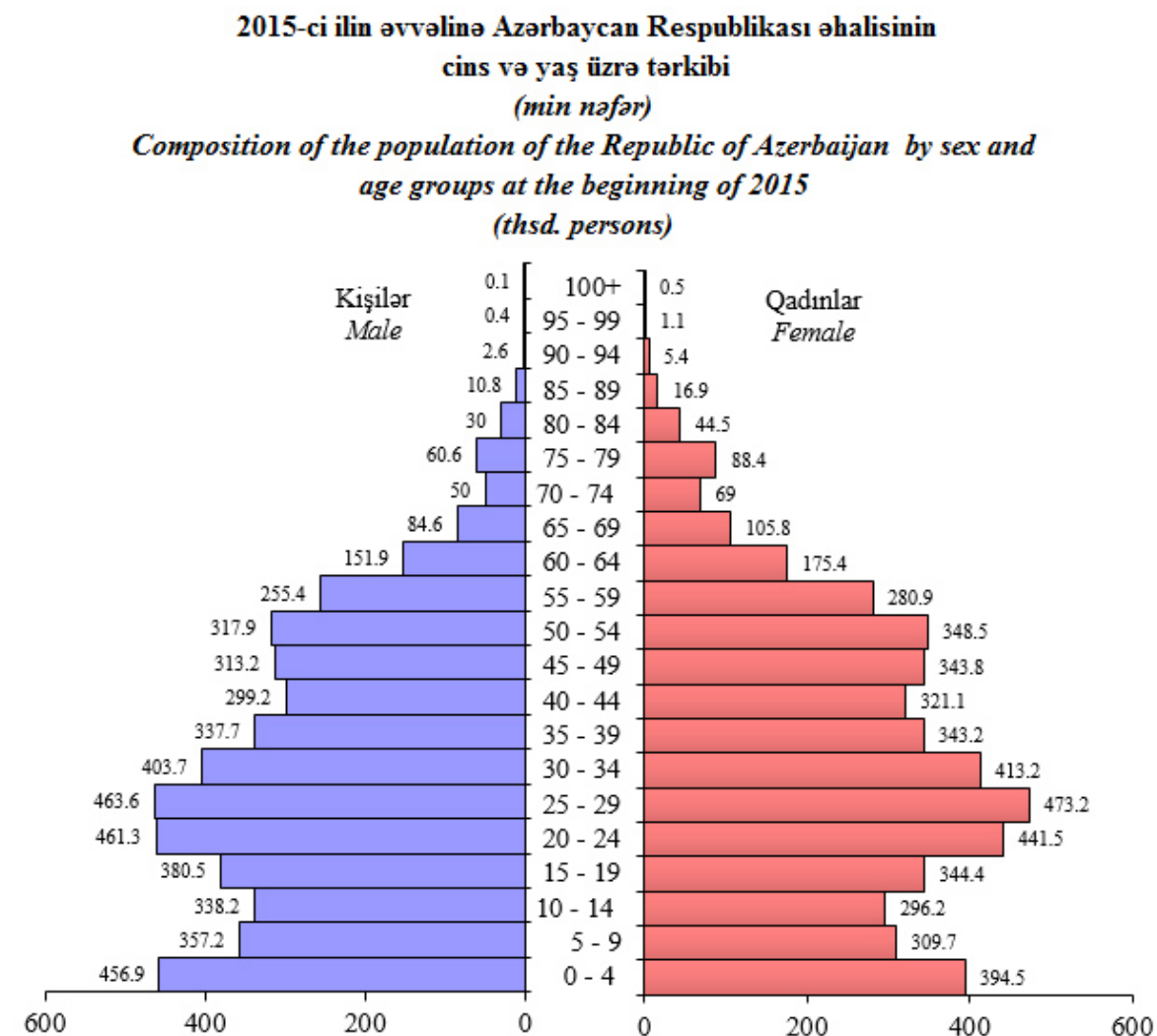
Concerning the gender aspect of equality in Azerbaijan, culture, as well as education, is traditionally mostly a "female" sphere. The vast majority of employees of libraries, museums, archives, music schools, theatres, etc. are women, who also participate actively in managing culture. 64.1% of cultural workers in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism system are women. The representation of women in key decision-making positions in cultural institutions and in important cultural policy making positions is also very high. The Deputy Minister of Culture and Tourism, 1 heads of departments and 10 heads of divisions in the Ministry apparatus, 10 heads of local administrations and departments of culture and tourism, and the directors of many cultural institutions and arts organisations are women.

The State Committee on Family, Women and Children's Issues was established on the basis of the State Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Women's Issues, by a *Presidential Decree* of 6 February 2006. There is also functioning the Parliamentary Committee on Family, Women and Children's Issues.

Recently, there has been a women's movement growing throughout the Republic. Several specialised organisations have been established in the cultural sphere, e.g. "Women in

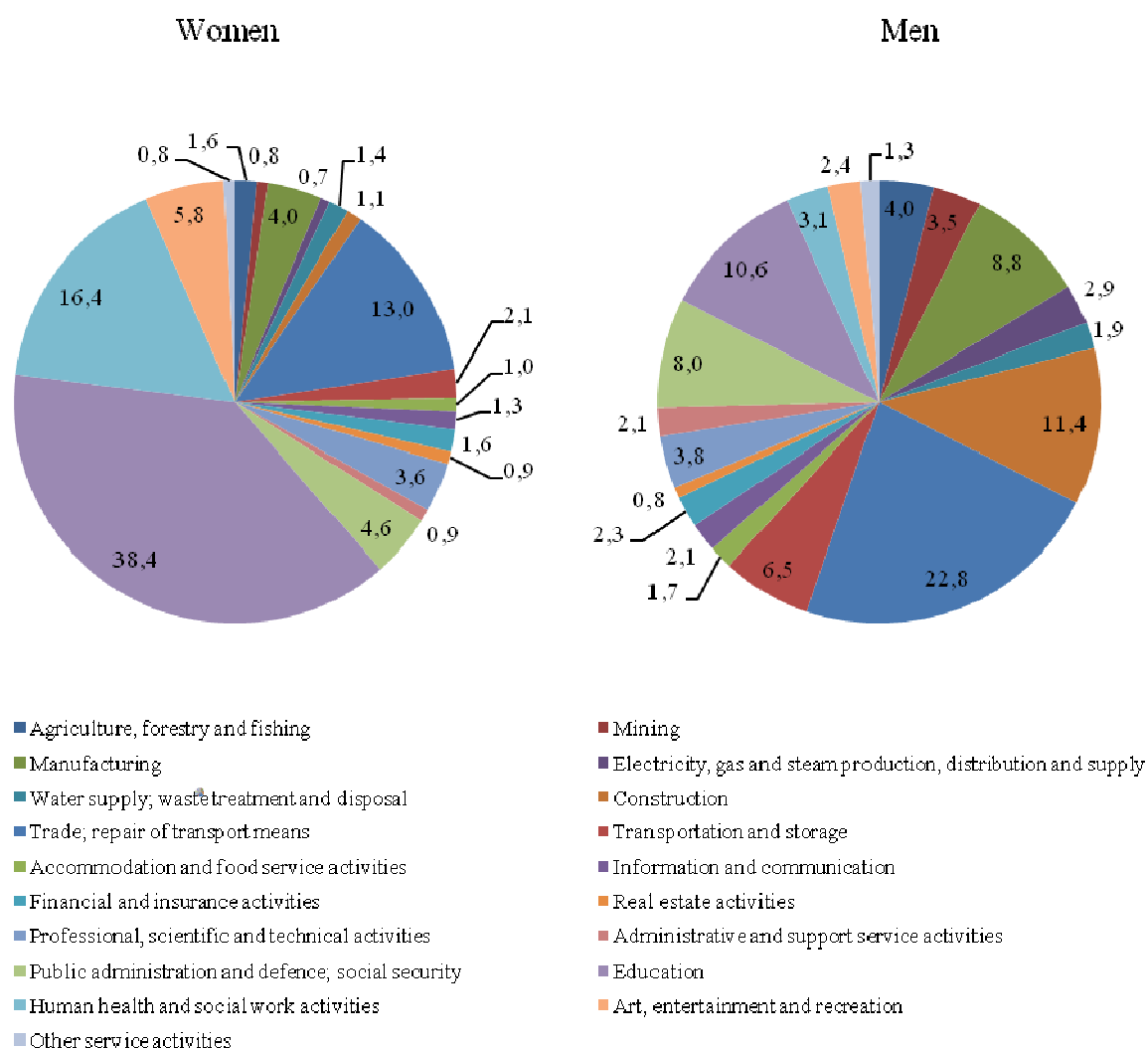
Music", "Association of Creative Women", etc. A whole series of magazines for women and about women are being published.

**Chart 17: Composition of the population**



Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.



**Chart 18: Number of employees by types of economic activity****Number of employees by types of economic activity in 2014, in per cent**

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

#### 4.2.11 New technologies and digitalisation in the arts and culture

Implementation of new information and communication technologies in the cultural field is one of the main priorities of the national cultural policy in Azerbaijan.

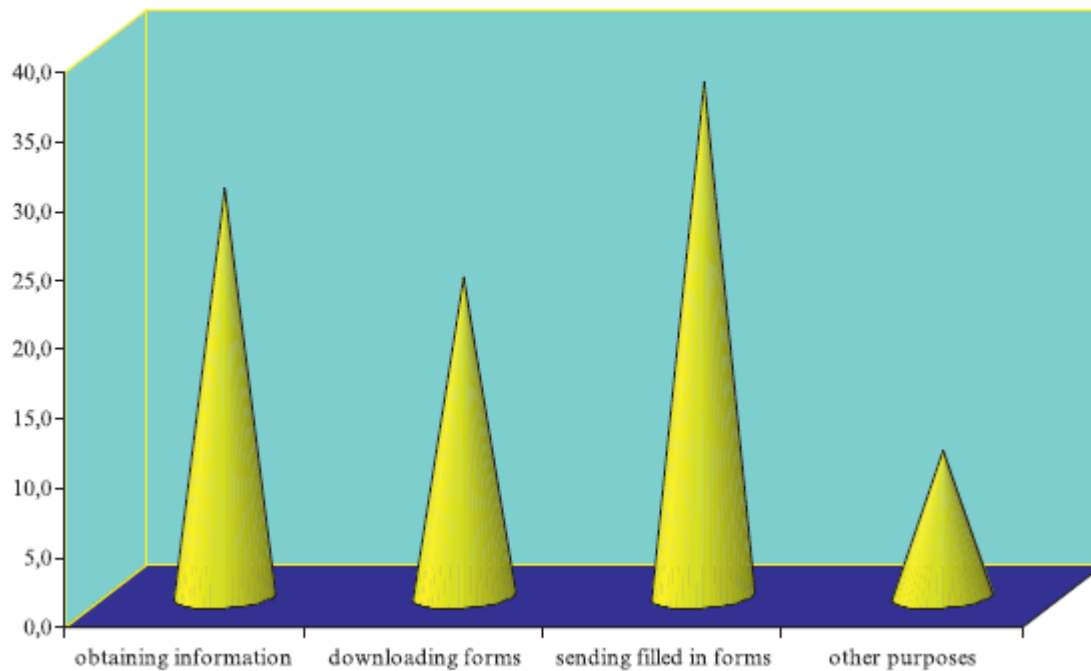
Relevant programmes and projects affect the development of new technologies and digitalisation in the Republic of Azerbaijan which impact on the arts and culture.

The "E-Government" project was structured in accordance with the "National Strategy on Information-Communication Technologies for the Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2003-2012)" and implemented in the framework of the "E-Azerbaijan" Programme. With the aim of wider use of information communications technologies (ICT) the project envisages increasing the rationality and optimality of the activity of state agencies, increasing communication among the population, business bodies, as well as

between themselves, and contributing to better citizen-official relations, ensuring transparency and fully meeting the need for information.

**Chart 19: Interaction with public authorities:**

**Distribution of interaction with public authorities by purposes,  
as % to total**



Source: State Statistical Committee, 2014.

The Project Trans-Eurasian Information Super Highway (TASIM) is a project of regional importance, the aim of which is to lay a transnational fibre-optic line covering the countries of Eurasia from Western Europe to Eastern Asia. The project envisages the creation of a major transit link from Frankfurt to Hong Kong. The line will combine the major centres of information exchange in Europe and Asia. The transit line will stretch through China, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey to Germany. The Reserve North Transit Line will pass through the territory of Russia, Ukraine and Poland.

To accelerate the international IT integration of a country and create new virtual opportunities like e-government, e-trade, etc., a continuous increasing computerisation level of the population is required. On the initiative of the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies, with the participation of leading international companies, the implementation of Azerbaijan's "National Computer" project has commenced. Buyers of computers can obtain modern computers without down payments, free of interest and at prices 25-30% below the normal market price; computer buyers are provided with licensed software; concessions are provided to buyers to gain access to the Internet; through the provision of good quality hard and software the buyers can increase their knowledge of computers.

The Order of the Head of State "On establishment of space industry in Azerbaijan Republic and placing into orbit telecommunications satellites", as well as approval of the "State Program on creation and development of space industry in Azerbaijan Republic" have created fertile ground for the development of space industry in the country. Creation of space industry and placing into orbit telecommunications satellites of Azerbaijan, including other multipurpose satellites, first and foremost, are of particular strategic

importance in the direction of carrying out work to eliminate the dependence of information exchange from foreign countries and to ensure information security. At the same time it will promote to improve the development of human resources and to enhance the intellectual potential in new economic areas to implement new science intensive projects, which in general, will lead to creation of innovation-oriented economy. As a result, Azerbaijan's first telecommunication satellite "Azerspace-1" was launched into orbit on February 7, 2013. Azerspace-1 which is equipped with 36 active transponders provides high quality broadcasting and telecommunication services to Europe, Africa, Central Asia, the Caucasus and the Middle East, as well as high-quality and stable communication platforms for government and corporate clients. A second telecommunication satellite is planned put in orbit in 2017. (Source: the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies).

**Table 20: E-skills, 2005, 2010, 2014**

Indicators	2005	2010	2014
<b>Proportion of computer users on courses, in %</b>	<b>56.3</b>	<b>56.4</b>	<b>70,8</b>
Distribution of computer users by use of applied programme packages, in %			
Microsoft Word	40.6	86.0	92,3
Microsoft Excel	32.0	50.4	55,3
Microsoft Access	10.0	14.3	18,1
Power Point	6.8	12.2	24,5
other	10.6	25.8	35,5
<b>Distribution of computer related activities, in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100,0</b>
copying or moving a file or folder	25.9	21.3	19,6
using a copy and paste tools to duplicate or move information within a document	17.3	19.5	21,8
Using basic arithmetic formulas in a spreadsheet	10.1	13.1	14,5
compressing files	9.8	15.1	16,6
writing a computer programme using a specialised programming language	2.0	7.5	9,0
other	34.9	23.5	18,5
<b>Distribution of Internet related activities, in %</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100,0</b>
using a search engine to find information	37.6	18.5	17,3
sending e-mails with attached files	31.6	15.0	17,2
posting messages to chat-rooms, newsgroups or an online discussion forum	7.4	18.5	21,2
using the Internet to make telephone calls	-	15.1	16,8
using peer-to-peer file sharing for exchanging movies, music	-	19.0	20,3
creating a web page	-	6.8	6,8
other activity	-	7.1	0,4
<b>Knowledge acquisition , in %</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100,0</b>
educational institutions	-	20.7	27,4
training courses in education center	-	16.5	12,7
vocational training courses	-	6.3	4,5
Self-study using books, cd-roms, etc	-	8.2	13,7
self-study in the sense of learning-by-doing	-	39.5	31,8
informal assistance of colleagues, relatives, friends	-	8.8	9,9

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

The AzDATACOM network project is the main component of the "National E-Governance Initiative" project, realised by the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies in partnership with the UNDP. The AzDATACOM project envisages building a network infrastructure for data transmission with coverage in almost all regions of the country. Expected results of the Project are high-speed connection between Baku and other regions; development of Internet and increased opportunities for the use of ICT in all regions; supporting the realisation of the "Financial Services Development" project (connection of post offices to "AzDATACOM"); development of NGN technology and IP-telephony services; creating the enabling environment for implementation of distance education, e-commerce, distance business management and other types of progressive activities in order to meet world standards; to develop E-Governance, one of the most important elements in building an information society (Source: the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies).

**Table 24: Core indicators on ICT infrastructure \*, 2005, 2010 and 2014**

Core infrastructure indicators	2005	2010	2014
Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	13	16	17
Mobile cellular subscribers per 100 inhabitants	13	16	16
Computers per 100 inhabitants	27	99	107
Internet users per 100 inhabitants	8	46	75
Broadband Internet users per 100 inhabitants	0.02	15	65
International Internet bandwidth per inhabitant, kbit/s	0.04	4.6	35,1
Percentage of population covered by mobile cellular telephone	99	99.8	99,8
Internet access tariff (20 hours per month), manta	5	1.9	1,3
Internet access tariff per capita income (monthly), in percentage	4.5	0.6	0,2
Mobile cellular tariff (100 minutes of use per month), manta	18	7.7	6,9
Mobile cellular tariff per capita income per capita income (monthly), in percentage	16.1	2.5	1,4
ICT development Index**	2.6	4.1	7,62

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### 4.3 Other relevant issues and debates

The most serious problem affecting national cultural policy development is the still continuing occupation of the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the Republic of Armenia (details of the position of the people and the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan can be found on <http://en.president.az/azerbaijan/karabakh>, also on <http://www.mfa.gov.az/?language=en&options=content&id=632> and on <http://www.mfa.gov.az/?language=en&options=content&id=795>). The importance of a peaceful solution to this conflict, in full respect of Azerbaijan's territorial integrity, was reflected in resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (No. 822, 853, 874 and 884); of the UN General Assembly (A/62/L.42); and of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (No.1119, 1416 and Recommendation No. 1690); as well as in OIC Resolutions; ISESCO Resolutions; European Union Declarations; NACC Decisions and other international documents.

## **5. Main legal provisions in the cultural field**

### **5.1 General legislation**

#### **5.1.1 Constitution**

Following a referendum on 12 November 1995, the new Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan was adopted and entered into force on 5 December 1995. The country's basic law was developed in line with the fundamental principles and norms of international law. There are a number of provisions in the Constitution that directly concern the interests of artists and cultural workers. The most important are: "Intellectual Property Rights" (chapter III, *Article 30*); "Rights on Culture" (chapter III, *Article 40*); "Freedom of Thought and Word" (chapter III, *Article 47*); "Freedom of Information" (chapter III, *Article 50*); "Freedom to Create" (chapter III, *Article 51*); "Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments" (chapter IV, *Article 77*).

#### **5.1.2 Division of jurisdiction**

The legal division of cultural competence between central and local authorities is provided in the Constitution of Republic of the Azerbaijan, *Article 124* of which, on Local Executive Power, declares that "Local Executive power shall be implemented by the Heads of Executive Power. Heads of Executive Power shall be appointed and removed from holding positions by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The authority of the Local Executive Power shall be determined by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan".

Principles of division of cultural competence between central and local authorities, also worded in the new Law on Culture, the Statute of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and the Statute of Local Executive Powers of the Republic of Azerbaijan, are affirmed by relevant Decrees of the President.

#### **5.1.3 Allocation of public funds**

Cultural institutions should be jointly financed by the state and local cultural budgets, as well as by their own resources (paid cultural services), according to the new *Law on Culture*. Additional resources are collected via national funds for culture, which have been set up by executive bodies of the various cultural institutions. Self-governing local bodies, public unions, legal and physical entities can also create funds to support their cultural activities.

#### **5.1.4 Social security frameworks**

According to the Constitution, all citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan have the right to social protection (chapter III, *Article 37*). Social welfare (health insurance, occupational accidents, disability, unemployment and pension) issues are described in laws such as the *Law on Employment* (July, 2001), *Law on Social Insurance* (February, 1997), *Law on Medical Insurance* (October, 1999), *Law on Pension Guarantees for Citizens* (September 1992), *Law on Prevention of Disability, Rehabilitation and Social Protection of Disabled People* (August, 1995), *Law on Healthcare of the People* (June, 1997); the Presidential decrees, such as the *Decree on Additional Measures on Social Aid* (1992), *Decree on Realisation of the Complex Programme on the Issues of Disabled People* (the Cabinet of Ministers Decree, 1994), *Decree on Financing the Measures of Social Security, Pensions and Allocations for Disabled, Unemployed People* (2002), *Decree on the Measures Towards Improving the State Pension System* (2003), *Decree on Increasing Pensions* (2003), *Decree on the Wage Augmentation for 50% of Artists* (2003). The new *Law on Culture* also provides social security measures for cultural workers. This applies to creative

workers and includes provisions to improve the working conditions of artists and scientists e.g. artists and sculptors receive working space under favourable conditions (e.g. low rents). Salaries for cultural institutions with national status are well above those that do not enjoy this status. Workers who were actively involved in the country's cultural development, and have long service, may receive special pensions after retirement.

#### **5.1.5 Tax laws**

The tax policy holds one of the main keys to attracting funds and investment into culture. The *Tax Code*, the most progressive element of which is the application of simplified tax rates, took effect on 1 January 2001. *Article 219.2* of the *Code* states that: "Firms paying taxes under the simplified system shall not be liable for VAT, income tax, land tax or property tax". This applies to firms with a yearly turnover of less than 200 000 AZN.

Since January 2006, enterprises located outside of the capital Baku pay tax at 2% and those registered in the capital pay tax at 4% of total turnovers. Registration of enterprises is submitted to the tax department and is usually realised within 3 days.

Similar to all countries with an economy in transition, the tax legislature of Azerbaijan is in a period of establishment. Changes and additions to the *Code* took effect every year and one of the results of the changes is that the number of cultural institutions liable for VAT and income tax has increased, with significantly negative effects for their operation. Income tax and social security payments for businesses have been reduced. Starting in 2008, a system of electronic submission of tax declarations by legal entities and individuals was established.

With the *Decree of the President on Additional Measures in the Sphere of State Provision of the Development of Entrepreneurship in the Republic of Azerbaijan* (September, 2002) the following steps took place from 1 January 2003:

- a reduction of the taxes by types;
- a differentiation of taxes for spheres and regions;
- enlargement of the sphere of application of the simplified tax system; and
- a reduction of the social provision taxes.

All these measures provide the basis for future development of tax policies in the field of culture.

#### **5.1.6 Labour laws**

Employment in the cultural field is regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995), the *Labour Code* of the Republic of Azerbaijan (February 1999), the *Law on Employment of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (July 2001), and the *Law on Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan* (April 1998). A unified system of salaries is in place for those working in the different spheres of the public sector. Relationships between employers and workers are based on a contract system, (which are usually concluded on a permanent or short term basis). The collective contract is signed between the employer on the one side and the trade union on the other. In the event of the trade union's absence, the working collective signs the contract. The trade union, working collective, employer, corresponding executive and representative body of employers can initiate signing the contract. The negotiating, related to the contract signing, can be promoted by the trade union, or in the event of its absence, the working collective can establish a commission for that purpose. Employment of state employees, at all levels, is regulated by the *Law on State Service* (September, 2001). See also chapter 5.1.4.

### **5.1.7 Copyright provisions**

The main principles of the *Copyright and Related Rights Act*, which came into force on 8 October 1996, are those current in European countries. First of all, it follows the "continental" conception of copyright as a personal right, preferring this to the Anglo-Saxon vision, which stresses the commercial side of copyright. Secondly, the term "author" is interpreted broadly, as it is in other countries with high standards of copyright protection. In the audiovisual field, authorship is not restricted to directors, scriptwriters and composers, but extends to cameramen and set-designers too.

The Act also recognises related rights, performers' rights, and the rights of phonogram producers and broadcasting bodies (TV and radio). Inherited rights are also acknowledged, for a period of 50 years after an author's death. Proportional payment, which is more profitable for authors and other rights-holders, is the only type expressly provided for. Only the minimum rate of payment is fixed by the state, and methods of payment are to be negotiated between rights-holders and the users of their works.

### **5.1.8 Data protection laws**

Translations, anthologies and collective works are all protected, as are computer programmes and databases, by the *Copyright and Related Rights Act (8 October 1996)*. The *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Information, Information Provision and Protection of Information*, which came into force in June 1998, defines state policy on information systems, types, ways and forms of collecting and use of information data. The *Law of Azerbaijan Republic on the National Archives (June, 1999)* also regulates this field of activity.

### **5.1.9 Languages laws**

After regaining independence, the Azerbaijani language was recognised as the state language in the 1995 Constitution, and conditions for its widespread use in all areas of the nation's life have been created. The *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mass Media (February, 2000)* states: "No language limitations are applied to the mass media in the territory of the Azerbaijan Republic" (*Article 6*). The *Law on the State Language of the Republic of Azerbaijan was passed and came into force in January 2003*. The *Law on Advertising (October, 1997)* determines that advertising in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan must be in the state language, with the use of other languages when it necessary.

See also chapter 4.2.5.

### **5.1.10 Other areas of general legislation**

Information is currently not available.

## **5.2 Legislation on culture**

Azerbaijani society is typified at present by cultural diversity, and so all laws on culture are geared to satisfying a broad range of cultural requirements. Some laws are general (e.g. the new *Law on Culture* of 2012), others more specific (e.g. the laws on cinematography, town planning, museums and publishing). The *Law on Culture* spells out the principles and aims of the state policy, and lays down the duties of government and local authorities in this area. It guarantees the right of individuals to engage in creative activity, promotes international contacts and co-operation, prevents the state from monopolising culture, and covers preservation and development of the cultural identity and heritage of Azerbaijan and ethnic minorities, historically resident in its territory. It also provides measures to

promote creativity and the activities of public agencies and organisations working in the cultural sphere. State interference is limited to prohibiting any material that is pornographic or which encourages violence, racial, national or religious intolerance, or drug addiction. These prohibitions are backed by effective legal sanctions. All other forms of state interference in cultural activity are prohibited. In whole, it should be underlined that in contrast to previous Law on Culture of 1998, which was a product of a transitional period for cultural governing of a new established post-soviet state, the new one is intended to legalise all trends and know-how's of modern cultural policies and practices, such as art-management, cultural marketing, fundraising, producing, etc.

The development of legal guarantees for the arts and culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan includes complex improvement of national cultural policy legislation; enhancement of international conventions and bilateral agreements' implementation mechanisms; and improvement of existing practice on cultural and authors' rights protection.

**Table 25: List of existing cultural legislation**

#	Title of the law	Year of adoption
1	<i>Law on the re-introduction of Roman letters in the Azerbaijani alphabet</i>	25 December 1991
2	<i>Law on mass media</i>	21 July 1992
3	<i>Law on establishing a copyright agency in the Republic of Azerbaijan</i>	10 September 1993
4	<i>Law on the Industrial Union "Azerkinovideo"</i>	13 December 1993
5	<i>Law on authors' and related rights</i>	5 June 1996
6	<i>Law on advertising</i>	3 October 1997
7	<i>Law on the protection of historic and cultural monuments</i>	10 April 1998
8	<i>Law on subsidies</i>	17 April 1998
9	<i>Law on freedom of information</i>	19 June 1998
10	<i>Law on the cinema</i>	3 July 1998
11	<i>Law on architecture</i>	3 July 1998
12	<i>Law on libraries</i>	29 December 1998
13	<i>Law on tourism</i>	4 June 1999
14	<i>Law on town-planning principles</i>	11 June 1999
15	<i>Law on the National Archives</i>	22 June 1999
16	<i>Law on mass media</i>	8 February 2000
17	<i>Law on museums</i>	24 March 2000
18	<i>Law on publishing</i>	30 May 2000
19	<i>Law on protection of folklore models</i>	16 May 2003
20	<i>Law on theatre activities</i>	29 December 2006
21	<i>Law on culture (new)</i>	21 December 2012

Source: Milli Medjlis (Parliament), 2015.



**Table 26: List of international legal instruments**

#	Title of act	Year of joining
1	<i>International Pact on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights from 1966</i>	1992
2	<i>Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and the Protocols</i>	1993
3	<i>Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage</i>	1993
4	<i>Convention on Cooperation of the States belonging to the Black Sea Region in the sphere of culture, education, science and information</i>	1995
5	<i>Convention on Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the European Region</i>	1996
6	<i>Universal Copyright Convention</i>	1997
7	<i>Convention on Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Cultural Property</i>	1997
8	<i>European Cultural Convention</i>	1997
9	<i>Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works</i>	1998
10	<i>European Convention of 1992 for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage</i>	1999
11	<i>European Convention on Joint Film-Making</i>	1999
12	<i>UNIDRUA Convention on Stolen and Illegally Exported Cultural Objects</i>	2000
13	<i>Convention for Safeguarding the Intangible Cultural Heritage</i>	2006
14	<i>Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe</i>	2008
15	<i>Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions</i>	2010

Source: Milli Medjlis (Parliament), 2015.

### 5.3 Sector specific legislation

#### 5.3.1 Visual and applied arts

The *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Protection and Development of Azerbaijan Carpet Art* was signed by the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in December 2004. The Law regulates relationships emerging during the preservation, research, and promotion of carpets created in the historical territory of Azerbaijan and in the manual weaving by craftsmen, applied arts masters and artists.

#### 5.3.2 Performing arts

The *Law on Theatres and Theatre Activities*, initiated by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and entered into force in December 2006, establishes an institution of theatre producers and brings new impetus to the development and infrastructural reforms of Azerbaijani theatre, which has a rich history dating back 135 years.

### 5.3.3 Cultural heritage

*The Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998)* defines the issues, specifies the responsibilities of state and local authorities, and lays down principles for the use, study, conservation, restoration, reconstruction, renovation and safety of monuments. The Law declares that cultural objects with national status: historical and cultural monuments, cultural goods stored in state museums, archives, libraries, as well as the territories where they are situated, are not subject to privatisation. The *Law on Museums (2000)* regulates relations between museums and the state, defines the duties, functions, privileges and powers of both sides, lays down detailed rules on museum activity, promotes the protection, conservation, development and enrichment of museum collections, and improves the social security position of museum workers. New requirements concerning the keeping and use of national archives, the need to determine the ownership status of state and non-state archives and documents, and the absence of any legal basis for management and use of this immense intellectual resource, were the main inspiration for the *Law on National Archives Fund (1999)*. The *Law on Legal Protection of the Samples of Azerbaijani Folklore (2003)* protects Azerbaijan's national music, dances, Peoples Theatre, verbal literature, etc, the copyright of which belongs to the people of Azerbaijan.

### 5.3.4 Literature and libraries

The *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Libraries (1998)* aims to improve the organisation of libraries, make libraries more effective and useful, and extend library and information services to people living in rural areas. More generally, it sets out to develop the community's intellectual potential, and contribute to the progress of knowledge. It provides the legal basis that libraries require to do their job effectively and to improve and up-date their working methods. The aim is not to tinker with principles, but to re-address them radically in terms of the new economic and political situation. The Act formulates the principles of state policy on libraries, provides a common basis for the library system, regulates the founding and running of libraries, and covers funding, the public's rights regarding use of libraries, and the principles of international co-operation in this area.

The *Law on Publishing (2000)* is designed to remedy shortcomings in the publishing and printing industry, and to supply the lack of comprehensive legislation in this sector. Its central aim is to revive the country's ailing publishing industry. The Act lays down the main principles of state policy, specifies the state's duties, defines optimum approaches to the organisation and running of publishing and printing activities, and formulates principles to govern relations between operatives in this area. Geared to the economic realities of the country's situation, and practical in its whole approach, it holds promise for the future of publishing and printing in Azerbaijan.

### 5.3.5 Architecture and spatial planning

Negative building trends in the early years of independence had serious effects on the architectural and aesthetic quality of Azerbaijan's cities, towns and settlements. This was the background to the *Law on Architecture (1998)* and the *Law on Town Planning (1999)*, both of which set out to stop the downward slide caused by a lack of proper control, to restore architectural harmony, and to preserve for future generations the architectural heritage which, over the centuries, has given Azerbaijani cities their unique character. To ensure that this character is enhanced and preserved, the Act allows foreigners or foreign legal entities to realise architectural projects only in co-operation with Azerbaijani nationals or legal entities. The *Law on Town Planning* aims at optimum population distribution, lays down standards for building and for territorial and urban planning, and regulates the conservation of historic, cultural and natural monuments. Both texts make for

consistent and harmonious architectural development and for effective solutions to the problems of city management.

### **5.3.6 Film, video and photography**

The *Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Cinematography (1998)* provides a legal basis for cinematography as a special form of art. State supply, rights and responsibilities of the legal and natural entities are defined by this Law. It provides a solid basis for the national film industry, regulates state funding, and covers measures to promote the distribution of Azerbaijani films and participation in international festivals. It also offers legal solutions to the issues of regulating the organisation of the film industry. In October 1999, the *Law on Joining the European Convention on Joint Film-Production* was adopted by the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This document provides vast opportunities for co-operation with European countries in the field of cinematography and is a fine example of new initiatives.

### **5.3.7 Mass media**

The new *Law on Mass Media dates from 2000* and states that government and non-government TV and radio organisations have equal rights and responsibilities to carry out programming, irrespective of their form of property, organisational and legal status. There are no language limitations for media in the territory of Azerbaijan. Besides the state language, any other languages spoken by the population of Azerbaijan may be used, as well as other languages. The Azerbaijani television stations broadcast programmes in Azerbaijani, Russian and English. The radio stations in Azerbaijan also produce programmes in Georgian, Lezghin, Talish and Kurdish.

The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan signed two orders during 2001: "On increasing state support to the mass media" (July) and "On additional measures relating to increased state aid for the mass media" (December). The measures envisaged include: the abolition of import duties on newsprint, long-term loans and preferential credit facilities for development of the mass media, measures to promote the extension of independent TV and radio broadcasting, regulation of broadcasting by foreign TV companies in the national territory, a review of taxes levied on press concerns and private TV and radio companies, and printing facilities for private newspapers in state printing houses.

In June 2002, a new *Law on TV and Radio Broadcasting* was introduced, which describes the principles and organisation of these spheres, as well as the legal relations between the state and TV and radio company owners.

See also chapter 4.2.6.

### **5.3.8 Other areas of culture specific legislation**

The *Law on Tourism (1999)* is of renewed interest to the cultural sector, given the recent structural reforms within the Cabinet of Ministers and the joining of the cultural sphere with tourism within the newly established Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The main goal is to bring the tourism sector, being potentially self-sufficient from an economic point of view, closer to culture and cultural heritage and to help the two sectors to develop together in a framework of joint cultural tourism programmes and projects.

## 6. Financing of culture

### 6.1 Short overview

A boom in economic development in recent years, and new oil and gas finds in Azerbaijan, has led to considerable growth in the state budget and correspondingly to levels of expenditure and public financing of culture.

According to the *Law On the State Budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan* the income amount of the state budget approved for 2016 was 14 566 000 000 AZN\*. The expenditure was approved in the amount of 16 264 000 000 AZN (including the centralised incomes of 13 799 654 500 AZN, local incomes of 766 345 500 AZN, and centralised expenditure of 14 722 749 000 AZN and local expenditure of 1 541 251 000 AZN).

State expenditure for all levels of education (including higher education in the fields of arts and culture) is 1 713 513 135 AZN, healthcare – 744 855 809 AZN, social protection and social security – 1 896 554 714 AZN.

Expenditure for activities in the field of culture and art is 140 941 256 AZN; radio, TV and publishing – 66 916 442 AZN; and sport, youth policy and tourism – 359 284 985 AZN.

\*The Azerbaijan Manat is the unit of national currency, with the exchange rate of the manat at the Central Bank of Azerbaijan Republic on 02 May 2016 year of 1 EUR=1.7283 AZN.

**Table 27: Macroeconomic indicators, 2016**

	<b>January-March 2016 actual, million AZN</b>	<b>January- March 2016 compared to January- March 2015, in %</b>
Gross domestic product	<b>12 588,7</b>	<b>96,5</b>
of which non-oil GDP	8 240,4	94,3
Revenue of state budget	<b>3 678,1</b>	<b>93,4</b>
Expenditure of state budget	<b>2 623,5</b>	<b>62,6</b>
Profit of state budget	<b>1 054,6</b>	-
Income of the population	<b>10 303,5</b>	<b>109,0</b>
Per capita income	<b>1 073,5</b>	<b>107,7</b>
Average monthly per capita wages and salaries	<b>472,2<sup>x)</sup></b>	<b>106,2<sup>xx)</sup></b>

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2016.

\* January-March 2016.

\*\* January-March 2016 compared to January- March 2015.

The state's strategy for diversification of financing sources for cultural activities and policies aimed at assessment of optimal scopes of the state budget for arts and culture are: attracting alternative financing sources (sponsors, Maecenas, supporters etc.); implementing up-to-date marketing in order to improve the system of paid cultural services.

It should be noted that, as a result of decentralisation of budgetary expenditure on culture, 52.1% of funds are now distributed locally. Local authorities and the regions' cultural departments are now determining the patterns of cultural expenditure in the regions (districts) of the Republic. It should also be noted that subjective factors are very significant at local and regional level, where a great deal depends on the people in charge and – as monitoring shows – attitudes to culture vary widely.

Centralised expenditure on culture is largely focused on the capital, Baku. With culture permanently short of funding, preference also goes to organisations of national importance, most of which operate from Baku.

Average household spending on cultural activities and goods amounts to not more than 3% of the total household budget.

## 6.2 Public cultural expenditure

### 6.2.1 Aggregated indicators

Economic development in Azerbaijan influences a continuous increase in the level of public culture expenditure. Public culture expenditure at all levels of government per capita in 2015 amounted nearly to 27 AZN (25 EUR), which corresponded up to 1.4% of overall expenditure per capita. The total consumption expenditures of households per capita per month was 234.9 AZN in 2014, including 10.3 AZN consumption expenditures for recreation and culture.

### 6.2.2 Public cultural expenditure broken down by level of government

**Table 28: Public cultural expenditure by level of government, 2015 (the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and its regional branches)**

Level of government	Total expenditure in AZN	Total expenditure in EUR	% share of total
Central	127 473 009	73 756 298	47.9%
Local	138 559 143	80 170 770	52.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>266 032 152</b>	<b>153 927 068</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

**Table 29: Trends of public cultural expenditure for culture, arts, cinema and monuments restoration by level of government (the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and its regional branches), in AZN, 2011-2015**

Level of government	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Central	66 898 850	67 119 894	71 656 076	215023908	127 473 009
Local	113 258 982	111 477 068	125 110 449	136 246 409	138 559 143
<b>Total</b>	<b>496 323 542</b>	<b>453 335 162</b>	<b>343 440 374</b>	<b>351 583 051</b>	<b>266 032 152</b>

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

Total expenditure was growing rapidly - as the Table shows, centralised and regional expenditure both grew steadily till 2015 global economic crisis. The balance between central and local expenditure is 47.9% and 52.1% correspondingly.

**Table 30: Additional centralised investments in public cultural and tourism infrastructure, in AZN, 2011-2015**

Culture and tourism	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Investments	316 165 700	274 738 200	146 533 000	140 335 000	38 070 300

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

### 6.2.3 Sector breakdown

**Table 31: Overall state cultural expenditure: by main sectors, in AZN, 2015**

Field / Domain / Sub-domain	Direct expenditure	Transfers (to local government)	Total
Museums and reserves	6 907 412	-	6 907 412
Central libraries (excluding National Library)	1 188 093	-	1 188 093
National Library	5 215 440		5 215 440
Theatre-concert enterprises, Cinema, Film Foundation	27 949 830	-	27 949 830
Awards of the President to cultural personalities	782 496		782 496
Centralised cultural events and other enterprises expenditures	23 852 920	-	23 852 920
Transfers to local cultural enterprises	-	70 302 845*	70 302 845
UNESCO activities	1 400 000	-	1 400 000
Other international activities	6 000 000	-	6 000 000
Cultural tourism	7 546 285	-	7 546 285
Centre of national culinary	180 576	-	180 576
International Mugham Centre	1 003 200	-	1 003 200
Education	5 992 718	68 256 298*	74 249 016
Administration	2 783 739	-	2 783 739
Capital investment	38 070 300	-	38 070 300
<b>TOTAL (excluding other expenditures)</b>	<b>127 473 009</b>	<b>138 559 143</b>	<b>266 032 152</b>

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

\* Not structured, at disposal of local authorities.

### 6.3 Trends and indicators for private cultural financing

Paid cultural services are another way self-financing for public cultural institutions, a method which is increasing in importance.

**Table 32: Paid cultural services in public cultural institutions, by sector, in AZN, 2015**

Sector	Paid cultural services
Cultural institutions (museums, libraries, etc)	193 000
Cultural and tourism education (without specialised and high arts education) institutions	448 986
Theatres	1 576 835
Concert enterprises	1 310 512
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3 529 333</b>

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016.

## 7. Public institutions in cultural infrastructure

### 7.1 Cultural infrastructure: tendencies & strategies

The rise in entertainment businesses, the culture industries and cultural tourism has inevitably attracted the attention of private business. The number of private galleries, museums, antique shops and shops for national souvenirs and crafts is growing. Design agencies, the book market, and printing houses are developing.

The culture industries such as book-publishing, the press, audiovisual and phonogram production, entertainment industries and new technologies are undergoing rapid development. Indeed, there is a totally new independent business sector developing in Azerbaijan, which is not yet considered in the overall national cultural policy.

According to the "Culture Concept of the Republic of Azerbaijan", the "Law on Culture" and the draft of "The State Programme for Safeguarding Azerbaijan's Intangible Cultural Heritage", intangible cultural heritage and peoples creativity are now "optimising" by turning the wide network of city (district) houses of culture and clubs, into a network of city (town) centres of culture and their local-lore, folklore, craftsmanship and similar branches.

In total, state cultural policy in the field of cultural infrastructure prescribes modernisation of the material and technical bases with construction of specialised buildings and rehabilitation of cultural institutions; equipping cultural enterprises with modern engineering and information communication technologies; providing cultural institutions with stage costumes, musical instruments, etc.

### 7.2 Basic data about selected public institutions in the cultural sector

**Table 33: Number of state cultural institutions in the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2014**

Domain	Cultural institutions (sub-domains)	Number (Year)	Trend (++ to --)
<b>Cultural heritage</b>	Historical and cultural monuments	6 308	
	State reserves	28	
	State museums	233	+
	Cultural heritage restoration/research institutions	5	
<b>Visual arts</b>	Art galleries	33	
	Exhibition Hall	1	
<b>Performing arts</b>	Philharmonics	4	
	Concert halls	5	
	Independent collectives	5	-
	Opera and ballet theatre	1	
	Drama, musical-comedy and musical dramatic theatres	19	
	Children's and young people's theatre	8	
	Children's music, art and painting schools	237	-
	Baku School of Choreography	1	
<b>Books and Libraries</b>	Libraries	3 291	-
	Republican Library Collector	1	
	State Editorial and publishing houses	6	
<b>Audiovisual</b>	State Film Foundation	1	
	State film studios	7	

	Movie theatres	7	-
	Film distribution bases	5	
<b>Interdisciplinary</b>	Palaces and houses of culture, clubs	2 729	-
	Culture and recreation parks	347	+
	Leisure centres	4	
	Scientific-methodological centre for culture	1	
	Centre for the training and professional development of workers in cultural institutions	1	
<b>Other</b>	National Culinary Centre	1	
	Circus	1	
	Zoo	1	

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

### 7.3 Status and partnerships of public cultural institutions

The majority of cultural institutions have state status, being financed by centralised or local budgets. Libraries, museums and art galleries are fully financed by public budgets, and the theatre-entertainment organisations are partially financed by the state. Salaries are guaranteed by the state, while expenditure on maintaining buildings, or to build new stages, etc., are carried out at the expense of the organisations themselves. A high percentage of centralised expenditure goes on libraries and museums of national importance, subsidies to state theatres, centralised events, theatrical and musical performances, the visual arts, restoration of cultural monuments, creation of new monuments, and conduction of events in foreign countries, etc.

There are a number of new partnerships between public cultural institutions and private sponsors e.g. during 1998-2001, the Azerbaijan State Theatre of Opera and Ballet was able to attract additional funds to cover its expenditure. It formed an Opera Trust Fund, whose members included wealthy oil and other companies such as BP-Amoco, AGIP, Arco, HSBC British Bank, Mobil, Shell, Texaco, Wicklow Group Limited etc. Various other theatres obtain sponsorship for new productions. The Azerbaijan International Cinema Company, a joint venture of the Union of Cinematographers and a private British firm "ITIL", has modernised "Azerbaijan Cinema" and successfully manages it.

Many activities of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan, namely festivals, concerts, fairs, etc., both international and local, attract a significant share of sponsorship by private sector.



## **8. Promoting creativity and participation**

### **8.1 Support to artists and other creative workers**

#### **8.1.1 Overview of strategies, programmes and direct or indirect forms of support**

Cultural creativity and artists in Azerbaijan are supported by centralised and local budgets, mainly by providing relevant conditions for maintaining cultural institutions, salaries, honoraria and payment of retirement and health contributions. Other ways that the state supports creativity are by involving artists in realising state development programmes and projects, as well as organisational and financial supporting of private projects and initiatives, holding festivals and competitions in different spheres of culture for professionals (theatre, music, visual arts and etc), sending delegations to international events, and by providing free primary, secondary and high special education etc.

#### **8.1.2 Special artists' funds**

There are different special funds in the cultural field, set up at national and local levels by local authorities, associations, legal entities and individuals in the hope of attracting further contributions. Another alternative source is sums earned by cultural organisations e.g. fees charged for paid cultural services provided by museums, exhibition halls and libraries. However, these sums are still insignificant, accounting for less than 1% of total expenditure on culture, the arts and monument conservation.

Privatisation is another answer to the problem of funding, and the periodical press, publishing, TV and radio, records, film production and distribution, concert organisation, etc. are the areas most affected. At the same time, privatisation has slightly impacted on the cinema production and distribution industry, which requires significant capital contributions. There are also restrictions on privatisation, for example, the following may not be privatised: state museums, libraries, galleries, historical monuments and cultural assets of international importance.

#### **8.1.3 Grants, awards, scholarships**

Grants for artists are a new concept in the state support system. The *on Grants (April 1998)* regulates economic and legal relations for the issuing, receipt and use of grants. Some of the grants available for artists are given by the Open Society Institute – Azerbaijan and other humanitarian foundations. Their activities are directed towards the exchange of artists, musicians and art critics with foreign countries, including travel grants, which enable cultural workers to participate in seminars, conferences and festivals abroad, and to receive research grants in the field of social sciences, including culture and art.

Targeted support for certain art forms is an approved approach to cultural financing in the Republic of Azerbaijan. The following resolutions of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan provide direct support to particular artists or groups: *On measures to improve the activity of the Symphony Orchestra of Azerbaijan; On pensions for persons engaged in creative activity in Azerbaijan; On presidential stipends for talented young people included in the "Gold Book"; On improvement of social welfare provision for members of the ballet troupe at the Azerbaijan State Opera and Ballet Theatre; On personal stipends to young writers of the Republic of Azerbaijan; On improvement of social welfare provision for the Azerbaijan State Choir Chapel; On improved social welfare for the workers of the Azerbaijan State Dance Ensemble; On establishment of grants of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan for prominent figures in the arts; On establishment of individual pensions of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan etc.* The system of governmental awards such as the People's Artist etc. plays an important role in a moral and material sense.

### 8.1.4 Support to professional artists associations or unions

A multi-branched system of creative unions continues to function and operate mainly as professional unions. They obtain their main funds and material-technical bases, including buildings, from the state system, but administer material, social and professional matters themselves, without state interference at present. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and other central and local authorities, provide different kinds of organisational and financial supports to creative unions, involving their members in different national and international events and purchases products of their art and creativity at regular intervals.

**Table 34: Professional artists' unions in Azerbaijan**

Name of union	Year of establishment
Union of Azerbaijan Writers	1934
Union of Azerbaijan Composers	1934
Union of Azerbaijan Architects	1936
Union of Azerbaijan Artists	1940
Union of Azerbaijan Theatrical workers	1949
Union of Azerbaijan Cinematographers	1958
Union of Azerbaijan Journalists	1958
Union of Azerbaijan Ashıqs	1984
Union of Azerbaijan Musicians	1987
Union of Azerbaijan Designers	1988
Azerbaijan National Culinary Association	2005

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2016

## 8.2 Cultural consumption and participation

### 8.2.1 Trends and figures

The social, economic and political changes in society, including consequences of the war in Azerbaijan, have had a direct impact on the quantity and quality of cultural institutions and the number of visitors. A considerable number of cultural institutes remain in occupied territories and, thus, remain out of reach for many visitors.

**Table 35: Number of attendees of some public cultural institutions, in thsd of persons, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014**

	2000	2005	2010	2014
Libraries (# of readers)	2 984,0	2 400,0	2 467,0	2 677,0
Participants in clubs	107,0	83 6,0	78,9	72,3
Cinemas	116,0 (for 2003)	115 4,0	83,4	235,8
Theatres	925,0	544,0	540,0	728,0
Concerts	339,0	259,0	277,0	452,0
Museums	1 196,0	1 477,0	1 804,0	2 531,0
Circus	179,0	103,0	127,0	126,0
Zoo visits	64,0	93,0	121,0	70,0
Pupils in child music, art and painting schools	69 099,0	72 005,0	70 772,0	68 453

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

Table 35 shows that attendance figures for concerts have increased – this connected with establishment of new bigger concert halls, such as Baku Crystal Hall (up to 25 000 spectators). The numbers visiting museums, libraries and theatres also have increased,

which can be explained by the development of these spheres in recent years. Attendance figures for cinemas have increased considerably because of non-state cinemas activities.

In 2001, the Ministry ordered a survey "Cultural Participation", for the National Report, on the cultural activities of social groups, differing from each other with respect to gender, age or education. This survey was carried out by SIAR, a social and marketing research centre and was essentially focused on the culture industries - television, cinema, radio, computers, newspapers and books.

**Table 36: Consumption expenditures of households for education, recreation and culture in AZN, per capita per month in 2005, 2010, 2014**

Items (Field/Domain)	2005	2010	2014
Recreation and culture in total	1.6	4.7	10,3
Education	0.7	2.2	4,6

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

## 8.2.2 Policies and programmes

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism has initiated special programmes, starting from 2007, in order to broaden and promote participation in cultural life for different social strata. Besides the traditional privileged categories of the population, it is proposed to provide free and favourable access to museums, reserves and monuments for Nagorno-Garabagh War participants, martyrs' family members, disabled people, pensioners, orphans, secondary schools pupils and high school students, etc., as well as for all visitors on state official holidays, international museum and tourism days. All of these measures are intended to raise the social consciousness and cohesion of citizens by activating participation in the cultural life of society.

## 8.3 Arts and cultural education

### 8.3.1 Institutional overview

Arts education has a long and deep tradition in Azerbaijan and is marked by a high degree of democratisation and accessibility for the majority of the population. Responsibility for cultural education and training institutions is divided between the Ministry of Culture and Tourism (children's music, art and painting schools and the Baku School of Choreography) and the Ministry of Education, which supervises the special secondary and the higher arts education in Azerbaijan.

### 8.3.2 Arts in schools (curricula etc.)

At present, there are 16 specialised schools providing education in culture and the arts at secondary level (11 music schools, 3 cultural technical schools, a college of art and a dance school).

Technical schools specialising in music (there are 8, including the Music College of Azerbaijan National Conservatoire) train performers in classical and folk instruments, and also teachers for children's music schools. The College of the Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts teaches painting, sculpture, carpet-making, ceramics, model-making, theatre design and the decorative and applied arts. Technical schools specialising in culture provide training in the following fields: culture and arts management, museum management, monument conservation, decorative and applied arts, and librarianship. They also have music departments that train music teachers for pre-school institutions and music schools. The second-level course runs for three years, while the first-level course runs for four. Some specialised schools offer both as a continuum; for example, the Secondary Special

Music School, named after Byulbyul, of the Baku Academy of Music Training in these institutions lasts 11-12 years, is provided free of charge, and students with good grades also receive scholarships.

### **8.3.3 Intercultural education**

Intercultural education is a part of the general school and university curricula. This field is administered mainly by policy makers responsible for education, namely, the Ministry of Education, excluding child music, art and painting schools which are administered by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. There are different themes focused on shared national values and identity; to promote tolerance, multilingualism, equality; to inform students about world cultures, religions, traditions, etc, within humanitarian disciplines, delivered at all levels of education.

### **8.3.4 Higher arts education and professional training**

The Baku Academy of Music, the Azerbaijan National Conservatoire, the Azerbaijan State University of Culture and Arts, and the Azerbaijan State Academy of Art offer third-level courses in culture and the arts. Some universities also run courses for students intending to work in cultural institutions. Composers, musicologists, choir-leaders, classical and folk instrumentalists, and singers receive their training at the Baku Academy of Music, whose graduates have won international recognition, both as teachers and performers. The State University of Culture and the Arts runs courses in the following fields: theatre, cinema and TV (directing, acting, scriptwriting, camera operating, etc.), choreography, museum management, monument conservation, cultural management, performing arts, decorative and applied arts (carpet design, industrial graphics, commercial art, fashion design, interior design, etc.). The Azerbaijan State Academy of Arts offers courses on painting, graphics, sculpture, architecture, decorative and applied arts, theatre design, the history and theory of the performing arts, interior design, carpet design, advertising and model-making. Architects are trained at the College of Architecture and Building Techniques.

The Baku Choreography Academy, the country's only training school for ballet and folk dancers, was established at 30 April 2014 on the basis of the Baku Choreographic School. The Academy provides general education (primary, general secondary and complete secondary education), secondary specialization and higher education (bachelor's, master's, doctoral) educational programme and relevant directions of the additional education (training, re-training, internship and improvement of staff, repeated higher education and secondary specialization education, upgrading) in art of choreographer, ballet pedagogy, ballet artist, ballet history and other specializations.

The Baku State University offers the only graduate course for librarians and bibliographers. Some institutions of higher education have arts departments that train music, history of music, performing arts, piano and folk instrument teachers. Arts departments at some universities have commercial status, e.g. Western University (design, decorative and applied art) and "Khazar" University (design). Some of the above courses are fee-paying, others not. Students who achieve good results qualify for scholarships. Courses last between 4-6 years, depending on the level (bachelors, masters and PhD), in accordance with the Bologna process.

Training and professional development courses for cultural workers have been functioning since 1966. These help people working within the Ministry of Culture and Tourism system (directors of municipal cultural centres, theatre and concert hall managers and staff, librarians, and staff of museums, children's music and art schools, adult art schools, cultural associations and centres, picture galleries, etc.) to improve their skills. The number of students, and the range of categories from which they come, are increasing yearly.

### 8.3.5 Basic out-of school arts and cultural education (music schools, heritage, etc.)

At present, there are 237 specialised schools teaching music, dance and painting at primary level, which children attend for 4 to 7 years (art - 4 years, dance - 5 years, music - 7 years). Music schools teach classical (piano, violin, cello, flute, clarinet, oboe, trumpet, tuba, bassoon, etc.) and folk (tar, kemancha, nagara, canon, balaban, etc.) instruments, as well as classical and folk singing. Music and art schools are totally state-funded. "The Development Programme on improving the activities of children's music, art and painting schools in the Republic of Azerbaijan (2009-2013)" had been fulfilled in order to improve organisational and infrastructural provisions in this field.

**Table 37: Children's musical, art and painting schools in the system of Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2000/2001, 2010/2011, 2014/2015 (at the beginning of the school year)**

	2000/ 2001	2010/ 2011	2014/ 2015
<b>Number of child musical, art and painting schools - total</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>237</b>	<b>237</b>
including by types of schools:			
child musical schools	184	184	183
number of pupils in them, person	51229	51648	49390
From total number of child musical schools in rural places	78	76	68
of which number of pupils, person	14152	14322	12329
art and painting schools	47	53	54
of which number of pupils, person	17870	19124	19063
<b>Number of pupils in child musical, art and painting schools - total, person</b>	<b>69099</b>	<b>70772</b>	<b>68453</b>
including by divisions:			
piano	33733	32423	30788
national music instruments (tar, kemancha, lute, voice-mugam, canon, accordion, balaban)	28274	28490	26681
wind-instrument and blow- instruments (flute, clarinet, trumbet, tambourine, drum etc.)	2408	1103	1300
string instruments (violin, violoncello)	2150	2809	3262
mugam	-	3159	3209
vocal	-	249	289
chorus	1 028	-	-
accordion	-	59	23
guitar	-	132	114
fine arts	668	1413	1491
choreography	604	923	1206
theatre	234	12	90
<b>Number of graduates of child musical, art and painting schools - total, person</b>	<b>9177</b>	<b>11269</b>	<b>11562</b>

by school type:			
child musical schools	6759	8819	8280
artistic and painting schools	2418	2450	3282
by divisions:			
piano	3867	4633	4443
national musical instruments (tar, kemancha, lute, voice- mugam, canon, accordion, balaban)	4347	5147	5163
wind-instrument and blow- instruments (flute, clarinet, trumbet, tambourine, drum etc.)	371	169	267
string instruments (violin, violoncello)	192	324	405
mugam	-	516	649
vocal	-	28	61
chorus	158	-	-
accordion	-	12	4
guitar	-	15	18
fine arts	122	305	351
choreography	54	118	199
theatre	66	2	2
<b>Number of teachers in child musical, art and painting schools - total, person</b>	<b>13090</b>	<b>16581</b>	<b>18719</b>
including:			
by school type:			
child musical schools	9701	13256	13842
art and painting schools	3389	3325	4877

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

## 8.4 Amateur arts, cultural associations and civil initiatives

### 8.4.1 Amateur arts and folk culture

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism, and partly, the Azerbaijan Trade Union Confederation, support the amateur arts and people's creativity via a network of cultural houses, clubs, parks and relevant centres which are financed by the state or by large enterprises. Cultural clubs and houses of culture provide a good background and conditions for functioning of club circles, amateur art groups and unions, clubs of interests and amateur unions, amateur art circles and collectives, technical creation courses and classes, children's circles and collectives.

**Table 38: Club circles, amateur art groups and unions, under the system of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2014**

	2000	2005	2010	2014
Total	8 236	6 997	6 488	6 292
Participants, in thsd	107,5	83,6	78,9	72,3
Clubs of interest and amateur unions	1 076	1094	1 023	1 557
Participants, in thsd	15,2	14,0	15,5	17,8
Amateur art circles and collectives	6 604	5 474	4 649	3 887
Participants, in thsd	85,3	64,8	53,6	45,1
Technical creation courses and classes	556	429	816	848
Participants, in thsd	7,0	4,8	9,8	9,5
Children's circles and collectives from total	3 632	3 375	3 284	2 260
Participants, in thsd	50,4	44,2	42,1	28,5

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

#### **8.4.2 Cultural houses and community cultural clubs**

There has been a decrease in the number of cultural clubs over the last years. This is not only due to the fact that many of the "nomadic" or so-called "mobile clubs" or "cultural tents" have shut down because of insufficient funding, but also to the internal changes occurring within society, increased social and political activity by the people, freedom of choice and freedom to develop one's own initiative.

Recently the Ministry of Culture and Tourism has initiated the process of reorganisation of the cultural houses and community cultural clubs system, aiming at broadening the platform of social participation in cultural life in the current economic circumstances. There are emerging ideas to reconfigure this broad system, to set aside non-working functions and develop new forms, serving as infrastructural units of Azerbaijani intangible cultural heritage, by creating -on this basis- a network of city (town) centres of culture and their local-lore, folklore and craftsmanship branches, attracting relevant masters, performers, collectives, research, NGOs and private structures. A Pilot Project of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan on establishing City (district) Centres of Culture is being implemented now in Lenkaran, Ismayilly, Sheki, Absheron, Balakan, Gedabey, Goygol, Khachmaz, Qazax, Qabala, Masally, Shamaxy regions in this regard.

**Table 39: Clubs (at the end of the year), 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014**

Years	Number of clubs	Number of seats in auditoriums and lecture-halls	
		Total	per 1 000
Urban and rural			
2000	3 354	491 783	62
2005	2 763	458 702	55
2010	2 772	442 602	49
2014	2729	414946	44
Urban			
2000	432	112 119	28
2005	393	104 071	24
2010	412	96 119	20
2014	393	84084	17
Rural			
2000	2 922	379 664	97
2005	2 370	354 631	87
2010	2 360	346 483	81
2014	2336	330862	75

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2014.

**Table 40: Clubs by economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan at the end of 2014**

Economic and administrative regions	Number of clubs	Number of seats in auditoriums and lecture halls
The Republic of Azerbaijan – total	2729	414946
Baku city	60	14093
Absheron economic region	38	6660
Ganja-Gazakh economic region	422	68838
Shaki-Zagatala economic region	263	40384
Lankaran economic region	310	43095
Guba-Khachmaz economic region	240	30870
Aran economic region	643	106324
Yukhari Karabakh economic region	313	47480
Kalbajar-Lachin economic region	93	6310
Dakhlik Shirvan economic region	118	14909
Nakhchivan economic region	229	35983

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism is the main responsible central executive body for the functioning of the clubs, taking into consideration that the district club system is funded by local authorities. There are also a number of clubs within other ministries and departments.



**Table 41: Distribution of clubs by departmental division, 2000, 2005, 2010, 2013**

Year	2000	2005	2010	2014
Ministry of Culture and Tourism	3 275	2 703	2 697	2 680
State Oil Company	-	-	15	3
Confederation of Trade Unions	79	60	6	6
Committee on Trade Union of Employees in Education	-	-	16	7
Other	-	-	38	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>3 354</b>	<b>2 763</b>	<b>2 772</b>	<b>2 729</b>

Source: State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 42: Leisure objects in recreation centres in the system of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of leisure objects</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>102</b>
including:			
green theatres	25	13	16
dance pavilions and halls	20	16	21
sports facilities and grounds	18	14	14
number of video clubs, game-playing machines, computer games, youth leisure objects	63	23	29
other	38	45	22
Number of leisure objects situated in the parks territories	150	93	96

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 43: Recreation centres, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of parks – total</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>347</b>
Under the system of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism	61	63	59
Number of cultural-recreational and health-sports activities	4 108	1 645	1399
of which for children	2 047	629	554
<b>Number of side-shows:</b>			
Mechanised	105	66	47
Gaming	126	42	13

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 44: Recreation centres in economic and administrative regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2014**

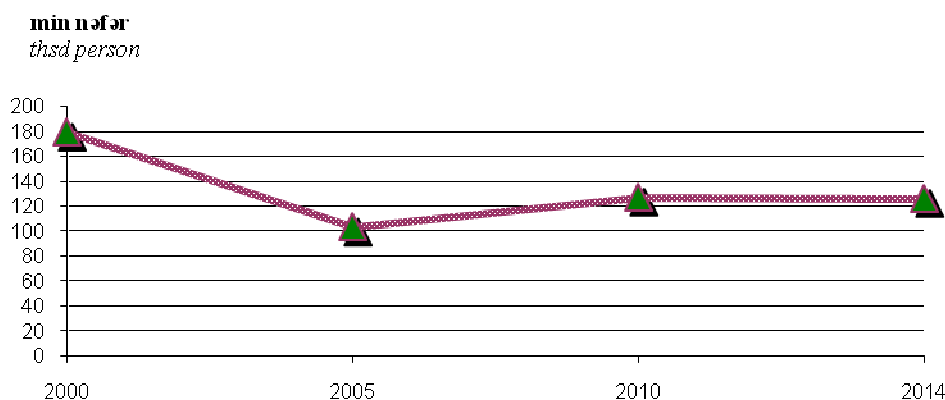
Economic and administrative regions	Number of parks	of which under subordination of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism
The Republic of Azerbaijan – total	347	59
Baku city	105	7
Absheron economic region	3	2
Ganja-Gazakh economic region	58	8
Shaki-Zagatala economic region	19	6
Lankaran economic region	15	6
Guba-Khachmaz economic region	24	5
Aran economic region	52	15
Yukhari Karabakh economic region	10	7
Kalbajar-Lachin economic region	2	2
Dakhlik Shirvan economic region	8	1
Nakhchivan economic region	50	-

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Table 45: Circus, 2000, 2010, 2014 (at the end of the year)**

	2000	2010	2014
<b>Number of circuses</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>
Number of performances	139	120	115
Number of museums - total	179	127	126
per 1000 population	22	14	13

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

**Chart 22: Number of attendees at circus, thousand persons, 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2014**

Source: Ministry of Culture and Tourism, 2015; State Statistical Committee, 2015.

#### **8.4.3 Associations of citizens, advocacy groups, NGOs, and advisory panels**

Democratisation processes in society have stirred up the private as well as the third sector. Civil society in Azerbaijan is in the first stages of development. The Ministry of Justice has registered more than 2 700 non-governmental organisations. There are also many unregistered organisations, although few of them can be described as really active. Most of NGOs suffer from a shortage of funds, organisational skills, research potential and members. Taking all of this into account, the President of the Republic signed, on 27 July 2007, the *Decree on adoption of "The Concept on state support to the non-governmental organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan"*. The Council on State Support to NGOs was established under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, which has already announced its first competition, resulting in grants to 191 NGOs, totalling 1 200 000 AZN. The Council has also started recently the preparatory work for publication of an information book on "Azerbaijani NGOs".

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism established in its Central Apparatus a Division on work with NGO's in order to support additionally and coordinate NGO's functioning in sphere of culture and tourism.

## 9. Sources and links

### 9.1 Key documents on cultural policy

Cultural policy reviews: Azerbaijan

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/reviews/azerbaijan\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/reviews/azerbaijan_en.asp)

Support for Transition in the Arts and Culture in Greater Europe (STAGE)

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Culture/Completed/STAGE/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/Culture/Completed/STAGE/default_en.asp)

Kyiv Initiative Regional Programme: Black Sea and South Caucasus

[http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kyiv/default\\_en.asp](http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/cooperation/Kyiv/default_en.asp)

Council of Europe Conventions signed and ratified by Azerbaijan

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/search-on-states/-/conventions/chartStats/AZE>

Partial Agreements with the participation of Azerbaijan

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/partial-agreements/-/conventions/ap/table/AZE>

Country file on the Council of Europe website

<http://www.coe.int/en/web/portal/azerbaijan>

Information Observatory on Cultural Policy of the GUAM Countries

<http://www.observatory-guam.org/content.php?page=8>

Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/1076>

Walled City of Baku with the Shirvanshah's Palace and Maiden Tower

<http://whc.unesco.org/en/list/958>

The Azerbaijani Mugham

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00011&RL=00039>

The art of Azerbaijani Ashiq

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00011&RL=00253>

Novruz

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?pg=00011&RL=00282>

The traditional art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving in the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00011&RL=00389>

Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked string musical instrument

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00011&RL=00671>

Chovqan, a traditional Karabakh horse-riding game in the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=00011&USL=00905>

Traditional art and symbolism of Kelaghayi, making and wearing women's silk headscarves

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/RL/traditional-art-and-symbolism-of-kelaghayi-making-and-wearing-womens-silk-headscarves-00669>

Copper craftsmanship of Lahij

<http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/en/RL/copper-craftsmanship-of-lahij-00675>

The 7th Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in Baku, Azerbaijan

<http://baku.unaoc.org/>

## **9.2 Key organisations and portals**

### **Cultural policy making bodies**

President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://en.president.az/>

The Milli Mejlis of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.meclis.gov.az/>

The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.cabmin.gov.az/>

Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://mct.gov.az/index.php>

Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://edu.gov.az/en>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.mfa.gov.az/?language=en>

Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://mys.gov.az/#nogo>

The Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.maliyye.gov.az/en>

The Ministry of Communications and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.mincom.gov.az/ministry/>

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.mlsp.gov.az/en/pages/1>

State Committee on Work with Religious Organisations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.scwra.gov.az/>

State Committee on Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.diaspora.gov.az/>

The State Committee for Family, Women and Children's Issues

<http://scfwca.gov.az/?lang=en>

Authors' Rights Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.copag.gov.az/cgi-bin/site9/main9.cgi?l=1>

Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/view.php?lang=en&menu=0>

The Civil Service Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.csc.gov.az/aze/index.php?lang=en>

Baku City Administration of Culture and Tourism

<http://en.baku-art.com/>

The State Department of the Historical and Architectural Reserve of Icherisher under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.icherisheher.gov.az/lang,en/>

### **Grant-giving bodies**

Heydar Aliyev Foundation

<http://www.heydar-aliyev-foundation.org/en>

The Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organisations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://cssn.gov.az/en/>

### **Professional associations**

Union of Azerbaijan Writers

<http://www.azyb.net/cgi-bin/ayb/main.cgi>

Union of Azerbaijan Composers

<http://composers.musigi-dunya.az/az/gurulush.html>

Union of Azerbaijan Ashiqs

[http://www.aab.az/index\\_eng.php](http://www.aab.az/index_eng.php)

### **Cultural research and statistics**

Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences

<http://www.science.gov.az/>

State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.stat.gov.az/indexen.php>

### **Culture / arts portals**

Azerbaijan National Library

[http://www.anl.az/index\\_e.php?hash=242750031](http://www.anl.az/index_e.php?hash=242750031)

The Museum Center of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

<http://www.museumcenter.az/index/lang,en/>

Azerbaijan Carpet Museum

<http://www.azcarpetmuseum.az/>

Portal dedicated to Azerbaijan

[http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/index\\_e.html?lang=en](http://www.azerbaijan.az/portal/index_e.html?lang=en)

Yarat. Contemporary art space.

<http://www.yarat.az/en/>

The site devoted to the city of Baku

<http://window2baku.com/eng/9Main.htm>

Baku White City

<http://www.bakuwhitecity.com/en/index>

The magazine, "Musiqi dunyasi", dedicated to musical culture

<http://www.musigi-dunya.az>

Tourism Portal of Azerbaijan

<http://tourism.az/>