

Azerbaijan

Short cultural policy profile

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1. Facts and figures

Political system: The Republic of Azerbaijan is a democratic, law-based, secular, unitary republic. The President of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the Head of the state. Milli Majlis (parliament) exercises legislative power; executive power belongs to the president; law courts exercise judicial power.

Official language: Azerbaijani.

	2021	2015
The population on January 1st (thousand people)	10 119.1	9 593.0
GDP (in a million EUR)	48 200.2	31 901.9
GDP per capita (in EUR)	4 763.3	3 325.5
General government expenditure (in % of GDP)	30.7%	32.7%
Public cultural expenditure (in a million EUR)	196.9	156.1
Public cultural expenditure as % of GDP	0.40 %	0.49 %
Public cultural expenditure per Capita (in EUR)	19.46	16.27
Share of cultural employment (art, entertainment and recreation) of total employment	1.59 %	1.48 %

Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2015-2022.

2. Cultural policy system

2.1 Objectives

The current cultural policy implemented in the Republic of Azerbaijan is developing based on universal values, national history of statehood, culture and art, and in line with main European cultural policy principles such as the promotion of identity and diversity, support of creativity, participation in cultural life, respect of artistic rights and ethics.

National culture plays a significant role in the consciousness of Azerbaijanis, and historical achievements of national arts and literature organically fit into their mentality, axiological attitudes, and everyday behaviour. In this context, the primary purpose of cultural policy in Azerbaijan comprises the harmonisation of relations between culture, art workers, people, and the state. It means building relationships in which culture develops based on internal needs, creative persons realise their potential, the audience receives aesthetic inspiration, and the state provides due support.

As a result of general development and the formation of an independent state policy, the Concept of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (approved by presidential order No. 273 dated February 14, 2014) has formed a systematic approach to understanding the main cultural policy objectives at the level of the highest executive document in the field of culture.

Thus, the government policy implemented in recent years involves adjusting culture policy provision mechanisms to cultural activity and artistic creativity requirements. First of all, that implies improvements and further developments of:

- cultural legislation (national, international, copyright);
- financing (public budget, paid cultural services, fundraising);
- administration (public institutions, creative unions, private enterprises);
- information (researches, databases, mass media);
- human resources (education and training, social security, encouragement);
- infrastructure (buildings, equipment, supply);
- international cooperation (multilateral, bilateral, diaspora).

2.2 Main features

The state cultural policy follows the "harmonious development based on historical continuity" model. This attitude must combine a comprehensive approach with the practical handling of artefacts from different eras, artistic achievements, and new cultural technologies looking into the future.

That's why a temporal "yesterday-today-tomorrow" approach has been developed in the current national cultural policy, defined by the Concept of Culture. Thus, the whole variety of manifestations of culture and art in the life of modern Azerbaijani society is usually subdivided into:

- cultural heritage (tangible-immovable, movable, intangible);
- professional arts (music, theatre, fine arts);
- cultural industries (cinematography, publishing, intersectional industries).

Thanks to this systematisation used in the country, there are cultural and political opportunities for targeted and qualified development of programs, road maps, and action plans in all these areas of creative activity; set specific tasks and monitor key performance indicators.

The Ministry for Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan is the central executive body implementing state policy and regulation in culture, art, history and protection of cultural monuments, publishing and cinematography. The ministry manages the cultural sphere at centralised and local levels.

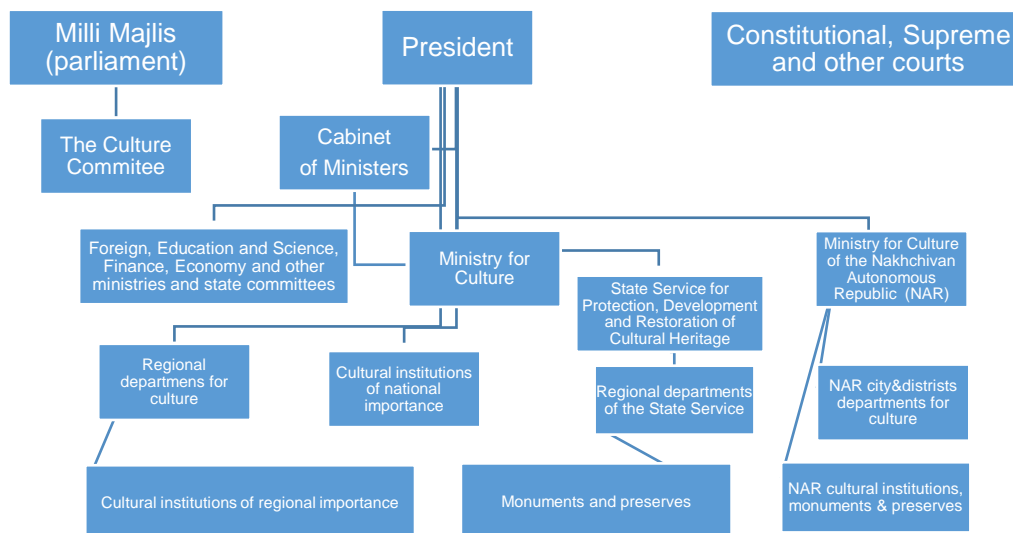
Legislative procedures for allocating public funds for culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan are defined by the constitution, the Law on the Budget System, annual laws and presidential decrees on the state budget, and annual laws and presidential decrees on the execution of the state budget. In addition, the Cabinet of Minister's "Rules of Preparation and Execution of the State Budget and The Unified Budget Classification of the Republic of Azerbaijan" are instruments of these procedures for state bodies.

The Milli Majlis (parliament) competence includes approval of the state budget upon the president's submission and supervision over its implementation. An annual state budget law approves the revenues and expenditures for the following year, including centralised and local. Tax revenues of the state budget are directed towards the corresponding purposes at the level of sections and subsections of the functional classification, including activities in culture, arts, and related fields.

After adopting an annual law on the state budget, the president signs a special decree on several issues related to applying this law, which approves the order of financing of organisations and events from the state budget. In addition, this decree defines the distribution of the budgetary funds for culture between the central and local institutions, activities and events. Finally, the Ministry of Finance specifies sources' incomes and expenditures based on approved state budget indicators for the next budget year and then delivers them to the Ministry for Culture.

The cultural policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is constantly developing, comprehending and rethinking itself. Generally, the society and state have gradually accepted their roles in culture by the Concept of Culture. The issue is to apply this understanding successfully: concrete, long-term and sustainable results are needed. Following the conceptual understanding of the theory and practice of managing the sphere of culture, the agenda of public administration actualised the need for an integrated and systematic approach and the necessity of a comprehensive and long-term strategy.

2.3 Governance system: Organisational Organigram



2.4 Historical background for the past 70 years

1950-1960: Azerbaijan is still a part of the Soviet regime that occupied and liquidated the first secular parliamentary state in the East – the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (1918-1920). These are the years of transition to a political thaw. As a result, in 1953, the Ministry of Culture of the Azerbaijan SSR with minor powers was established.

1961-1970: The first signs of individualism and rejection of principles of socialist realism became visible. Since that period, the arts have gradually emancipated themselves from state control.

1971-1980: Large-scale measures to develop the economy resulted in numerous industrial enterprises in Azerbaijan. In addition, the republic gets money for culture and arts and the formation of an influential creative environment.

1981-1990: A powerful surge of national and cultural awareness, which Soviet tanks were trying to crush on January 20, 1990, in the streets of Baku.

1991-2000: 18 October 1991 is the day of restoration of the State Independence of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Destruction of the cultural infrastructure in the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan occupied by Armenia. The National Leader of Azerbaijan, Heydar Aliyev, returns to leadership at the request of the people.

2001-2010: Years of modern cultural policy formation in active cooperation with UNESCO, the Council of Europe, ISESCO, TURKSOY and other international organisations.

2011-2020: The Republic of Azerbaijan initiates a number of international cultural programs and events, such as the Baku Process on intercultural dialogue, and has become a severe global cultural and political player. The territorial integrity of the country was restored on November 10, 2020. It means restoring cultural integrity as well.

2021-present: The country is gradually settling in the territories of the Karabakh and East Zangezur regions, which were under occupation for about 30 years.

3. Current cultural affairs

3.1 Key developments

Cultural-political reforms, which started with developing the draft Culture Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the period up to 2030, are planned and carried out by the new leadership of the Ministry for Culture. This Culture Strategy is drafted to develop Azerbaijani culture, protect it from internal and external threats, further represent it in the international arena and ensure cultural rights and freedoms. Proceeding from "The Azerbaijan 2030: National Priorities for Socio-Economic Development" (2021), the Culture Strategy envisages implementing the Concept of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan (2014) at the current historical stage.

The Culture Strategy launches reforms arising from the internal needs of culture, considering the international experience and public inquiries. The strategy defines as a strategic goal the modernisation of organisational tools in such sub-areas of cultural activity as immovable cultural heritage (including historical and cultural monuments and reserves), movable cultural treasures (including museum exhibits), intangible cultural heritage (including folk creativity), professional art (theatre, music, fine arts, and choreography), book circulation, cinematography, and creative industries. Alongside, the strategy edicts improvement maps of legal, administrative, financial, information, personnel, infrastructural, and international support mechanisms of national cultural policy, in a word, resolving challenges cultural policymakers face in developing new priorities.

Based on a description of global and regional trends, challenges, and threats, an analysis of the current situation in the sub-sectors (structure, functions, organisations, employees, and brief information on the work done), the Culture Strategy for 2030 lists five priority areas:

- "Protection of cultural heritage and its transmission to future generations",
- "Cultural development of man and society",
- "Support of cultural and creative industries",
- "International promotion of Azerbaijani culture", and
- "The return of culture to the liberated territories".

The strategy prescribes preparing and implementing strategic planning documents in priority areas, legislative, financing, and institutional reforms, optimising human resources and infrastructure units, et cetera. A characteristic feature of the strategy involves the intensification of creating databases and registers in all areas of culture and art. The need for this informatisation has become especially evident in the period of global social isolation and the increasing importance of virtual representation.

Executing the decisions also has to be put on the rails; the public institutions must provide society with a regular and professional account for each declared task. A separate requirement of the implemented cultural policy is increased financial discipline and a gradual transition to a program-targeted financing system. Public debates are envisaged, and the opinion of professionals have to be taken into account during all these procedures.

3.2 Key themes

The long-awaited territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been restored under [resolutions, declarations and other documents of the United Nations, OSCE, OIC, Council of Europe, European Union, NATO, CIS, ECO, Turkic Council, GUAM, Non-Aligned Movement](#). Moreover, it has created new tasks, opportunities and horizons in the field of culture, as in all areas.

The new reality produced conditions for the restoration of cultural life in the liberated territories, the active participation of artistic persons in returning the population, the creation of modern, progressive, new types of enterprises, and the employment of talented people through frozen staffs and supplements.

In this regard, Shusha city was declared the Cultural Capital of Azerbaijan by the Order (№ 2632 of May 7, 2021) of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev. This status will contribute to restoring the historical appearance and glory of the liberated Shusha city, reuniting it with the country's entire cultural life, and promoting Azerbaijan's culture, architecture and urban planning in the international arena.

Up to 2000 citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan will be admitted to the bachelor's and master's levels of higher education in leading higher educational institutions abroad during the implementation of the "State Program for 2022-2026 for Young People to Study in Prestigious Higher Education Institutions of Foreign Countries" (presidential order № 3163 of February 28, 2022). This State Program is a logical continuation of "The State Program on Education of Azerbaijani Youth Abroad in

2007-2015", which had issued 3558 scholarships for education in more than 350 leading higher educational institutions in 32 countries (USA, Great Britain, Germany, Japan, Turkey and others).

The Azerbaijan Federation of Creative Industries was established in November 2021 to coordinate the development of creative industries, manage international and local projects in this field, and coordinate government agencies and business partners with individuals, companies and public organisations working in the field of creativity.

Improvements in the legislation were made under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Several expressions that create negative feelings and self-doubt about persons with disabilities in the bill have been replaced with new expressions by a modern and ethical approach. So that the word "blind" was replaced with the words "completely limited vision", the word "deaf" - with the words "completely hearing-impaired", and so on. In this regard, up to 40 legislative acts were amended, and those changes were approved.

3.3 International Cultural Cooperation

The Ministry for Culture, in coordination with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, drafts and implements bilateral and multilateral foreign cultural policy.

Currently, the Republic of Azerbaijan is elected member of the Intergovernmental Committee for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2018-2022) and the Intergovernmental Committee of the Convention for the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2019-2023).

The Ministry for Culture is a stakeholder member of the Compendium of Cultural Policies and Trends Association starting from January 2021.

"Icheri Sheher, Maiden Tower and Shirvanshahs Palace Complex" (2000), "Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape" (2007), and "Historical centre of Sheki together with Khan Palace" (2019) are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. In addition, three cities are included in the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities: Sheki on the theme of "art and crafts" (2017), Baku on "design" (2019) and Lankaran on "gastronomy" (2021).

UNESCO included fifteen samples of Azerbaijan's intangible cultural heritage in the Lists of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity: "Azerbaijani Mugham", "Art of Azerbaijani Ashiq", "Novruz" (the multilateral file), "Traditional art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving", "Craftsmanship and performance art of the Tar, a long-necked

string musical instrument", "Chovqan, a traditional Karabakh horse-riding game", "Traditional art and symbolism of Kelaghayi, making and wearing women's silk headscarves", "Copper craftsmanship of Lahij", "Flatbread making and sharing culture: Lavash" (multilateral), "Dolma making and sharing tradition, a marker of cultural identity", "Art of crafting and playing with Kamancha, a bowed string musical instrument" (multilateral), "Yalli (Kochari, Tenzere), traditional group dances of Nakhchivan", "Heritage of Dede Qorqud, epic culture, folk tales and music" (multilateral), "Nar Bayrami, traditional pomegranate festivity and culture", "Art of miniature" (multilateral).

On May 5, 2022, the Action Plan for 2022-2027 of the global call "Peace for Culture", initiated by the Republic of Azerbaijan, was signed at the UN headquarters between the UN Alliance of Civilizations and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On May 20, 2022, in Baku, the "Agreement on Location of the Regional Office of ICESCO" between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Islamic World Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization - ICESCO was signed.

The International Organization of Turkic Culture (TURKSOY) has declared the Azerbaijani city of Shusha as the cultural capital of the Turkic world for 2023.

4. Cultural Institutions

4.1 Overview

The institutions and organisations of cultural heritage (immovable, movable and intangible) mainly manage state bodies. On the contrary, cultural industries' various forms of organisation (book publishing, the press, audio-visual production, entertainment industries, IT companies, etc.) are more concentrated in the private and non-state spheres. Professional art (music, theatre, fine arts) is in the middle of this "public-private scale". That is, where it is about preserving traditions and personnel training, it is primarily concentrated in public institutions. Nevertheless, the performing arts and concert activities are already more eager to monetise and are more commercial. Moreover, many activities in arts and culture, namely festivals, concerts, fairs, etc., both international and local, attract a significant share of sponsorship by the private sector.

Increasing the efficiency of public cultural and educational institutions (libraries, cultural centres, clubs, music schools, art galleries, etc.) financed by centralised or local state budgets has been at the centre of structural and institutional reforms in the last years.

The public legal entity, the Cinema Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan under the Ministry for Culture, was established by the presidential decree on April 20, 2022. The mission is to improve the implementation of state policy in the field of cinematography, ensure the international competitiveness of national cinematography, and modernise the local production and broadcasting infrastructure.

4.2 Data on selected public and private cultural institutions

Table 1: Cultural institutions, by sector and domain

Domain	Cultural Institution (Subdomain)	Public Sector		Private Sector	
		Number (year)	Number (year)	Num- ber (year)	Number (year)
Cultural Heritage	Cultural heritage sites (recognised)	5 693 (2020)	6 308 (2015)	-	-
	Historical, cultural, architectural, art and ethnographic reserves	25 (2020)	28 (2015)	-	-
Museums	Museum institutions	240 (2021)	234 (2015)	1 (2021)	1 (2015)
Archives	Archive institutions	78 (2021)	78 (2015)	-	-
Visual arts	Public art galleries/exhibition halls	33 (2021)	33 (2015)	-	-
Performing arts	Scenic and stable spaces for theatre	29 (2021)	28 (2015)	-	-
	Concert houses	10 (2021)	9 (2015)	6 (2021)	5 (2015)
	Theatre companies	29 (2021)	28 (2015)	-	-
	Dance and ballet companies	1 (2021)	1 (2015)	-	-
	Symphonic orchestras	1 (2021)	1 (2015)	-	-
Libraries	Libraries	2 915 (2021)	3 242 (2015)	-	-
Audio-visual	Cinemas	2 (2021)	5 (2015)	3 (2021)	5 (2015)

	Broadcasting organisations	4 (2021)	4 (2015)	36 (2021)	34 (2015)
Interdisciplinary	Sociocultural centres / cultural houses	2 221 (2021)	2 650 (2015)	-	-
Others (please explain)	Child musical, art and painting schools	236 (2021)	237 (2015)	1 (2021)	-

Source: The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, 2015-2022.

5. Cultural Funding

5.1 Overview

Expenditures allocated by the state in the field of culture shall be determined within the state budget approved under paragraph 5 of part I of Article 95 and paragraph 32 of Article 109 of the constitution. Thus, in Article 7 of the Law on the State Budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2021, financial resources allocated from the state budget in this area are provided for the expenditure of culture, art, information, physical education, youth policy and other similar activities (including television, radio and publishing). Of this, AZN 379 326 086 from the state budget for 2021 is allocated for the use of the Ministry for Culture.

It should be noted that, due to the decentralisation of budgetary expenditure on culture, most of the public funds are now distributed locally. Moreover, the general trend is that the percentage changes over the years in favour of the regions. For example, in 2015, this ratio was 52.1% versus 47.9% in favour of the local budget. However, in 2021, this ratio was already 66.7% against 33.3% in favour of the regional budget. This trend occurred because expenditures at the central level remained practically at the same level and even decreased by 0.8% over the same period. In contrast, spending at the regional level increased sharply by 82.4% in 2021 compared to the local budget in 2015.

The growing export of oil and natural gas leads to a constantly increasing state budget and has a positive impact on the budget for culture, which increased by 42.3% over these years. For example, if spending on culture in 2015 was AZN

266 032 152, then in 2021, it increased by more than AZN 120 million and amounted to AZN 379 326 086.

While comparing 2015 and 2021, it should be taken into account that on April 20, 2018, the Ministry for Culture and the State Tourism Agency were established based on the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. In this regard, several enterprises financed from the state budget were transferred to the balance of the agency, for example, the Azerbaijan University of Tourism and Management.

Centralised and local state budgets support cultural creativity and artists in Azerbaijan mainly by providing relevant conditions for maintaining cultural institutions, salaries, honoraria, and retirement and health contributions. There are additional ways the state supports creativity by involving artists in implementing state development programmes and projects, sustaining private projects, initiatives, and particular forms of creativity, and awarding honorary titles in art, culture, literature, etc. Grants, awards, scholarships, and direct financial support to professional creative unions are also widely implemented.

Many activities in arts and culture, namely festivals, concerts, fairs, etc., both international and local, attract a significant share of sponsorship by the private sector: funds, banks and other financial institutions. However, information on non-public funding bodies for culture and creativity is unavailable because studies, surveys, et cetera regarding private funding for culture are not carried out; there are currently no private funding statistics.

5.2 Public cultural expenditure by level of government

Table 2: Public cultural expenditure by level of government, in national currency and in EUR, 2021 and 2015¹

Level of government	Total cultural expenditure in 2021			Total cultural expenditure in 2015		
	in AZN	in EUR	% share of total	in AZN	in EUR*	% share of total
Central	126.504.173	65.665.286	33.3%	127.473.009	74.781.772	47.9%
Regional	252.821.913	131.233.799	66.7%	138.559.143	81.285.429	52.1%
TOTAL	379.326.086	196.899.085	100%	266.032.152	156.067.201	100%

Sources:

- "On a number of issues related to the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the State Budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2021" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 1241 of December 30, 2020);
- "On the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the 2015 state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 413 of December 22, 2014).

¹ Exchange rates of the Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan:

- 1 EUR = 1,9265 AZN (December 30, 2021);
- 1 EUR = 1,7046 AZN (December 30, 2015).

5.3. Public cultural expenditure per sector

Table 3: Public cultural expenditure*: by sector, in national currency and EUR, in 2021 and 2015

Field / Domain	Total cultural expenditure 2021			Total cultural expenditure 2015		
	in AZN	in EUR	% share of total	in AZN	in EUR	% share of total
Cultural Heritage and investments	13 157 255	6 829 619	3.47%	38 070 300	22 333 861	14.31%
Museums, reserves and galleries (at the central level)	12 348 924	6 410 031	3.26%	6 907 412	4 052 219	2.60%
Central libraries (at the central level)	10 323 863	5 358 870	2.72%	6 403 533	3 756 619	2.41%
Performing Arts (at the central level)	36 085 277	18 731 009	9,51%	19 540 288	11 463 269	7.35%
Cinematography	7 953 687	4 128 568	2.10%	7 507 624	4 404 332	2.82%
Interdisciplinary, Sociocultural,	46 635 167	24 207 198	12.29%	49 043 852	28 771 472	18.43%

Cultural Re- lations Abroad, Administra- tion, Cul- tural Educa- tion (all at the central level)						
Not covered by the above do- mains (transfers to local institu- tions)	252 821 913	131 233 799	66.65%	138 559 143	81 285 429	52.08%
TOTAL	379 326 086	196 899 085	100%	266 032 152	156 067 201	100%

Sources:

- "On a number of issues related to the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the State Budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2021" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 1241 of December 30, 2020);
- "On the implementation of the Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On the 2015 state budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan" (Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 413 of December 22, 2014).

Note: * At the date of expenditure

6. Legislation on culture

6.1 Overview of national cultural legislation

The Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995) has provisions related to culture and, more specifically, cultural rights, freedom of expression and creativity, copyright protection, heritage protection, etc.

The Law on Culture (2012) spells out the state policy's principles and aims and lays down the duties of government and local authorities in this area.

National legislation on cultural and natural heritage includes the Law on the Protection of Historical and Cultural Monuments (1998), the Law on National Archives Fund (1999), the Law on Museums (2000) and the Law on Specially Protected Natural Areas and Objects (2000).

The laws On Legal Protection of the Samples of Azerbaijani Folklore (2003), On Protection and Development of Azerbaijani Carpet Art (2004), and the Law on Theatres and Theatre Activities (2006) compose the national legislation on performance, celebration, visual arts and crafts.

Legislation on books and press is presented by the laws On Libraries (1998), On Mass Media (1999) and the Law on Publishing (2000).

Legislation on audio-visual and interactive media includes the Law on Cinematography (1998), the Law on Television and Radio Broadcasting (2002), and the Law on Public Television and Radio Broadcasting (2004).

Legislation on design and creative service consists of the Law on Architectural Activity (1998), the Urban Planning and Construction Code (2012) and the Law on Advertising (2015).

Culturally relevant are the laws On Copyright and Related Rights (1996), On Information, Informatization and Information Protection (1998), On the State Language in the Republic of Azerbaijan (2002), On the Legal Protection of Data Sets (2004), On Getting Information (2005), On Personal Data (2010) and the Law on Enforcement of the Intellectual Property Rights and Fight Against Piracy (2012).

Social welfare issues of the cultural workers are detailed by the Labour Code (1999) and the laws On Trade Unions (1994), On Social Insurance (1997), On Protection of Public Health (1997), On Medical Insurance (1999), On Labour Pensions (2006), On Social Benefits (2006), On Social Services (2011), On Unemployment

Insurance (2017), On the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018), On Employment (2018), et cetera.

A complex improvement of national cultural policy legislation is envisaged as a part of the legislative and institutional reforms currently being carried out. In particular, ongoing debates exist about the need for a law to preserve intangible cultural heritage.

6.2 Overview of international cultural legislation

Besides the complex improvement of national cultural policy legislation, the development of legal guarantees for the arts and culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan includes the enhancement of international conventions and bilateral agreements' implementation mechanisms. International legal instruments implemented in the country include International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Year of adoption - 1992), Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict and its I and II Protocols (1993, Protocols on 1993 and 2000), Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1993), Black Sea Convention on Cooperation in the fields of Culture, Education, Science and Information (1995), Convention on the Recognition of Studies, Diplomas and Degrees concerning Higher Education in the States belonging to the Europe Region (1996), Universal Copyright Convention (1997), Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property (1997), European Cultural Convention (1997), Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (1998), Convention for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage of Europe (1999), European Convention on Cinematographic Co-Production (1999), UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects (2000), Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage (2006), Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (2008) and Convention on the Protection and Promotion of the Diversity of Cultural Expressions (2009), et cetera.