

Youth Partnership

Partnership between the European Commission
and the Council of Europe in the field of youth



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INFORMATION SHEET ON YOUTH AND THE WORLD IN AZERBAIJAN



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1. Implementation of a new field of action: “Youth and the World”

How is the field of action “Youth and the World” of the current EU youth strategy transposed in your country?

Since more than 30 % of Azerbaijan population is composed of young people, the youth strategy is a priority direction for the society. All the appropriate conditions have been created for the youth to take an active part in development of civil society through the strengthening of relations with European countries, maintenance of mutual understanding and tolerance, creation of intercultural dialogue among the youth of the world. This has been achieved when Azerbaijan became part of Youth in Action Program that impacted on youth empowerment and participation.

2. Awareness raising on Global issues

2.1. Promotion of Global Education

Is there any national/regional policy document which lays the legal basis for the promotion of Global Education?

The legal basis for promotion of Global Education in the country is Law on Education of Azerbaijan, the Law of the Azerbaijan Republic on environmental education and enlightenment of population adopted in 2002. According to this law, education in Azerbaijan is based on the International Conventions on Human Rights, as well as international treaties that the Azerbaijan Republic is party to. It develops through integration into the global education system whilst prioritizing national, moral, and universal values in education system.

Besides, the State Program for study of Azerbaijani youth abroad in 2007-2015 is actively implemented in the country creating the opportunity for youth to get education abroad in different spheres.

How is Global Education promoted?

In Azerbaijan Global Education is promoted through a variety of trainings, courses, workshops as well as youth involvement in the international education covering the issues on human rights, sustainable development, peace, citizenship and the environment.

For the recent years some achievements have been gained in the general education, including setting up new educational institutions, attracting the young people to education as well as preparation of a socio-economic development plans and relevant reform programs. The pilot inclusive education projects are implemented in Azerbaijan based on international practice. The organization of seminars, meetings and conferences, as well as development of relevant cooperation with other ministries, international humanitarian and local public organizations ensure the dynamic development of the general education field.

Some global issues are to some extent covered in curriculums. But there is still a need for global education promotion in the educational institutions. Therefore, numbers of trainings, seminars are organized in the country; youth is stimulated to get the education on various spheres abroad and be familiarized with the international experience.

In this regards, Azerbaijani youth is supported by the Government that develops the state programmes on study of Azerbaijani youth abroad for 2007-2015.

What are the main stakeholders in the field of Global Education?

The main stakeholders promoting and supporting Global Education are the state structures - Ministry of Youth and Sport of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the State Committee for Family, Woman and Children Affairs etc.; the international organisations – UNDP, UNICEF, the World Bank, EU etc.; other institutions - Academy of Public Administration under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Baku State University, Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy, Khazar University, etc..

Is there any report/survey available on Global education and young people in your country? If yes what is its focus of research and what are the main outcomes?

The regular statistics and reports are developed by the state structures and some organisations; however, these sources mostly contain the general information on education.

State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan: <http://www.stat.gov.az/source/education/indexen.php>

2.2. Young people and sustainable development

What are the most relevant initiatives/projects at regional/national level encouraging green patterns of consumption and production with young people?

The biggest projects and initiatives supporting green patterns of consumption and production and promoting dialogue and action among young people to address global environmental challenges is the International Dialogue on Environment Action launched in 2011. IDEA campaign is mainly focusing on the power of youth and considers it as an important tool to change the way we behave and consume our surrounding natural world.

Is there any report/survey investigating the awareness of environmental issues among young people in your country? If so what are the main outcomes?

The main statistical information is collected by the State Statistical Committee of Azerbaijan. The statistical collection contains an information describing the environmental situation, availability and usage of natural resources, information about air, water installations, land and forest resources protection, reserves, availability of toxic wastes and their use, extraction of different minerals, expenditures for environmental protection. Nevertheless, a specific report on awareness of environmental issues among young people in the country was not properly prepared yet. Supported by Azerbaijan Youth Foundation, some youth organizations are implementing ecological projects, e.g. "Support to environmental initiative of youth" project, "The monitoring of ecological standards" project, "Environmental awareness raising of youth" project, "Support to ecological web blogging" project, "Development of environmental vision of youth" projects etc. According to the action plan of some of these projects, the report on environmental issues is going to be developed.

2.3. Young people and human rights

Is there any report/survey investigating the civic engagement related to global human rights issues among young people in your country? What are the main outcomes?

There is no youth activity investigating the civic engagement related to global issues among the youth in Azerbaijan.

3. Cooperation with third countries in the field of youth

3.1. Agreements and areas of cooperation

Are there any bilateral or supranational agreements with countries / regions outside Europe in the field of youth?

Recently numbers of agreements on cooperation in the field of youth have been signed between Azerbaijan and USA, Japan, China, Korea, Mexico, Brazil, Pakistan, Georgia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Iraq, CIS countries, Russia, India, Malaysia etc. The agreements cover the issues of bilateral cooperation and exchange of knowledge and experience.

Cooperation in the field of youth policy and /or youth research

The main directions in the field of youth policy involve cooperation with the international organizations and state structures as well as joint scientific researches. The Ministry of Youth and Sport, as a main actor of youth policy, has bilateral agreements in sphere of youth cooperation with Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, Moldova, Uzbekistan, Lithuania, Jordan and other countries. Numbers of projects are financed on behalf of national agencies in Turkey, UK, France, Poland, Romania and Luxemburg.

3.2. Support measures for young people

What are the opportunities offered to young people to explore and enhance global understanding by going abroad such as volunteering and youth exchange programmes)?

The opportunities for the young people to be educated on global issues is created through state programmes on study of Azerbaijani youth abroad for 2007-2015, and some volunteering and exchange program, organized by the international institutions and organizations and state bodies.

Promotion of youth entrepreneurship and employment opportunities with regions/countries outside of Europe

There are no such initiatives.

4. Participation of young people and youth organisations in policy making

Have young people and youth organisations been given political and financial support to be individually or collectively involved in the policy regarding dialogue and cooperation on regional and global issues? How?

Youth participates in the preparation of some essential state documents, implementation and evaluation of state programs. More than 2000 proposals had been submitted by youth and youth organizations during the discussions on preparation of the state program on youth. Most of those proposals, including the regional and international cooperation, have been reflected in the State Program "Azerbaijan youth in 2011-2005".

The projects and programs ensuring youth participation in decision-making process are under consideration and some are implemented by the Government, civil society and international organizations. Recognizing that youth are tremendous agents for change and are important constituencies and drivers for peace and development, and considering its corporate experience in working on youth-related challenges in Europe and former Soviet Union, UNDP proposed implementation of joint project with the Ministry of Youth and Sports (MYS) of the Republic of Azerbaijan, under a theme of "youth empowerment and democratic governance". The joint program "Youth participation in decision-making and policy implementation" of the UNDP and the Ministry of Youth and Sport of Azerbaijan is successfully implementing to empower the young people of Azerbaijan to participate in decision-making more actively by contributing to policy planning and policy outcomes, and to develop their capacity as future leaders and public servants. Besides, Youth Foundation under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan financially supports national and international projects covering the wide range of issues including environmental awareness raising, effective governance, peace building, human rights etc.