

# Council of Europe Office in Baku



## KEY FIGURES

17 STAFF MEMBERS

6 Core staff

11 Project staff

6 COUNTRY –  
SPECIFIC PROJECTS

4 projects as part of  
the EU/Council of  
Europe Partnership  
for Good  
Governance

2 Project funded  
through voluntary  
contributions

3 REGIONAL  
PROJECTS

Since 2014, co-operation activities in Azerbaijan have been guided by successive Council of Europe Action Plans prepared jointly with the national authorities and aimed at bringing the national legislation and practice further into line with European and international standards in the areas of human rights, the rule of law and democracy. The current Action Plan for 2022-2025 was launched in Baku in April 2022.

Priorities under the Action Plan include, in particular, improving the implementation of the European Convention on Human Rights, preventing and combating gender-based and domestic violence, strengthening the capacities of the anti-corruption and anti-money laundering bodies, ensuring and protecting freedom of expression and capacity building for mass media, increasing effectiveness of the judiciary, promoting tolerance and non-discrimination improving the criminal justice system, protecting and promoting children's rights, ensuring social rights, improving detention conditions, enhancing dialogue between government and civil society institutions, strengthening youth participation and building capacities for human rights and citizenship education of young people.

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

### **Improved implementation of the judgements of the European Court of Human Rights**

As part of a generally positive trend, Azerbaijan closed 6 cases in 2020, 12 in 2021 and 35 in 2022.

### **More efficient framework to combat violence against women and domestic violence**

Improved legislation and practice; more efficient functioning of protection orders; increased awareness on gender equality standards among officials, legal professionals, law students and civil society organisations.

## AT A GLANCE

### KEY FIGURES

#### ACTION PLAN BUDGET

The Action Plan  
revised budget is  
12 900 000 Euros

7 500 000 Euros  
secured (55%)

#### **Stronger legal and institutional framework to combat corruption and money laundering**

Successfully completed legislative reforms including amendments to the Criminal Procedural Code and improved legislation on Anti-Money Laundering / Countering Financing of Terrorism, asset recovery, targeted financial sanction; enhanced practices for corruption risk assessment in state institutions.

#### **Better skills for journalists – increased freedom of information**

Improved skills of media professionals on mitigation of hate speech, gender sensitive reporting, media coverage of conflicts and elections; increased awareness among lawyers, judges and prosecutors on freedom of expression and information, data protection and privacy, access to information.

#### **More efficient justice**

Enhanced use of the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice (CEPEJ) tools by Azerbaijani courts; better access to courts for vulnerable groups; more efficient communication strategy by the judiciary; Improved quality of mediation services.

#### **Increased awareness on equality and non-discrimination**

Amended Constitutional Law on the Ombudsperson extending its mandate on combating discrimination; improved dialogue between civil society and government agencies.

#### **Better skills for youth**

Setting- up informal network of youth trainers; increased capacity of local youth organisations and youth centres on promoting human rights education and democratic youth participation.

#### **Improved penitentiary system**

Improved prison management system and better health promotion, better integration for persons released from prisons.

### HIGHLIGHT

Tetimonial from a student of the Law Faculty of Baku State University on “Student for Student” programme *“This initiative, implemented jointly with the Council of Europe Office in Baku, is not just a project, is a beacon of mentorship and learning”*.

Strengthening cooperation with university professors and students of, in particular, Baku State University, Baku Slavic University, Azerbaijan University of Languages and ADA University is one of the transversal cooperation priorities.

Information provided dated as of 31 December 2023.

### MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.coe.int/baku>

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DOWNLOAD THE  
ACTION PLAN FOR  
AZERBAIJAN 2022-2025

