

**Culture &  
Creativity**

EU-Eastern Partnership Programme



# UNESCO CULTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT INDICATORS

## Azerbaijan's Analytical Report



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*The content of this report does not reflect the official opinion of the European Union. Responsibility for the information and views expressed in the report lies entirely with the author.*

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## Summary

Culture for Development Indicators for Azerbaijan is an initiative by European Union-Eastern Partnership Culture and Creativity Programme, funded by the European Union. The initiative is based upon UNESCO's Culture for Development Indicators methodology, which has been successfully implemented in many countries across the world. UNESCO Culture for Development Indicators Suite (CDIS) consists of seven dimensions.

- > **Economy.** Value added of Cultural and Creative Industries to the GDP of Azerbaijan amounts to 1%. The percentage of employment directly related to culture is 3.8%
- > **Education.** In the first two years of secondary school in Azerbaijan, Fine Arts, Music, Literature (National Literature and World Literature) classes take up 13.0% of total curriculum hours.
- > **Governance.** Azerbaijan Government's endeavours to join international conventions in the sphere of culture get a score of 0,96 on the international level and 0,89 score on the national level. Policy and institutional framework for culture receives 0,95/1. Distribution of cultural infrastructure scores 0.744/1. Civil society participation in cultural governance scores 0,81/1.
- > **Social Participation.** Tolerance of other cultures is 60%. The level of Interpersonal Trust is only 15%. Freedom of Self-Determination scores 6,76/10.
- > **Gender.** The overall indicative score of the country in regard to gaps in political representation, education, labour force, as well as legislative acts protecting the rights of women is 0.541 which is above medium level.
- > **Communication.** In accordance with 2016 Press Index Report, the freedom of mass media and expression in Azerbaijan remains a weak point in international comparison.
- > **Heritage.** The score for heritage sustainability compound of various indicators regarding the protection, safeguarding and promotion of heritage sustainability is high: 0.90/1. The overall score is the median value of the following sub-indices: Registrations and Inscriptions - 0.87/1, Protection, Safeguarding and Management - 0,85/1, and Transmission and Mobilisation of Support - 1/1.

The research was conducted and the report was composed according to the UNESCO CDIS Methodology by national experts Mr. **Jahangir Selimkhanov** and Mr. **Fikret Mamedov**, the national expert team was advised by the international cultural statistics expert Mr. **Simon Ellis**.



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## Introduction

This section covers the general context of management of culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan and outlines the state structure of governance of cultural activities.

### **a. General conditions and context**

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a country in the South Caucasus region, situated at the crossroads of Southwest Asia and Southeastern Europe. It became an independent state on August 30, 1991, just a few months before the collapse of the USSR. It is bordered by Caspian Sea to the east, Russia to the north, Georgia to the northwest, Armenia to the west and Iran to the south.

Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan is bound by Armenia to the north and east, Iran to the south and west, while having an 11 km border with Turkey in the north-west.

The Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan during Soviet era was also known as Autonomous Region, however, after the disintegration of Soviet Union suffered the occupation by the Republic of Armenia along with 7 adjacent regions of Azerbaijan outside of Nagorno Karabakh.

Azerbaijan is a unitary Presidential Republic. The country is a member state of the Council of Europe, the OSCE and the NATO Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. It is one of six independent Turkic states, an active member of the Turkic Council. Azerbaijan has diplomatic relations with 158 countries and is a member of 38 international organizations. It is one of the founding members of GUAM, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

The Constitution of Azerbaijan does not declare an official religion and all major political forces in the country are secularist. However, the majority of the population is of Shiite Muslim background. Most Azerbaijanis, however, do not actively practice any religion, with 53% stating religion has little to no importance in their lives, according to Pew Research Center and Gallup polls conducted during 2008-2009 (2009).<sup>1</sup>

According to the Global Competitiveness Report 2017-2018 of the Davos World Economic Forum Azerbaijan's economy was in 35th place within 137 countries, the highest rank in its region.<sup>2</sup>

Administratively Azerbaijan is divided into 10 economic regions; 66 administrative regions and 77 cities of which 12 are under the direct authority of the republic. Azerbaijan includes the Autonomous Republic of Nakhchivan. The President of Azerbaijan appoints

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<sup>1</sup> <http://news.gallup.com/poll/114211/Alabamians-Iranians-Common.aspx>

<sup>2</sup> K. Schwab, Global Competitiveness Report 2017-8, World Economic Forum (2018) p. ix

the governors of these all regional units, while the government of Nakhchivan is elected and approved by the parliament of Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

According to the 2016 Census of Population the population is 9.705. 600, of which 53.1 % was urban population, the remaining 46.9 % was the rural population. 50.2 % of the total population were female. The gender ratio for total population in 2016 was therefore 0.99 males per female.<sup>3</sup>

## **b. Government agencies responsible for culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

The Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Azerbaijan is the main government agency responsible for the management and regulation of cultural activities. It has representatives in the regional governments, who report both to the Governor of the Region and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. Currently, there are 66 administrative regions, but the administrative enlargement reform is planned by the government, which may eventually bring the regional division down to 6-10 administrative units.

The Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan has its own Ministry of Culture and Tourism appointed by the Parliament of the Autonomous Republic of Nakhichevan.

The following provides the general outline for structures and organizations directly or indirectly involved in state governance of culture in the Republic of Azerbaijan:

**Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan.** State Agency, which, in accordance with its Charter, is responsible for “Implementation of state policies in the tourism sector and promotion of Azerbaijani culture, formulation and implementation of short-, mid- and long-term strategies and programs, increasing activities in cultural sector among the youth, create conditions for every citizen to contribute to the cultural development in Azerbaijan...”.<sup>4</sup> The ministry has an extensive network of subordinated structures such as music schools, libraries, museums, concert halls, Azerbaijan film studio, theatres, Professional Culture Unions (Composers’, Writers’, Architects’ etc.) and others. They are all financed and report to relevant departments of the Ministry.

**Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan** is responsible for governance of educational policies and programs. Like the other Central Executive Authorities, it has its regional departments within the Executive Powers of administrative regions. Its responsibility extends from pre-school education to primary, secondary, high schools, as well as higher and post-graduate education. Along with these, Ministry also manages the structures of non-formal educational institutions.

**Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Azerbaijan.** The supreme scientific authority of Azerbaijan with several institutions related to culture, including the Scientific-Research Institute of Azerbaijani Literature, Scientific-Research Institute of Architecture, Scientific-

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<sup>3</sup> 2016 Census of Population of Azerbaijan, State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, <https://www.stat.gov.az/source/demography/ap/?lang=en>

<sup>4</sup> Charter of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, April 18, 2006

Research Institute of Archeology, National History Museum and Museum of Azerbaijani Literature.

**State Committee of Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan.** The State Committee of Statistics is a government agency within the Cabinet of Ministries of Azerbaijan responsible for the collection, processing and disseminating statistical data on the economy, demographics, culture, education and other sectors. The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan ensures the quality of the statistical information system. The State Statistical Committee carries out its activity on the basis of the comprehensive and objective study of socio-economic processes occurring in the country, provides the information on the socioeconomic state of the country and is responsible for the implementation of the policy, aiming at the increase of the role of statistical information through respecting the rights of individuals and legal enterprises and protecting their private information.

The State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan has the following duties:

- to conduct the statistical policy of the country
- to ensure the accuracy and adequacy of statistical information and its correspondence to the processes occurring in the social and economic spheres in the market;
- to conduct methodological control over the development and application of technical and economic information according to international standards;
- to coordinate the preparation of statistical reports and to determine the terms and rules of their composition;
- to analyze statistical information, calculating socio-economic and demographic trends;
- to maintain international cooperation in the sphere of statistics, disseminating and exchanging statistical information not contradicting the interests of the country.

### **c. Construction of indicators**

The following report describes the methodology and technical aspects and data collection of the core indicators outlined in the UNESCO Culture for Development Methodology Manual<sup>5</sup>, as well as alternative solutions of data collection to enhance the general quality of data herein.

The structure behind each section of indicator set is as follows: indicators, sources, issues, clarifications as well as barriers during the application of the Suite (e.g. contradictions in data, non-availability of information, subjective factors, such as unofficial operations of those involved in arts & crafts, exaggerated data, etc.).

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<sup>5</sup> [http://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis\\_methodology\\_manual.pdf](http://en.unesco.org/creativity/sites/creativity/files/cdis_methodology_manual.pdf)

**Table 01. Key Indicators of the Study by Dimension**

<b>Dimensions</b>	<b>Sub-dimensions</b>
<b>Economy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contribution of cultural activities to GDP</li> <li>- Cultural employment</li> <li>- Household expenditures on culture</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Inclusive education</li> <li>- Multilingual education</li> <li>- Arts education</li> <li>- Professional training in the culture sector</li> </ul>
<b>Gender Equality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Levels of Gender Equality</li> <li>- Perception of Gender Equality</li> </ul>
<b>Communication</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Freedom of Expression</li> <li>- Access and Internet use</li> <li>- Diversity of fictional content on public television</li> </ul>
<b>Governance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Standard-setting framework for culture</li> <li>- Policy and institutional framework for culture</li> <li>- Distribution of cultural infrastructures</li> <li>- Civil society participation in cultural governance</li> </ul>
<b>Social Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participation in Cultural Activities</li> <li>- Trust</li> <li>- Freedom of Self-Determination</li> </ul>
<b>Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Index of development of multidimensional public framework for heritage sustainability</li> </ul>



# 1. Economy Dimension

This Section examines the contribution of the culture to the overall economic development of the country via three sub-dimensions:

- Contribution of cultural activities to GDP
- Cultural employment
- Household expenditures on culture

## 1.1. The Value Added of Cultural Activities

The Gross Domestic Product of the Republic of Azerbaijan is a product of relevant research performed on continuous basis by the State Committee of Statistics. It is based on quarterly reports of all enterprises (private and state-owned) and agencies, the Ministry of Tax of the Republic of Azerbaijan being the main contributor of data via its Quarterly Tax Returns that should be submitted by all tax-residents operating in the country both legal entities and private entrepreneurs.

Table 1.1 shows initial calculations by the State Statistical Committee which show that Arts and Recreation represent 0.3% of GDP, but if the wider basis for cultural and creative industries are taken into account this rise to 1% of GDP. These figures are an underestimate of the contribution of cultural activities to GDP because a significant proportion of commercial transactions occur in the informal (shadow) economy and are not captured in official statistics. In fact, according to ACCA “Emerging from Shadows”<sup>6</sup> (2017 pp., 11 and 13), Azerbaijan has one of the largest shares of production derived from the shadow economy, standing currently at over 60% of GDP.

Several actions have recently been taken by the government to reduce the cash transactions in business activities, such as the Law on Non-Cash Transactions enacted on April 1, 2017.

The total GDP of Azerbaijan for year 2016 was reported at 37 843 000 000 USD. The value of cultural activities in absolute numbers during 2016 was 129 577 042 USD. A breakdown by specific cultural industries such as the Arts, or Architecture was not available.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.accaglobal.com/content/dam/ACCA\\_Global/Technical/Future/pi-shadow-economy.pdf](http://www.accaglobal.com/content/dam/ACCA_Global/Technical/Future/pi-shadow-economy.pdf)

**Table: 1.1. Share of Cultural Activities in National GDP**

	<b>GDP (Gross Domestic Product)</b>	<b>Value Added of cultural activities (arts and recreation)</b>	<b>% of GDP</b>	<b>Value Added of cultural and creative industries</b>	<b>% of GDP</b>
<b>Total</b>	37 843 000 000 USD	129 577 042 USD	0.3%	374 060 000 USD	1%

Source: National Accounts 2016 GDP by fields of Activity. National Committee of Statistics of the Republic of Azerbaijan

## **1.2. Employment in the Cultural and Creative Sectors**

The occupation of population in cultural activities is a main indicator of the manpower involved in cultural and creative activities. The indicator also demonstrates the potential for the population to work in cultural and creative activities, providing jobs, income and financial stability.

The percentage of persons employed in cultural activities in comparison with total employment in the country is derived from the Labour Force Survey for 2015. The total employment by all sectors of economy for year 2015 was 1,502,500 people, while the employment for art, entertainment and recreation is registered at the level of 56,700 people. Thus, the percentage of employment directly related to culture is 3.8%.

These figures only include the following Arts occupations as identified by the codes of the International Standard Classification of Occupations (ISCO); 2641 (Writers), 2651 (Fine Arts), 2652 (Composers, Musicians and Singers), 2653 (Choreographers and Dancers), 2654 (Film and Theatre Producers), 2655 (Actors). There is culture-related employment within other sectors of economy covered by statistics, such as manufacturing (6.3% of total employment), information and communication (1.7% of total employment), professional/scientific and technical activities (3.8%), education (22.5%).

The cultural sector has a significant role in gender equality of the country as main cultural employment indicators show the significant domination of women in some (art/entertainment/recreation) culture and related (education) areas:

**Table 1.2 Gender balance in cultural sector**

Sector of economy	Women employed (%)	Men employed (%)
Art, Entertainment and Recreation	63.6	36.4
Manufacturing	23.5	76.5
Information and Communication	29.7	70.3
Professional/Scientific and Technical Activities	44.6	55.4
Education	71.4	28.6

Source: System of National Accounts by the State Committee of Statistics of Azerbaijan 2016

The indicator reflects only those who state that cultural activities are their main employment, while many people work in culture as a secondary job, part time, or informally will not be included in the figures. Many designers, photographers, cultural experts, web-designers, musical instrument producers, jewellers, tailors, video operators, tutors (in music, foreign languages) etc. work “from home” on an occasional basis.

### 1.3. Household expenditure on culture

This sub-section covers household expenditure on cultural activities and services and reflects the volume of expenditure on cultural products such as books, concerts and shows, commercial cinema tickets, theatre shows and performances, as well as entrance tickets to museums.

The total household expenditure was 34963.4 million manats in 2015 and 39773.4 million manats in 2016. Although there is a clear growth in total expenditure in last two years in manats, the exchange rate of AZN to USD should be taken into consideration. In 2015 the average exchange rate was equal to 1 USD= 1.05 AZN while in 2016 the ratio was equal to 1USD=1.7 AZN. As a result, we have the figure of 33298.0 million USD in 2015 and 23395.9 million USD, which show a serious decline in the overall expenditure relative to the US dollar.

**Table 1.3 Total and culture/recreation budget of households' expenditures (per capita/month)**

Indicator	2015 (AZN)	2015 (USD)
Recreation and culture	10.9	10.38
Total expenditure	245.6	233.91

Source: State Statistical Committee, unknown survey.

Thus, the total monthly direct culture and recreation expenditure for the household is 10.38 USD x 4.7= 48.79 USD/per household/per month. The above figure is multiplied by 12 (months) to obtain the annual per household expenditure on culture: 48.79 USD/month x 12 months= 585.48 USD/household/year.

The information from the State Committee of Statistics (monthly consumption budgets per capita/month, average size of households, total expenditures of population) was used to draw the results for this study.

## 2. Education Dimension

Education is the process of facilitating learning, or the acquisition of knowledge, skills, values, beliefs, and habits. It has a primary role for individual and society development. It promotes the accumulated human knowledge and spreads this knowledge among the various communities. Education is a cornerstone of cultural development of the nation and provides basis to tolerance and acceptance of other cultures. It helps to encourage creativity via learning of positive experiences and practices.

The Education Dimension examines the relationship between education, culture and human development by assessing the inclusiveness of education; the valorisation of inter-culturality, cultural diversity and creativity; and the opportunities for acquiring professional skills in cultural fields.

Core indicators for this dimension include the following:

Core indicator	Description
Inclusive education	Index of average years of schooling of the population between the ages of 17 and 22, adjusted to reflect inequalities
Multilingual Education	Percentage of instructional hours dedicated to promoting multilingualism in relation to the total number of instructional hours dedicated to languages (grades 7-8)
Arts education	Percentage of instructional hours dedicated to arts education in relation to the total number of instructional hours (grades 7-8)
Professional training in cultural sector	Index of coherency and coverage of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and tertiary education in the field of culture

Article 42 of the Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (November 12, 1995) states that the right of citizens to be educated is determined as follows:

- Every citizen has the right to education;
- The state grants free compulsory general secondary education;
- The state controls the education system;
- The State guarantees the education of talented persons without regard to their material condition;
- The government sets minimum educational standards;
- Everyone has the right to education in the framework of the state standard;

- It is guaranteed that all citizens have the right to education in Azerbaijan irrespective of differences such as nationality, religion, race, language, sex, age, health and social status, activity area, place of residence and political views.

## 2.1. Inclusive education

Education is free and compulsory for children between the ages of six and fifteen. Basic schooling is divided into three: primary education, general secondary and full secondary education.

The process of information collection was straightforward as there is a general curriculum approved by the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan, which determines the number of years in primary, secondary, high-schools and higher education institutions. Number of years in Primary Schools is 4 years, Secondary School is 5 years and High-School 2 years. Higher education (universities and institutes) institutions offer Bachelor Education Programs of 4 and 5 years (dependent on the specialty) with Medical Degree programs of 7 years. The distribution of educational program durations is obligatory for both state and private educational organizations.

**Table 2.1: Average number of years of schooling**

Average number of years of schooling (of the population between the ages of 17 and 22)	12
Percentage of the population with fewer than four years of schooling (17-22 years old)	1.0
Standardized average number of years of schooling	9

Source: State Statistics Committee of Azerbaijan, Ministry Education of Azerbaijan.

## 2.2. Multilingual education

The official state language of the Republic of Azerbaijan is Azerbaijani language. Meanwhile, due to Soviet heritage and forwarded international integration, there are many schools in the country, which offer the foreign languages (primarily Russian and English) as basis for their educational programs.

Therefore, the following grouping shall be taken into consideration in assessment of multilingual education statistics:

1. Schools delivering education in national language and offering hours of foreign language classes.
2. Schools delivering education in foreign language and offering hours of national language and second foreign language classes.

The first group offer foreign language training classes at 10% of overall average number of education program. Thus, 5 days in school with 6 classes (average) per day results in 30 classes weekly. The curriculum offers 3 hours (three times a week) classes on foreign languages.

The second group has 2 hours of native language classes and all other classes are taught in foreign language. In this, the typical Russian school curriculum has 3 hours of Russian Language Class, 3-4 hours of English language class and 2 hours of native language class.

More precise data can be drawn from the number of teachers/instructors in day time general education institutions:

- *Native language teachers:* 17764
- *Russian language teachers:*
  - o in Russian schools: 1241
  - o in non-Russian schools: 5913
- *English language teachers:* 13790
- *Other foreign languages:* 911

The percentage of teaching hours dedicated to promotion multilanguage education in relation to the total number of hours dedicated to languages is as follows:

#### **In Russian schools:**

- National Language (Azerbaijani): 22%
- 1<sup>ST</sup> Foreign language (Russian): 33%
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Foreign language (commonly): 45%

#### **In Azerbaijani schools:**

- National language: 50%
- Foreign language (primarily English, French or Russian): 50%

*Source: Curriculum information from Ministry of Education, teacher numbers from State Statistical Committee 2016.*

### **2.3. Arts Education**

In the first two years of secondary school in Azerbaijan, Fine Arts, Music, Literature (National Literature and World Literature) classes take up 13.0% of total curriculum hours.<sup>7</sup> In addition, there are extra-curricular classes in arts and crafts, music, painting, dance, computer graphics.

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<sup>7</sup> Educational Curriculum. Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan. 2015

Azerbaijan also has a variety of out of school education centres operated by government that deliver training in Arts and Culture.

**Table 2.2. Non-formal educational institutions at the beginning of 2017**

	Number of institutions	in them:	
		Number of training groups	Attendees, person
<b>Total</b>	<b>366</b>	<b>12383</b>	<b>156189</b>
including:			
children's sport centres	95	3925	46754
children creative centres	83	3043	40832
chess schools	66	1637	18007
technical creative centres	58	1579	20500
centres of ecological training and experiences	47	1131	16621
centres of young tourists and study of local lore	9	471	6749
Other non-formal educational institutions	4	275	3742
esthetic training centres	3	270	2445
physical training centres for children and youth	1	52	539
<i>Other arts-related non-formal schools:</i>			
children music schools	185	-	48803
art and painting schools	55	-	18226

Source: Ministry of Education 2017.

## 2.4. Professional training in culture sector

There are 20 universities under the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan and another 12 subordinated to other state agencies. The number of private higher education schools is 11.<sup>8</sup> Some of these are purely related to cultural and arts education, namely:

- State Academy of Fine Arts;
- Azerbaijan National Conservatory;
- Uzeyir Hajibeyli Baku Music Academy;
- State University of Culture and Arts;
- Baku Choreography Academy

<sup>8</sup> List of State Higher Education Institutions, State Higher Education Institutions Subordinated to Other Ministries and State Committees and Private Higher Education Institutions <http://edu.gov.az/en/page/339>

Others, such as University of Foreign Languages, University of Architecture and Construction, Baku Slavic University, Baku State University and others offer some cultural specialty education in literature, design, fine arts.

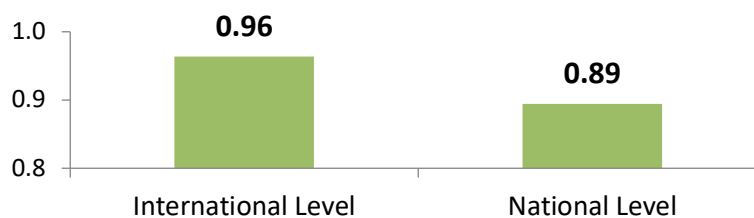
### 3. Governance Dimension

The Cultural Governance Dimension is constructed on the basis of various indicators which reflect the efforts of the public authorities in a given country to enable sound operation of the policies, measures, institutional mechanisms, infrastructures and forms of civil society participation in the discussing, decision-making, implementation, evaluation and monitoring in the cultural sphere, thus fostering the respect for cultural rights. An elaborated network of international treaties, conventions, declarations and other standard-setting documents allows for making judgements about the country's awareness of the international basic values and instruments of good governance in various areas, including culture and cultural development. The set of indicators covers all forms of cultural expressions in their diversity and variety. Four main strands of this dimension are elaborated into subdivisions implied to obtain more adequate picture of the country's profile.

#### 3.1. Standard-setting framework for culture: 0,92/1

Azerbaijan Government's endeavours to join international conventions in the sphere of culture get a high score of 0,96 on the international level, but a relatively lower 0,89 score on the national level. The only two international documents not signed/ratified by Azerbaijan are those related to the protection of underwater heritage (there a very few evidences of heritage artefacts on the territory of Azerbaijan and its littoral zone) and the TRIPS Agreement which is related to the World Trade Organization of which Azerbaijan is still not a member. There is room for improvement on alternative forms of funding of culture such as laws reinforcing operation of specifically cultural foundations or endowments; and encouraging cultural sponsorship through tax incentives. It is especially instructive to think about developing special legislative, regulatory and operational mechanisms enabling development of local creative industries, especially in the view of strategic goal of Azerbaijan Government to make stronger shift towards non-oil sectors of economy.

Figure 3.1. Index of the standard-setting framework for the protection and promotion of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity



Source: Constitution of the Republic of Azerbaijan (1995), Legislative database of Milli Mejlis (2017)

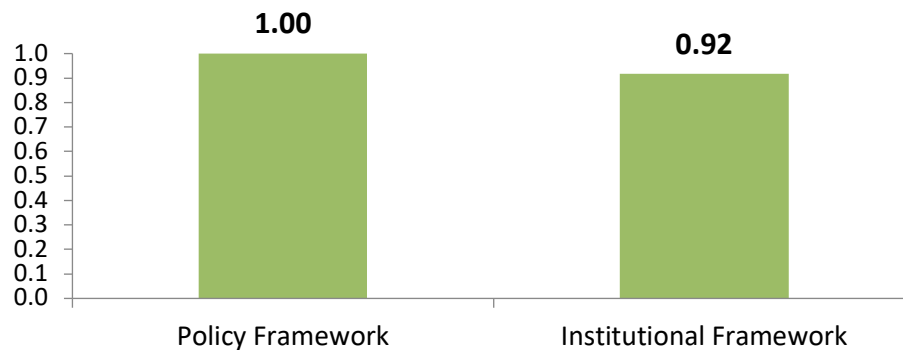


### 3.2. Policy and institutional framework for culture: 0,95/1

The overall score of Azerbaijan in this indicator is a sign of clear vision of the importance of governance of culture which is reflected in the policy document titled “National Concept of Culture” adopted in 2014. According to the check-list applied for calculation the indicator, in Azerbaijan there is no mechanism of delegating cultural responsibilities to local/municipal which would be supported with respective budget expenditures, and this reflects current state of affairs in the country – the duties of municipal organs don’t include budgets for cultural activities.

One reason for that is that municipalities in Azerbaijan are not strong enough economically to afford their own budget for culture, another one is that lack of well trained and skilful cultural workers staff makes it more effective to have a centralized way of distributing cultural services and goods. Even though de-centralisation of cultural governance was formulated in Azerbaijan as a strategic goal of the cultural policy since early 2000s, the practice has shown that horizontal structure of nearly 70 administrative units (districts) didn’t led to more diversity and leadership, and on the contrary, was quite cumbersome. The structural reform in 2016 aimed at establishing 16 regional departments of culture which don’t duplicate the executive administration and get their budgets from the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

**Figure 3.2. Index of development of the policy and institutional framework for the protection and promotion of culture, cultural rights and cultural diversity**



Source: Azerbaijan 2020 Concept of Development (2012), National Concept of Culture (2014), State Budget of Azerbaijan (2016)

### 3.3. Distribution of cultural infrastructure: 0.744/1

Cultural infrastructure is the embodiment of the equality of opportunities in fulfilling cultural needs and aspirations, participation in cultural production, translation and consumption, therefore its distribution across a country helps to better understand and assess existing gaps and inequalities in access to culture, and more clearly substantiate the provisions for cultural planning.

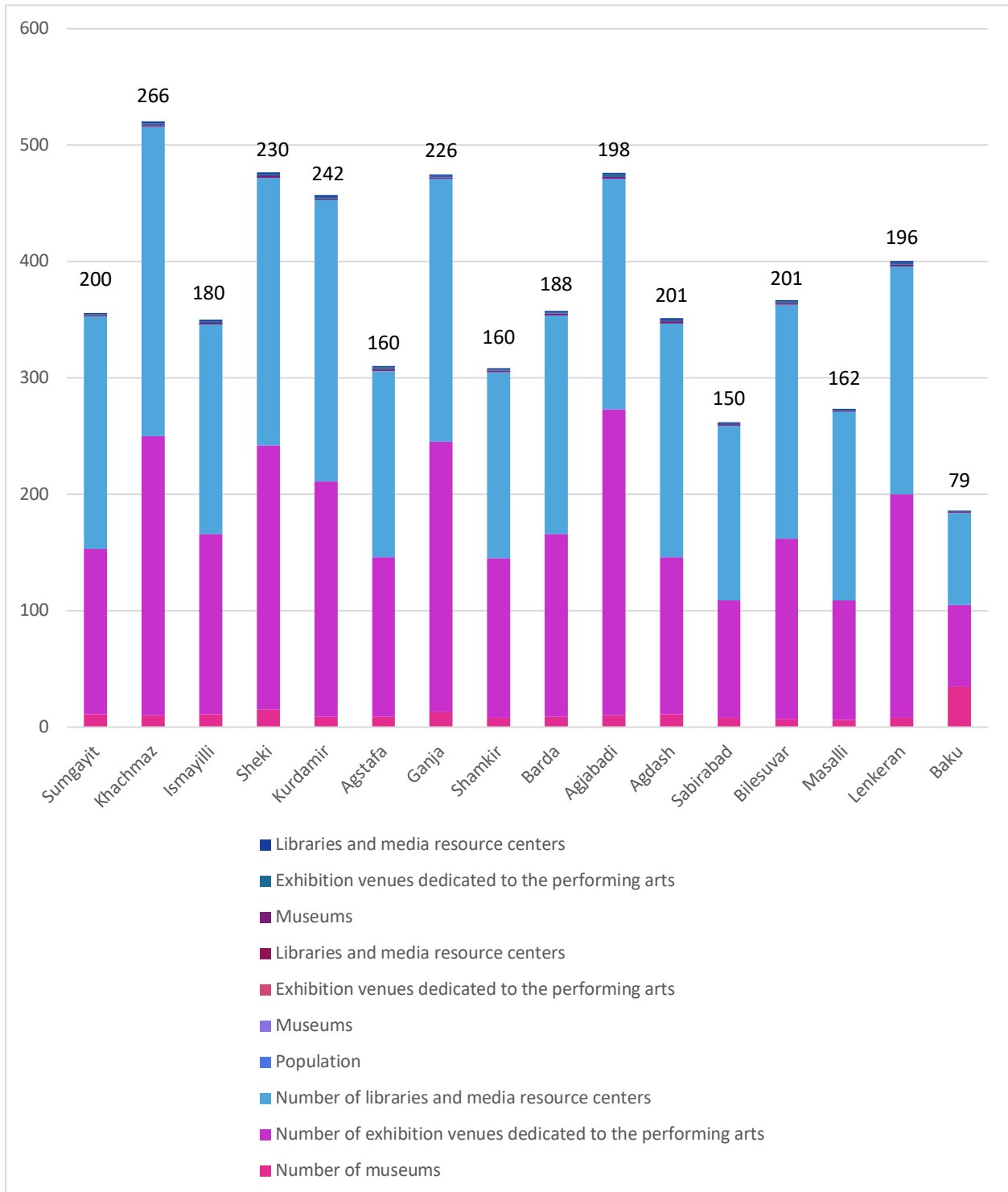
The high score and balanced distribution of libraries, museums, performing arts venues in Azerbaijan is partly a result of the system inherited from the plan economy of the Soviet period, when the matter of fair distribution of cultural venues was given special attention. However, a period of more than 25 years has passed since the collapse of Soviet Union, and the commitment of the national government to follow up on this democratic principle, despite the hardships of a long transition period, is notable. This survey does not evaluate the content and quality of the cultural products and services delivered through these institutions, therefore the figures collected under this indicator may serve as a basic pretext for more targeted implications. The indicator evaluates the supply of cultural venues and not the level of demand or their accessibility.

The survey has revealed a quite unexpected result in regard to Baku (and its urban agglomeration Sumgait): although it is commonly perceived that the capital has a denser network of cultural venues and services, the figure shows the contrary. Of course, when we say that a region has 120 performing arts venues, we take into account small culture houses with halls of 100 seats. Meanwhile, in Baku, the Crystal Hall alone has 23000 seats, the equivalent to 230 of such small venues, before considering the artistic quality of programmes offered. The same is true in regard to libraries – the National Library in Baku counts 4.500.000 items with more than 20.000 visits in 2015.<sup>9</sup> There are also many new independent cultural institutions, especially those not covered by ‘classical’ definition of a cultural venue (like book cafés, co-working spaces with film screening facility, private dance studios, underground music clubs, heritage and creativity-inspired initiative groups) in Baku which might not be classified as ‘cultural’ in national statistics. For example, a book café would probably be counted as a café disregarding its literacy function. Nevertheless, this discrepancy in the number of available cultural venues and facilities should be considered as a signal to think about improvements.

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<sup>9</sup> <http://anl.az/new/en/history/3>

**Figure 3.3.: Distribution of cultural infrastructure across the country (2017)**



Source Ministry of Culture and Tourism internal report (2017)

### 3.4. Civil society participation in cultural governance: 0,81/1

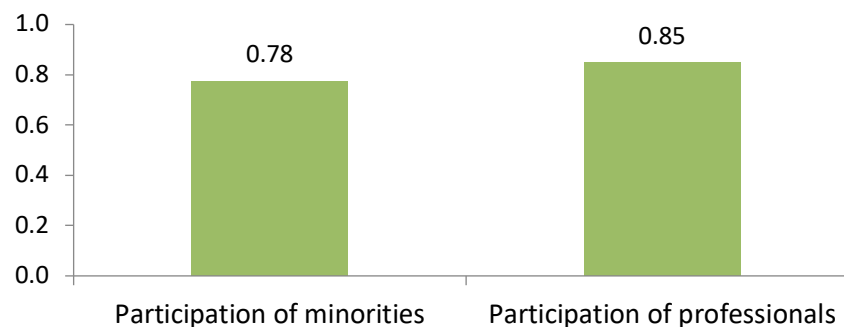
This compound indicator includes two categories of civil society - communities of ethnic minorities and independent professional experts which might or might not be affiliated with any kind of organization or association. In both instances Azerbaijan demonstrates a rather high level of engagement of non-governmental actors into the discussion and formulation of strategic documents and high-profile events and programmes.

The country has taken a lead in the study and promotion of the good practices of multiculturalism and tolerance by regularly hosting in Baku World Forum on Intercultural Dialogue, a bi-annual convention which gathers several hundreds of participants from all continents representing governments, academia, social innovators and cultural activists. The Baku International Centre for Multiculturalism ensures adequate representation of the cultural rights of minorities in Azerbaijan.

Representatives of the creative unions (Composers' Union, Writers' Union, Theatre workers' Union, Artists' Union etc.) are regularly involved in the ad hoc committees called up by Presidential Decrees, as well as in large-scale activities and long-term projects launched by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.

The next step in developing relations between governmental bodies and civil society would be the establishment of permanent committees, with regular meetings and resolution which are binding by their nature.

**Figure 3.4. Index of the promotion of the participation of cultural professionals and minorities in the formulation and implementation of cultural policies, measures and programmes that concern them**



## 4. Social Participation Dimension

Culture is perceived as an important social phenomenon allowing for its wider, embracing interpretation which binds together people's values, beliefs, aspirations with their behaviour, rituals and modes of communication. In this sense the intricate systems which regulate the attitudes and social ties between individuals, groups, communities and nations are strongly influenced by multiple and overlaying cultural patterns.

The Social Participation Dimension discloses in a comprehensive way some of the mechanisms influencing individuals' expression of belonging to some cultural/sub-cultural unity, their reaction to cultural 'otherness' and coherence of the communities they belong to.

### 4.1. Participation in going-out cultural activities

The data required by CDIS are not available for Azerbaijan. The data presented are from the State Statistical Committee (SSC) website, but these figures do not indicate the distribution by age or gender, moreover the method of calculation is different from those normally used in CDIS – the figures here reflect the number of visits rather than the number of people. Thus, for example, they do not make a distinction between people who visit cultural venues on a recurring basis during the year and people who only attended a cultural venue or event once, for example, a visitor who makes four visits will be counted four times.

The figures from the national statistical sources give a general picture of the participation in cultural activities in Azerbaijan in 2016.<sup>10</sup>

**Table 4.1. Attendance of cultural venues (by number of visits)**

• Number of visit to museums:	2.697.000
• Number of visits to cinemas:	469.600
• Number of visits to professional theatres	727.000
• Number of visits to concert venues	457.000

*Source: State Statistical Committee (2016)*

The Caucasus Barometer<sup>11</sup> 2013 reflects the following results of attendance of a theatre/cinema in the last 6 months. It only partially conforms to the requirements of the CDIS which asks for visitors in the last twelve months. These data indicate the number of people visiting a theatre/cinema and not the number of visits e.g. a visitor who makes four visits will be counted once.

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.azstat.org/MESearch/details>

<sup>11</sup> Caucasus Barometer is the annual household survey about social economic issues and political attitudes conducted by CRRRC -The Caucasus Research Resource Centers. CRRRC are a network of research, resource and training centers established in 2003 in the capital cities of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia with the goal of strengthening social science research and public policy analysis in the South Caucasus.CRRRC was established in 2003 by the Eurasia Partnership Foundation (EPF) with financial support from the Carnegie Corporation of New York.

**Table 4.2. Attendance of cultural venue in Azerbaijan (Percentage of people making a visit in the last 12 months)**

Gender		Income quintile					Urbanization		Age group		
Female	Male	1	2	3	4	5	Urban	Rural	18-35	36-55	56+
9	8						25	4	13	5	5

Source: Caucasus Barometer 2013

#### 4.2. Participation in identity-building cultural activities:

The closest available data to those required by CDIS are those from the Caucasus Barometer 2013, but the data have been collected in regard to attendance of a public meeting, which is not clearly related to 'identity building as 'public meeting' does not necessarily imply any kind of cultural activity.

**Table 4.3. Attendance of a public meeting in Azerbaijan (by type of settlement, gender and age)**

Cross tabulation (%)	Yes	No
Capital	13	87
Urban	23	77
Rural	15	85
Cross tabulation (%)	Yes	No
Male	23	77
Female	11	89
Cross tabulation (%)	Yes	No
18 – 35	16	84
36 – 55	19	81
56+	16	84

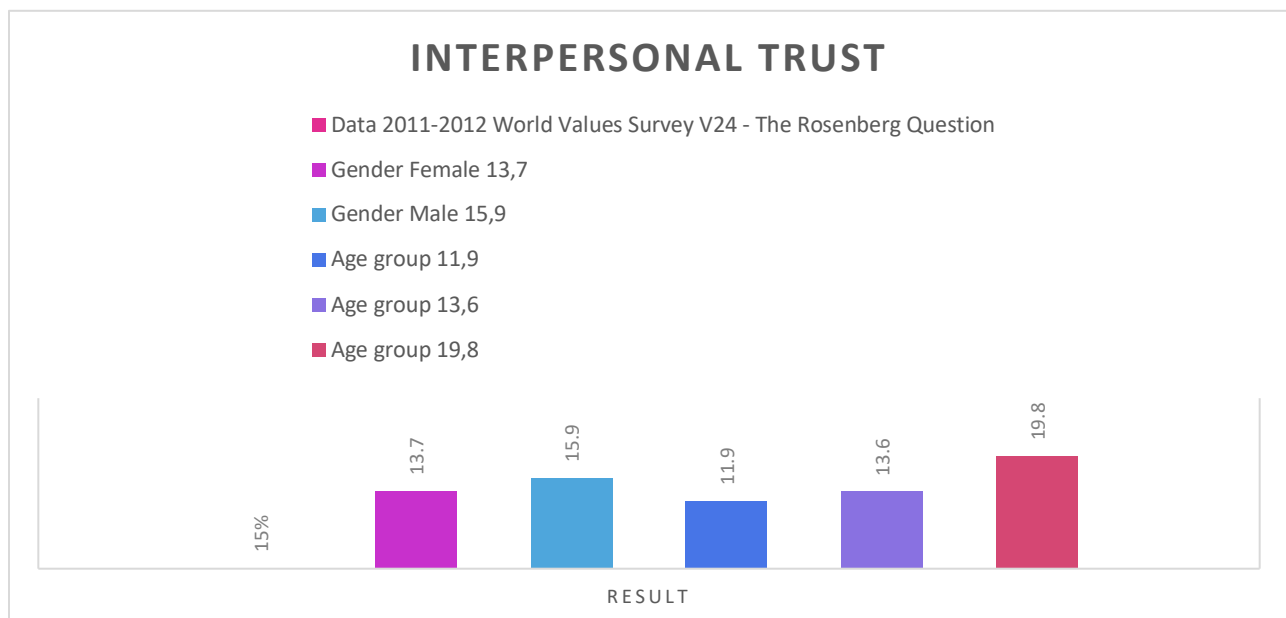
Source: Caucasus Barometer 2013

### 4.3. Tolerance of other cultures: 60,0% (2011-2012)<sup>12</sup>

The country has an image of a society driven by the values of tolerance and multiculturalism and the results of the survey reflect this. Nevertheless, the results might be higher, and the government's policy measures to promote intercultural understanding and dialogue to achieve even higher tolerance are justified. The attitude of the population toward various groups of people who differ from respondents by race, origin, confession or language is revealed through putting the following question: Could you please mention any that you would not like to have as neighbours? - People of a different race; Immigrants/Foreign workers; - People of a different religion; - People who speak a different language.

### 4.4. Interpersonal Trust: 15,0% (2011-2012)

This indicator is quite low and might be interpreted in various ways. The country has experienced the shock of migration and displacement of large numbers of people caused by military conflict with Armenia in late 1980-1990's. Broken social ties, forced necessity to adjust to living with new neighbours and in new living settings might affect the perception of the level of trust between people. The distribution over various gender and age groups is done on the basis of the answers to the following question: Generally speaking, would you say that most people can be trusted or that you need to be very careful in dealing with people?



Source: World Values Survey (2010-2011)

<sup>12</sup> Source: World Values Survey (2010-2011)

#### 4.5. Freedom of Self-Determination: 6,76/10 (2015)

This median result reflects the expectations and determination of the country's citizens to define their destiny and live according to a chosen set of values and goals. For Azerbaijan it is at a level around 2/3 from the whole population which is a respectively high figure. It is a disturbing fact however that the level of those who feel more confidence in personal strength is somehow lower among younger group aged up to 29.

The result reflects distribution of answers to the following question: Some people feel they have completely free choice and control over their lives, while other people feel that what they do has no real effect on what happens to them

**Table 4.5. Index of perceived freedom of self-determination**

	Data	Gender		Age group				
		Female	Male					
Year	2015							
Source	World Values Survey (v15.04.18)							
Comment	V55							
<b>Result (Median)</b>		6.48	6.14	6.62	6.85	6.81		

Source: World Values Survey<sup>13</sup> (2010-2011)

## 5. Gender Equality Dimension

The issue of equal participation in/access to the culture of both sexes as an important indicator of cultural development has been presented in the CDIS. Given that gender roles and identities are culturally driven and determined, this factor influences targeted policies and measures with further implications, hence the check-up of various aspects regarding the status of women - from representation on parliamentary level to domestic abuse in the Gender Equality Objective Outputs section and its subjective representation through analysing the population's opinion in the Perception of Gender Equality.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>13</sup> The World Values Survey (WVS) is a global research project that explores people's values and beliefs, how they change over time and what social and political impact they have. It is carried out by a worldwide network of social scientists who, since 1981, have conducted representative national surveys in almost 100 countries. WVS has been conducted in Azerbaijan in 2011-2012. The target population is the total population of Azerbaijan 18-85 y.o., without population living in occupied territories of Nagorno-Karabakh. The minimum sample size (i.e. the number of completed interviews) is 1000. In order to make up for losses to the sample as a result of non-response, the initial number of respondents to be visited is 1200 (20% higher than the target sample size) 11 economic regions of Azerbaijan were identified as initial strata. 100 PSUs were randomly selected with probability proportional to size of each strata, and then 12 persons were systematically selected in each PSU.

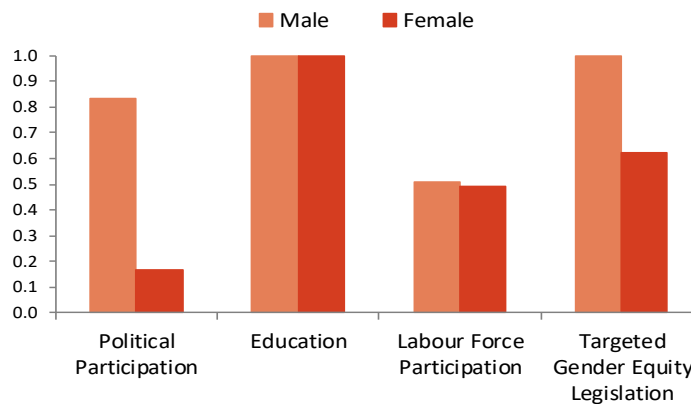
<sup>14</sup> Data for this section of the survey were provided by UNFPA Office in Baku, and by the State Committee for Problems of Family, Women and Children of the Republic of Azerbaijan <http://scfwca.gov.az>



## 5.1. Gender Equality Objective Outputs: 0.541/1 (2010-2015)

The overall indicative score of the country in regard to gaps in political representation, education, labour force, as well as legislative acts protecting the rights of women is 0.541 which is above medium level. It should be noted that this compound index includes two sub-indices closely related to each other – actual percentage of women in the parliament and evidence of quota system for women (in the parliament). Almost equal figures in education and labour force participation indicate quite insignificant gaps, though in both cases the position of men is slightly higher than for women. A positive shift in the legislation and its implementation is observed in the country in the last few years in regard to measures protecting victims of rape, sexual harassment, domestic violence.

**Figure 5.1. Index of the gaps between women and men in political, education and labour domains and in gender-equity legislation**



Methodology: UNESCO CDIS

Source: State Statistical Committee (2015-2016), UNFPA-Azerbaijan (2017)

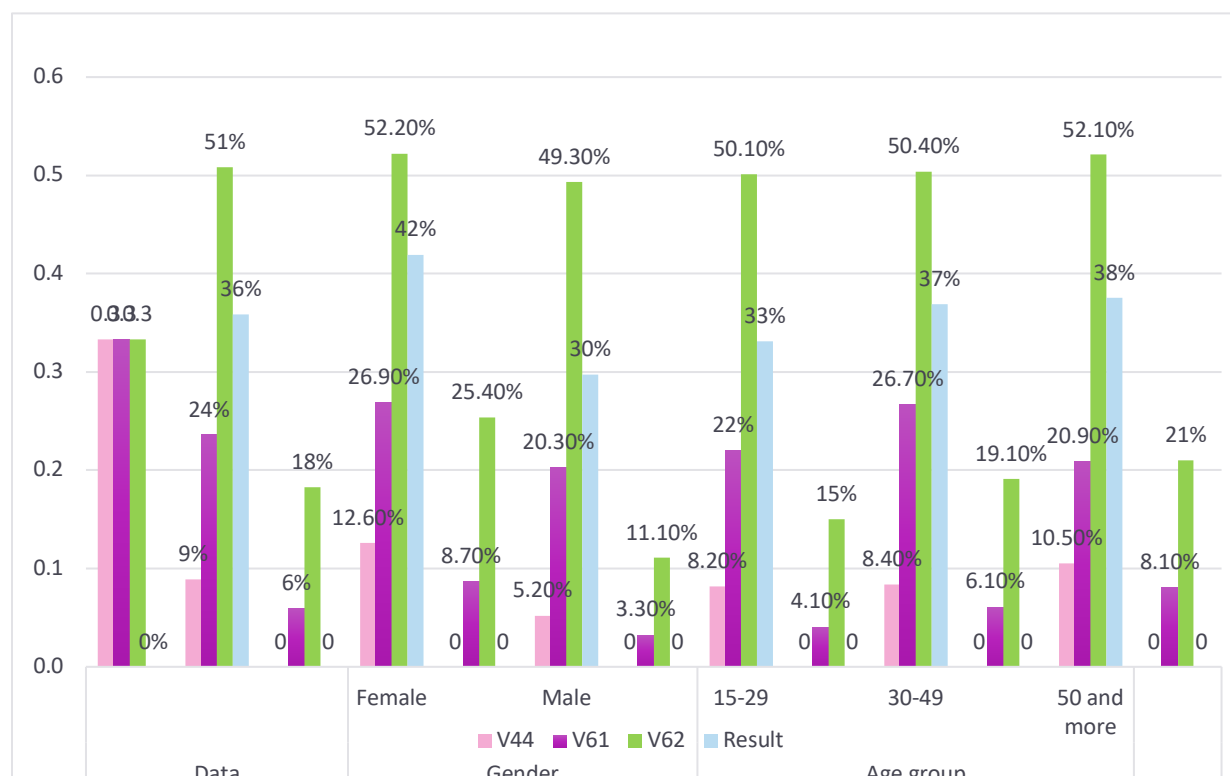
According to the Gender Development Index (GDI) in the UNDP report on Human Development,<sup>15</sup> Azerbaijan belongs to the 3rd group countries, with its value 0,940, which means countries with medium equality in Human Development Index achievements between women and men (absolute deviation of 5-7.5 percent). The GDI measures gender gaps in human development achievements by accounting for disparities between women and men in three basic dimensions of human development—health, knowledge and living standards using the same component indicators as in the Human Development Index (HDI). The GDI is the ratio of the HDIs calculated separately for females and males using the same methodology as in the HDI. It is a direct measure of gender gap showing the female HDI as a percentage of the male HDI.

<sup>15</sup> UNDP Human Development Report 2016; Human Development for Everyone 2017) <http://hdr.undp.org/en/composite/GDI> , <http://hdr.undp.org/en/countries/profiles/AZE>

## 5.2. Perception of Gender Equality: 36% (2011-2012)

Another indicator is calculated to assess the subjectivity - perception of gender inequality among the population. The World Values Survey has been conducted in Azerbaijan in 2010-2011.<sup>16</sup> The answers to the following questions have been scrutinized for calculating the index: right to a job (V45), political leadership skills (V51), importance of the university education (V52). The value of this public opinion study is embodied in the statistical figure 36% which could be interpreted as rather low index of gender equality in the minds of country's population, therefore existing disparity between objective policy measures and subjective attitudes to the roles and rights of men and women needs to be addressed.

**Figure 5.2. Degree of positive assessment of gender equality (subjective output)**



Source: World Values Survey (2010-2011)

These results suggest the need for a more focused data collection and analysis regarding gender balance in specifically cultural jobs, culture consumption, participation in public cultural life and many other topics. For now, the CDIS parameters establish a necessary general context for judgements of culture-related development policy implications. The WVS has been conducted in Azerbaijan approximately 7 years ago and may not reflect the current situation given the fast pace of change in the life conditions and perspectives in the country today.

<sup>16</sup> <http://www.worldvaluessurvey.org/WVSDocumentationWV6.jsp>

## 6. Communication Dimension

Communication provides the foundation for constructing and developing of social and human capital as it helps citizens to participate in their culture and community. A well-established and diverse communication system provides sound ground for cultural exchange and helps to set relations between various social, ethnic, religious and cultural groups within the community. As a result, it helps to promote and protect the cultural diversity within the given community.

### 6.1. The Freedom of Expression

Freedom of expression is a critical secondary dimension, which concerns the protection of the human right of expression within the country (community) in a legal and practical sense. It assesses the opportunity provided to citizens to express their thoughts, views and to develop their individual characteristics and values. It also provides the access of individuals to the variety of views within national and international contexts, supporting the social involvement in the processes of community integration that forms the basis for intercultural communication.

#### **Indicator**

*Index of the print, broadcast, and internet-based media freedom*

#### **Process**

The process for this assessment is based on Freedom of Press Index from 2016, which was published by Freedom House.<sup>17</sup> The report on countries within the Freedom of Press index classifies states as "free", "partly free", or "not free" on the basis of criteria of free access to news and media and level of independence of mass media. Points are awarded to country from 0 to 100, with "0" being the best and "100" being the worst score. States collecting up to 30 points are classified as having "free" media; those with 31 to 60 points are considered to have "partly free", and those collecting 61 points and above qualified for having "not free" mass media sources.

#### **Results**

In accordance with 2016 Press Index Report, the freedom of mass media and expression in Azerbaijan was calculated to be 89 points, thus Azerbaijan qualified to be "Not free" in the "Freedom in the World Status". Meanwhile, the Net Freedom Status of the country is indexed to be "Partly free". The methodology of qualification is based on following secondary assessment categories showing the following results:

- Legal environment (29/30)
- Political environment (38/40)
- Economic Environment (89/100)

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<sup>17</sup> <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/azerbaijan>

According to Freedom House “Freedom of speech and the right to access to information are guaranteed by the Constitution, the Law on Mass Media, and the Law on the Right to Obtain Information. However, these rights are severely restricted in practice.”<sup>18</sup>

*Additional clarification: According to Azerbaijan’s Government’s official position, Azerbaijan considers the above-mentioned reports and quotes as not reflecting the reality and biased.*

## 6.2. Access and Internet Use

This indicator measures the internet penetration level of the population, use of internet for dialogue and communication, access and use of computer and information technologies by country’s citizens.

### Indicator

*Percentage of individuals using the Internet*

### Process

The importance of internet for obtaining of alternative information is overwhelming, including the use of computer technologies for gaining access to cultural and social information, creative contents, formation of cultural and common interest communities.

The statistical data on computer and internet use in the country are collected by the State Statistics Committee via the Ministry of Taxes (Tax returns of internet and communication services providers) and Ministry of Telecommunications and Transport. According the stated methodology, the statistical study on number of internet users covers the age group from 16 to 74 years old as per guideline definitions of International Telecommunications Union (ITU).

### Results

Following results have been demonstrated as a result of study of internet access and use for years 2014-2016

**Table 6.1. Internet Access by Households**

Indicator	2014	2015	2016
Proportion of households with a computer (percent)	58.3	62.4	63.1
Proportion of individuals who use a computer (percent)	67.8	69.9	70.8
Proportion of households with Internet access at home (percent)	75.2	76.7	77.2
Proportion of individuals who use the Internet (percent)	75.0	77.0	78.0
<b>Distribution of internet users by points of access</b>			

<sup>18</sup> Freedom of the Press Index 2016, <https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-press/2016/azerbaijan>

Indicator	2014	2015	2016
<b>at home</b> (percent)	65.2	67.5	68.0
<b>internet cafe</b> (percent)	3.7	3.5	3.6
<b>at work</b> (percent)	18.1	17.1	17.3
<b>at place of education</b> (percent)	8.8	8.1	8.2
<b>at library</b> (percent)	0.5	0.5	0.5
<b>others (including via mobil)</b> (percent)	3.7	3.5	2.4
<b>Distribution of Internet users by purposes of use</b>			
<b>searching information</b> (percent)	29.0	29.4	30.4
<b>communicating</b> (percent)	29.7	29.8	29.1
<b>education and learning activities</b> (percent)	6.9	6.7	6.8
<b>ordering or purchasing goods or services</b> (percent)	18.7	18.1	18.3
<b>ordering or selling goods or services</b> (percent)	1.4	1.5	1.3
<b>dealing with public authorities (getting and sending information downloading documents)</b> (percent)	14.3	14.5	14.1

Source: Taxation records State Statistical Committee

### 6.3. Diversity of Fictional Content in Public Television Programming

To understand the ratio of local and foreign content in the country, several contributing factors are taken into consideration:

- Foreign languages influencing the target community due to historical, political and/or ethnic commonness.
- Cable and digital network access in the country
- Local TV-channels and local content availability in general

#### **International language instruction**

There are two major foreign languages, which influence the level of access of the population to fictional content: Russian and Turkish. There is a common term of “Russian-speaking Azerbaijanis” (people, who possess Russian language better than native language due to secondary and higher education background in Russian language) and “Azerbaijani-speaking Azerbaijanis” (people, who have studied in Azerbaijani schools, and in most cases, understand and speak only some Russian).

The Turkish language has a significant similarity to Azerbaijani, allowing Azerbaijanis and Turks talk to each other on common topics without interpretation. Basically, these two factors (Russian/Soviet heritage and language similarity with Turkish) contribute significantly to information access channel preferences of population. As a result, the main film and TV (series) content is coming from Russian speaking (Russia, Ukraine, some Kazakhstan) and Turkish speaking (Turkish TV channels, Digiturk cable television network, TV series (movies), which are the most popular among above two main language groups.

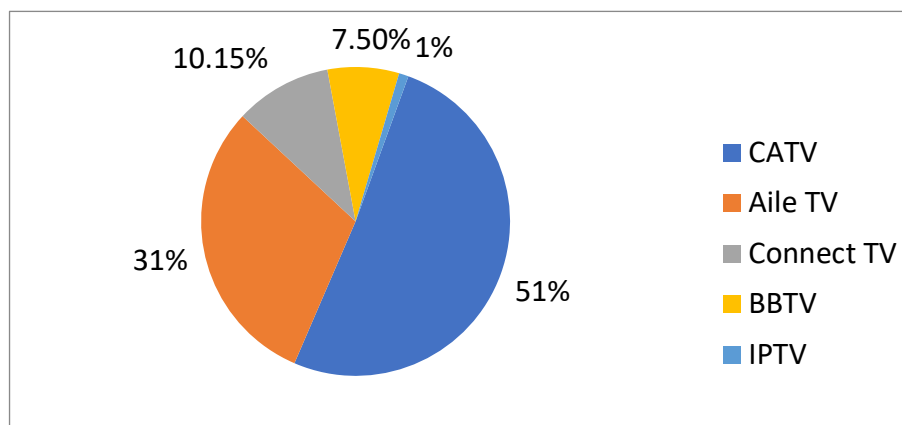
**Table 6.2 Households subscribed to Pay TV**

Years	Total number of Pay TV users (households):
2013	878
2014	983
2015	100 001
2016	1000 013

Source: Marketing study of BBTV Cable and Digital TV company

The distribution of share of the above number of households using Pay TV among major cable TV operators is as follows:

**Figure 6.1. Cable and Digital TV market in Azerbaijan**



Source: BBTV 2016

More and more people are purchasing Pay TV services for access to foreign content, according to conclusions of BBTV study. The same study indicates that mostly the Pay TV channels are used for access to Turkish TV series and international sports and Russian/Ukrainian news, show programs, TV series. Local TV channels can be viewed free of charge (11 channels).

**Film distribution**

The ratio of local feature-length films out of total state-distributed films (provided in percentage).

## **Process**

This indicator offers a general picture of the position of domestic film in relation to foreign film in the country. There are 10 modern cinema theatres in the country distributing official content, all part of the Park Cinema Group and 1 state-owned cinema, which is renovated and operational. The Park Cinema Group management was interviewed and provided the information on the content of their distribution giving the following results.

## **Results**

In 2016, there were 192 films distributed in the country by Park Cinema Group and only 2 films were related to local production, of which 1 film was a co-production. On the other hand, the state-owned cinema (under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism) has distributed 56 films over 2016, of which 54 films were of local release and 2 films of co-production. In this, the proportion of ticket sales for local films compared to foreign movies was 3.2%.<sup>19</sup>

## **7. Heritage Dimension**

Heritage is considered in Azerbaijan to be an important component of constantly reinforcing national identity, and increasingly in recent times as a binding element in intercultural dialogue for articulating common regional and global values. It is both a reference point and a resource (or asset), being simultaneously robust and fragile, manifold and unique in its diversity. The shift is seen in expanding the notion of heritage from safeguarding and protecting the monuments by the state to wider involvement of communities and from primarily material artefacts to a multitude of intangible expressions.

The policy implications for heritage include - nurturing active citizenship, harnessing economic potential), strengthening the knowledge base and professional skills, improving territorial governance.

The government adopted a list of state-protected monuments in August 2001, which covers architecture, archaeology, formal gardens and parks, ranking monuments according to their importance - world, national or local. According to national law monuments of world or national value may not be privatized. 6,308 historical and cultural monuments (21 of world architectural importance and 44 of world archaeological importance), garden-parks, monumental and memorial decorative-applied art monuments (national sculpture monuments) are on the national ratified list depending on their historical and cultural importance.

The State Service of Cultural Heritage Conservation, Development and Rehabilitation under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism was established according to the Presidential

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<sup>19</sup> Statistics of Park and Nizami Cinema Groups

Decree on improvement of the structure of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism, signed on 18 December 2014.

The score for Heritage Sustainability compound of various indicators regarding the protection, safeguarding and promotion of heritage sustainability is high: 0.90/1. The overall score is the median value of the following sub-indices: Registrations and Inscriptions – 0.87/1, Protection, Safeguarding and Management – 0,85/1, and Transmission and Mobilisation of Support – 1/1.

Heritage promotion has long been considered one of backbones of the national cultural strategy, binding-up various groups of population into the nation, and in promoting the country brand abroad. This focused interest is reflected in a rather high achievement reflected by this indicator.

### **7.1. Heritage Sustainability**

The score 0.87/1 indicates that the country clearly realises the importance of proper registration and inscription of cultural heritage assets. In two cases although there has been no action in recent years there are ongoing activities. Firstly, while there have been no updated tentative lists of cultural and natural heritage submitted to UNESCO in the last 5 years the previous tentative list is not exhausted, so there was no urgent need to renew it. Secondly, while no project from Azerbaijan has been identified as best practice in safeguarding Intangible Cultural Heritage there has been good progress for ICH elements inscribed into the Representative List of UNESCO, such as the music tradition of Mugam, which has flourished in the recent years thanks to special efforts by the public and private sources.

### **7.2. Protection, Safeguarding and Management**

Filling-in the questionnaire section on Protection, safeguarding and management of heritage has produced the score 0,85/1 which suggests a high level of commitment in this activity area, but highlights a few missing elements; the absence of special units in police and customs service to address illicit trafficking of cultural goods and *ad hoc* training sessions in the armed forces on the protection of the heritage. These elements are beyond the immediate responsibility of the Ministry of Culture and Tourism and require more active cooperation with other state agencies. Another important gap is the lack of special management committees with the representation of local communities, and understanding of a more participatory, inclusive approach towards heritage management is only now entering the agenda of cultural policy-making in the country.

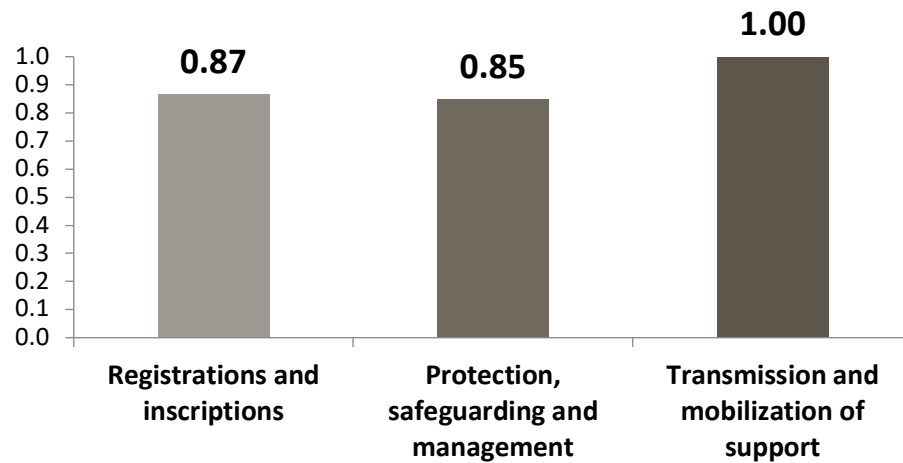
### **7.3. Transmission and Mobilisation of Support**

Sub-index of Transmission and Mobilisation of Support gained 1/1 and is thus the most successful area of implementation. There is, of course, always room for further

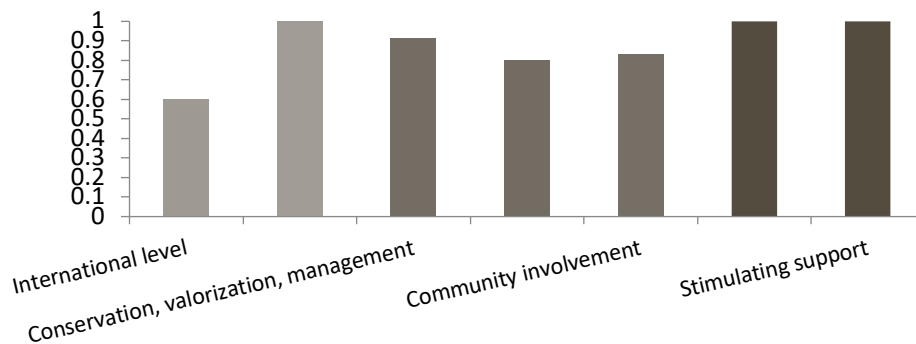


improvement and CDIS questions, which require answers like ‘at least one’ do not examine the quality of actions or adequacy of measures against the existing needs). Nevertheless, highest score signifies the clear and sound vision on the policy level of minimum level of required tools for ensuring effective transmission and mobilisation of support in the sphere of heritage safeguarding and promotion.

**Figure 7.1. Index of development of a multidimensional framework for heritage sustainability**



Source: UNESCO (2017), Ministry of Culture & Tourism of Azerbaijan (2017)



Source: UNESCO (2017), Ministry of Culture & Tourism of Azerbaijan (2017)