

2015 ANNUAL REPORT OF TRANSPARENCY AZERBAIJAN

Message from the chair

On behalf of the Board and members of Transparency Azerbaijan I would like to thank you for your interest in our work. The year 2015 was important for our organization and Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan continues its efforts to ensure consistency of measures in the combat against corruption and promotion of good governance, to increase transparency in the work of government agencies and to promote principles of open government. Major achievements of 2015 by the government of Azerbaijan were adoption of legal acts regulating business, including changes to the Tax Code, simplifying tax calculation and payment, as well as taxation from the sales of real estate (constructions), and the reduction of inspections (other than tax) for the businesses. Another success this year was facilitation of the licensing process for the small and medium entrepreneurs in seeking licenses and permits for entrepreneurial activities.

In 2015, TI Azerbaijan continued implementing a project entitled Azerbaijan Partnership for Transparency (APT) with the financial support of United States Agency for International Development (USAID), and continued to run its Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALAC) in Baku, Ganja, and Guba, including realization of project components, such as monitoring domestic and international anti-corruption obligations by the government of Azerbaijan and raising public awareness of corruption and its consequences among the citizens through media and social networks. We completed the Assessment of National Integrity System in Azerbaijan that is a part of a big regional study to assess the system of governance in Azerbaijan, thanks to support from the EU through Transparency International Secretariat. We also fulfilled our project commitments within the projects namely, Building Local Capacity Development (BLCD) implemented by Chemonics International and Support to Small and Medium Entrepreneurships (SME) supported by Entrepreneurship Development Foundation.

We lived through difficult times this year due to devaluation of Manat twice, in February and December. Despite economic problems in country, we survived and continue our good work. Transparency Azerbaijan is pleased with strengthening its strategic cooperation with the Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Anti-corruption department under the Prosecutor General's Office, and building partnership with the Ministry of Taxes and State Service of Real Estate under State Property Committee.

Fuad Suleymanov,

Chairman of the Board



About Transparency International

Transparency International is an international non-governmental organization, leading anti-corruption movement all over the globe. The Berlin-based Transparency International Secretariat coordinates anti-corruption activities in more than 100 countries through its national chapters. The chapters are independent local NGOs, free to choose their own polices and to raise funds for their activities. Transparency International is based on the principle that, as corruption is a country-specific phenomenon, local organizations can be much more efficient than any efforts made or imposed from the outside.

About TI Azerbaijan

TI Azerbaijan was established in October 2000 by representatives of civil society and academia, fully accredited as a national chapter in October, 2001, and re-accredited in March 2013. We work mainly in the areas of raising public awareness, researching into the reasons and forms of corruption in Azerbaijan, as well as ways to reduce this destructive social phenomenon. We also render legal aid to witnesses and victims of corruption and assist the Government of Azerbaijan (GoAJ) in drafting policy and legislative acts.

Corruption Perception Index 2015

On 27 January 2016, Transparency International released its most well-known product – the “Corruption Perception Index” 2015, which ranks countries in terms of the degree to which business people and country analysts, both residents and non-residents, perceive corruption to exist in the public and political sectors. The CPI 2015 is presented on a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being very corrupt and 100 being very clean. This year Azerbaijan received a score of 29, and was ranked 119th out of 168 countries. The country performance remained the same as in the previous year.

Table 1. Corruption Perception Index (CPI) 2000-2015, ranking and score of Azerbaijan

Year	Place among other countries	No of countries surveyed the year	Score from 0 (very poor) to 10 (excellent)
2000	87	90	1.5
2001	84	91	2.0
2002	95	102	2.0
2003	124	133	1.8
2004	140	146	1.9
2005	137	159	2.2
2006	130	163	2.4
2007	148	179	2.1
2008	159	180	1.9

2009	143	180	2.3
2010	134	178	2.4
2011	143	183	2.4
2012	139	176	27 ¹
2013	128	177	28
2014	126	175	29
2015	119	168	29

Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index 2015

On 3 December, 2015 Transparency International released a new Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index (GI) within its Defense and Security Programme (TI-DSP). The Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index (GI) assesses the existence and effectiveness of institutional and informal controls to manage the risk of corruption in defense and security institutions and of their enforcement. Using a 77-point questionnaire to assess corruption vulnerabilities across the world's defense sectors, TI-DSP ranked 128 countries' corruption preparedness on a scale from A (low risk) to F (critical risk). Azerbaijan received an E, which means the country faces "very high" risks of corruption across its defense sector.

Table 2. Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index (GI) 2015, ranking and score of Azerbaijan

Country (Members)	BAND	Level of corruption risk	Country (partners)	BAND	Level of Corruption Risk
UK	A	Very low	Finland	B	Low
Belgium	B	Low	Switzerland	B	Low
Canada	B	Low	Sweden	B	Low
Denmark	B	Low	Austria	C	Moderate
Germany	B	Low	Bosnia & Herzeg.	C	Moderate
Latvia	B	Low	Georgia	C	Moderate
Norway	B	Low	Serbia	C	Moderate
Poland	B	Low	Armenia	D	High
USA	B	Low	Ukraine	D	High
Bulgaria	C	Moderate	Afghanistan	E	Very high
Croatia	C	Moderate	Azerbaijan	E	Very high
Czech Republic	C	Moderate	Uzbekistan	E	Very high
France	C	Moderate			
Greece	C	Moderate			
Hungary	C	Moderate			
Italy	C	Moderate			
Lithuania	C	Moderate			
Spain	C	Moderate			
Portugal	D	High			
Turkey	D	High			

¹ The methodology of Index compilation changed in 2012, therefore the country's score is not comparable with the old data; however, rankings can be compared.

Transparency Azerbaijan's specific place among the country's civil society institutions

TI Azerbaijan is the first civil society organization in the country, which started to assist people in building up resistance against corrupt practices of petty officials by providing them with legal advice through the ALAC and LRC projects. The Chapter has clearly demonstrated that civil society does not only serve as an efficient barrier between the populace and corrupt officials, but also enhances the productivity of government – NGO cooperation in combating corruption. TI Azerbaijan has changed attitudes of parts of society towards corruption and demonstrated that extortions by officials can and shall be successfully contested without any repercussions.

Our projects in 2015

1. APT (ALACs in Baku, Ganja, Guba; project partners CRF, ERC, Internews and IAYTE), donor – USAID/Caucasus, \$1.5 million, period 14 September, 2012 – 15 September, 2016;
2. Azerbaijan National Integrity System Assessment (part of the project National Integrity System Assessments in European Neighbourhood East region), donor - EU, Euro 115,900.26, period 1 March, 2013 – 28 February, 2015; (implementation of commitments continued through 2015);
3. Building Local Capacity for Development (BLCD), donor - Chemonics, AZN 9,354, period 15 January, 2014 – 15 July, 2015;
4. Support to SMEs, TI Az Ganja center, Donor EDF, \$24,000, period 15 March 2014 - 14 January 2016.

I. AZERBAIJAN PARTNERSHIP FOR TRANSPARENCY (APT) PROJECT

Azerbaijan Partnership for Transparency (APT) Project was launched at the end of 2012. The project enables activities over a four year period that offer to strengthen the vital role of key civil society organizations in the fight against corruption, as well as promote government's increased responsiveness to people's demands for transparency, accountability and integrity. Under APT project we work on different project components: (a) anti-corruption policy development and strategy implementation; (b) monitoring and evaluation (including data collection and analysis); (c) public awareness and outreach; (d) media, including social media; (e) track record in working with the Government and also continue to run three ALAC centres in Baku, Ganja and Guba.

In the first two years of APT Project, TI Azerbaijan worked in close partnership with four partner organizations (ERC, Internews, IAYTE and CRF). From the second half of 2014, TI Azerbaijan stepped in to carry on the components previously implemented by ERC, Internews and IAYTE, as force majeure circumstances brought their operations to a halt. Its partnership under APT project with CRF continues.

Monitoring of implementation of National Action Plan on Combating Corruption 2012-2015

APT partner organization “Constitution” Research Foundation (CRF) monitors the implementation of National Action Plan on Combating Corruption 2012-2015. CRF represents Anti-corruption Network, uniting 23 specialized NGOs. Main activities implemented by CRF in 2015:



- *Photos above:* On May 1, 2015, a roundtable involving government and civil society was organized by CRF at International Media Center. The monitoring report on the implementation of National Action Plan on Combating Corruption 2012-2015 (NAP), covering the period from September 2013 to December 2014 was presented to the interested parties.
- CRF began analyzing the National Action Plan on Combating Corruption 2012-2015 for the next period and gathered stakeholders' (CSO representatives) views on the monitoring. The results of the monitoring covering the period from December 2014 to December 2015 will be released in 2016.

Monitoring of implementation of OGP National Action Plan 2012-2015

TI Azerbaijan expert team continues their work on monitoring the implementation of the commitments by the GOAJ under Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Action Plan 2012-2015. Main activities implemented in 2015:



- *Photos above:* On May 14, 2015 TI Azerbaijan presented monitoring report on the implementation of “Open Government Partnership Initiative National Action Plan 2012 – 2015” in the roundtable attended by state agencies, civil society (including the mass media) and international organizations/embassies. The monitoring report covers the period from September 2013 to December 2014. The copies of the report were distributed to the representatives of the Commission on Combating Corruption and other state agencies.

Working through media

TI Azerbaijan carries on the media coverage of anti-corruption developments in the country. A sub-category created on its website – www.transparency.az/cnews/ is used as an awareness raising and information dissemination tool on corruption issues. In 2015, TI Azerbaijan’s media team produced 9 online news bulletins with more than 911 pieces of news, interviews and research articles on anti-corruption issues.

Engaging youth in anti-corruption activities

TI Azerbaijan arranges youth anti-corruption events within the APT project, as part of the series designed to increase youth awareness of transparent and accountable practices in governance. Overall in 2015, TA organized 8 youth anti-corruption workshops with participation of 260 students and in collaboration with 2 universities (Khazar University and Baku State University) and 4 state institutions (Head Anti-corruption Department under the Office of Prosecutor General, Civil Service Commission, ASAN Service Center in Barda and Data Processing Center under Ministry of Communication and High Technologies). Main youth anti-corruption activities implemented by TI Azerbaijan in 2015:

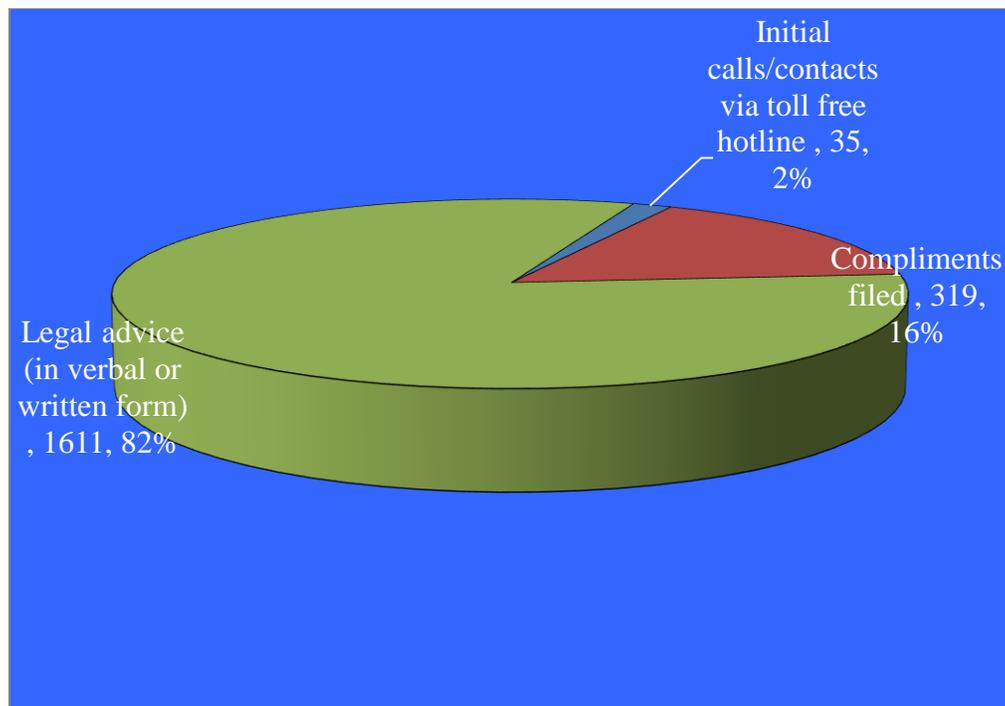


- *Photos above:* On April 30, 2015, TI Azerbaijan held the seminar entitled “The role of hotlines in the fight against corruption” in partnership with Head Anti-corruption Department under the Office of Prosecutor General at Baku State University. In the workshop attended by 45 students, Ramin Huseynov, chief prosecutor at the Office of Organizational Information Support at the Head Anti-corruption Department, discussed the role of hotlines and their efficiency, how to make effective use of hotlines and answered questions from the audience.

Legal Aid Centres

Legal aid is the activity by which a citizen is given help on how to use the legal procedures efficiently to protect their rights once they encounter potential or actual corruption. Citizens receive case-specific legal advice, both at the TI Azerbaijan centres and during on-site legal sessions.

Figure 1. Number of ALAC clients in 2015 by type of service (total 1965)



Our centres in Guba and Ganja held mobile legal aid sessions to outreach the rural population. 8 onsite legal sessions benefiting 187 people were organized in 2015.



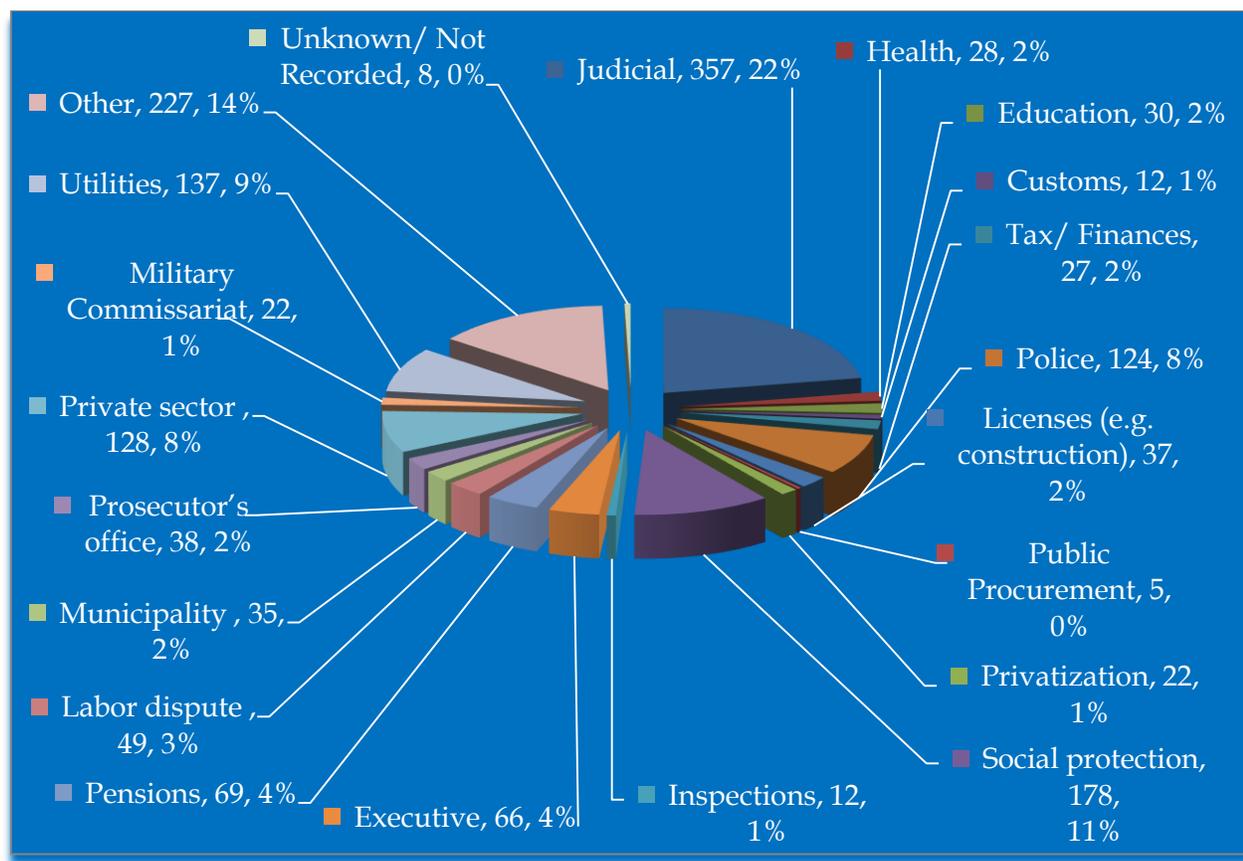
Photos above: On April 17, 2015, Guba APT staff conducted the anti-corruption legal aid session for secondary school staff (29 participants, of them 23 women and 6 men) at Boyuk Hamya village of Siyazan district. APT Guba staff informed the participants about the problem of corruption and anti-corruption measures envisaged in the National Anti-

Corruption Action Plan for 2012-2015, as well as APT project, mobile workshops hosted in different villages and achieved outcomes. Participants sought legal advice on corruption in notary public, land registration, natural gas supply, police and other sectors.

Anti-corruption analysis

Statistical data is gathered and processed by all three centres to identify customer profile and areas in utmost need of profound anti-corruption reforms. As observed from the diagram below, the judicial system remains the object of most grievances. A substantial portion of complaints were made of social protection, utilities, police and private sector.

Figure 2. Areas of complaints brought to ALACs in 2015 (total 1611 complaints)



Targeted Civic Education Workshops

Work under this program element seeks to foster a culture that is generally law-abiding, including through legal literacy, public awareness, constituency building, and citizen engagement in legal processes. Results of this activity are expected to increase public anti-corruption education and enhance public engagement in the fight against corruption.

Our centres in Guba and Ganja held mobile civic education workshops to outreach the rural population. 8 civic education workshops benefiting 257 people were delivered in 2015.



Photos above: On May 15, 2015, Ganja APT staff organized the workshop for beneficiaries of Family Support Project of Ganja SOS Children’s Village from Samukh and Goygol. Ganja APT team informed the participants (19 people, of them 17 women and 2 men) about APT project, mobile workshops hosted in Ganja and the adjacent districts and the project achievements, as well as the rules of issuing an identity document and Law on State Fees. The audience asked questions covering the issues such as rules of changing an identity document, inaction over implementation of court ordered alimony payment, the right of inheritance, refusal by respective state body to issue birth certificate, documents required for assigning lump sum allowance for the newly born and criteria for granting targeted social assistance. At the end, participants were handed out APT booklets and flyers.

Advocacy

In 2015, TI Azerbaijan continued to arrange anti-corruption roundtables around issues identified by TI Azerbaijan legal specialists as most pertinent and of immediate interest to the general public (labor relations, supply of gas and water to population, registration of private houses, taxation of real estate, registration of undocumented real estate, etc.). Each roundtable produced sets of recommendations which were developed and further submitted to the government. Some of the implemented recommendations are described below.

Pursuant to TI Azerbaijan recommendations to clearly delineate functions of the State Land and Mapping Committee and State Registry of Real Estate, as those two agencies doubled each other's functions when processing title documents for land, the Land Committee was abolished and respective functions was given to the Registry, other functions delegated to two respective agencies (Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and State Border Service).²

TI Azerbaijan suggested reducing the term sets forth for provision by local executive authorities of opinion on reconstruction of private houses from 1 month to 15 days and of permission for construction from 3 months to 2 months. Changes have been made to the

² Presidential decree on the elimination of the State Land and Mapping Committee, 5 February 2015, www.president.gov.az

legislation and now the law sets forth the term for opinion on re-construction plan at 15 days as suggested and for construction permit at 1 month.³

Upon the Ministry of Taxes' new interpretation of some provisions of the 2001 Tax Code and application of profit tax principle onto calculation of tax from the sales of real estate, TI Azerbaijan recommended instead introducing a flat rate based on the size (footage), geography and destination (residential, commercial, and agricultural). This recommendation was adopted with regards to buildings/constructions, entering into force as of 1 January 2016.⁴

TI Azerbaijan roundtable in 2013 emphasized that control over licensing of notary publics and their professional level should be tightened. Ministry of Justice made changes to the "Rules of examination and interviews to get certificate in order to engage in notary activity". According to the changes, a candidate for the certificate is supposed to fill in an application to the respective executive authority and indicate the notary public office they apply for. A change made to the application allows the candidate with low score (below the score required for the position applied) to work at a different notary counter, if proposed. Also, computer based test is mandatory for all applicants.⁵

TI Azerbaijan believed that Ministry of Justice should closely cooperate with the Ministry of Health in order to take measures to minimize the hereditary diseases. Changes have been made to the Family Code to ensure mandatory health check-up and provision of medical assistance, including medical-genetic and medical-physiologic consultations, to people willing to enter into a marriage. Alongside with this, concrete results of the health check-up are recognized as confidential. Only a medical certification of adequate health condition shall be submitted to the respective body along with the application for marriage registration.⁶ Subsequently, TI Azerbaijan published a booklet on obtaining medical certificate for people willing to conclude marriage.⁷

TI Azerbaijan consistently stated the need to simplify eligibility procedures for disability status. The Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population is developing an information system on results of disability eligibility examinations. The Medical Social Examination Commission under the Ministry of Labor will be able to access this database and receive relevant information on health condition of citizens, who apply for disability status and make appropriate decisions based on this information.⁸ In addition, TA recommended including PWD as one of demographic groups of the population, according to which

³ The Law on Changes to the Code on Urban Building and Construction, and articles 75.4; 75.6; 80.4; 82.2, 28 April 2015, <http://e-qanun.az/framework/30059>

⁴ Amendments to the Tax Code dated 7 December 2015.

⁵ Ministry of Justice, Collegial decision on "Rules of examination and interviews to get certificate in order to engage in notary activity" 30 June 2015, Decision number 8, <http://e-qanun.az/framework/30376>

⁶ The Law on Changes to the Family Code, Article 13, adopted on 17 October 2014, entered into force 1 January 2015, <http://president.az/articles/13697>

⁷ <http://transparency.az/alac/files/nigah%20proseduru.pdf>

⁸ Decree of President dated 14 September 2015, www.president.az

minimum living standards are defined. This recommendation was attended to in calculations of the minimum living standard for 2015⁹ where PWD are singled out as a separate group with the highest minimum living standard (at 140 AZN) as compared to other groups.

TI Azerbaijan roundtable in 2015 (under NIS project) underlined the need to simplify licensing procedures for businesses. By presidential decree dated 31 August 2015, Azerbaijan is to create a specialized portal "E-License" tool under the portal "Electronic Government".¹⁰ Another development in business sector, subsequent to TI Azerbaijan recommendation to keep accurate records of inspections of the private sector and minimize them, is an access given to the Ministry of Economy and Industry to utilize Single Information Registry on Inspections of Entrepreneurial Sphere, operated by the Ministry of Justice.¹¹



Photos above: On 28 July 2015, TI Azerbaijan held a roundtable discussion, where its draft recommendations dealing with problems in registration of private houses were presented. In the event attended by NGO, mass media representatives and officials of state agencies (and enterprises), TA experts discussed the difficulties in the area of the construction of private houses and their operation as well as real estate registry and presented the draft recommendations on simplification of the respective procedures, as well as on increasing transparency and the level of electronic services in the field of registration of private houses.

Upon request from the National Anti-corruption Commission, TI Azerbaijan provided substantial input into draft Action Plans for 2016-2019 under Open Government Partnership Initiative and National Anti-corruption Strategy.

⁹ The Law on Minimum Living Standard for 2015, Article 1, enters into force as of 1 January 2015, www.e-qanun.az

¹⁰ Presidential decree on some measures to electronize procedures for residential registration and licensing in order to improve transparency in rendering public services dated 31 August 2015 <http://www.president.az/articles/16022>

¹¹ Presidential decree on changes to the Statutes on the format and rules of maintenance of the Single Information Registry on Inspections of Entrepreneurial Sphere ship Businesses dated 10 August 2015 <http://president.az/articles/15959>

II. AZERBAIJAN NATIONAL INTEGRITY SYSTEM ASSESSMENT

National Integrity System Assessment project is a study that aims to assess systemic corruption risks faced by a country and to produce a set of recommendations on how to mitigate those risks in the future. While acknowledging the challenges of the comprehensive assessment of governance institutions, National Integrity System Assessment points out key gaps in the anti-corruption legal framework, as well as weak spots in the execution of those laws, and it provides a road map for future reforms. Those recommendations can then be used by actors in government, civil society and the private sector for promoting integrity in the country. Main activities in 2015:

- A framework document on «Business Principles for Countering Bribery» has been prepared and offered to Azerbaijani companies to sign on. Companies adopting the framework document should develop and implement an anti-bribery programme to counter the risk of bribery.
- Promotional video of the Project assessing National Integrity System in terms of resources, institutional ability, governance, transparency, integrity mechanisms was presented. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rQHpGL669uE>)
- Policy Paper on Whistleblower was prepared and put to a public discussion. The Policy Paper proposes a conceptual framework on whistleblowers and whistles blowing, and analyzes the current situation in Azerbaijan, as well as recommends main principles for whistleblower legislation in Azerbaijan. In this regard, Transparency Azerbaijan is working closely with the Anti-Corruption Commission to draft the whistleblower protection law.
- «Easy Business by ASAN service centres» concept paper has been proposed by Transparency Azerbaijan. The paper suggests that business-oriented public information as well as public services and public support (financial and legal) which are needed in business activities are provided through one-window system by ASAN service centers.
- “A trilateral integrity tender pact” has been presented to the officials responsible for public procurement in state agencies in organization of public tenders humanitarian sector. According to the mechanism, the contract is signed between a client – public agency, contractor – private company and monitoring agency – NGO; before the tender process starts all parties shall agree that the conclusion and implementation of the contract will be corruption free, otherwise legal responsibility will follow.



- *Photos above:* On 29 June, 2015, TI Azerbaijan arranged closing event of the project. Mahammad Muradov, coordinator of the project presented a six months progress report on «E-services and e-government development in Azerbaijan». Rana Safaraliyeva, Executive Director of TI Azerbaijan, Jeroen Willems, Head of Operation Section of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, İlgar Abdullayev, Head of the State Register Department under Data Processing Center of the Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, Fariz Jafarov, Deputy Director of Department on E-services Development and Social Innovations of the State Agency on Citizens' Services and Social Innovations delivered speeches at the event.

III. BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT (BLCD)

TI Azerbaijan joined the Building Local Capacity for Development (BLCD) project, financed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and implemented by Chemonics International Inc., with the aim to enhance its institutional capacity in the short term and contribute to increasing the quality and influence of the organization and further develop its partners' capacity to be capable partners in Azerbaijan's democratic transition over the long-term.

The objective of the grant is to strengthen and increase TI Azerbaijan's organizational and technical capacity to become providers or in-demand services (trainings, consultations and advocacy campaigns), to increase capacity to manage direct awards from international donors, and become more effective contributor to the dialogue on national and local policy issues. In order to stay afloat in the highly competitive global NGO community and to increase productivity and efficiency of the donor funds, TI Azerbaijan strives to strengthen its organizational capacity and share its newly acquired skills with the APT project partners and other NGOs through a training program. In 2015, TI Azerbaijan finalized the BLCD project.

Main activities in 2015:

- Internal Rules & Regulations Manual has been produced, translated into Azerbaijani language and sent to all staff members.
- Code of Conduct and Donation and Fund Raising Strategy have been updated on TI Azerbaijan's website and made available to public.
- Internal assessment in Baku, Guba and Ganja offices has been conducted close to the end of the project.

As a result of the project, TI Azerbaijan:

- increased its organizational capacity;
- improved adherence to NGO Good Governance Principles;
- improved organizational capacity to implement the operational policies and procedures;
- improved quality of administrative systems and staff knowledge of these systems;
- improved its ability to maintain a satisfied and



- skilled workforce, manage operations & staff time;
- improved prospect for sustainability through effectiveness of financial management and diversified funding base;
- improved quality of organization’s strategy and work plan;
- increased number of organizations that support, coordinate & partner with TI Azerbaijan;
- increased # of areas the organization having progressed in program management capacity;
- staff are compliant with and adhered to reporting templates, sub-grant management guideline and donor compliance procedures and quality services manual;
- increased users’ satisfaction with its services validated by survey;
- improved its capacity to monitor, analyze, and document the project progress by using standards, and setting indicators, key outputs & outcomes.

We are proud to announce that at the project start in summer 2013 TI Azerbaijan internal organizational capacity was 1.9; mid-term evaluation of summer 2014 showed the improvement up to 2.34 and the project end score was 3.45 out of maximum 4. Thus, the level of TI Azerbaijan organization capacity is *moderate bordering on strong* (from 3.5).

IV. SUPPORT TO SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SME), TI AZ GANJA CENTER

TI Azerbaijan Ganja centre is co-funded from the APT project to render legal advice to citizens, as well as implements a special project targeting business circles and renders legal advice to small and medium enterprises. The project is supported by the Entrepreneurship Development Foundation. Main activities implemented by Ganja Center in 2015:



Photos above: On June 25, 2015, Ganja Center’s 2 volunteers organized the public outreach event in multiple venues across Ganja city, where about 50 local entrepreneurs were handed out booklets captioned “Let’s say no to bribe!”, informed about the center, pro-bono legal aid, as well as hot-lines and legal tools available to combat corruption.

Our volunteers

Since its inception in 2000 and by the end of 2015, the number of TI Azerbaijan trained volunteers reached up to 548, including 17 new volunteers of 2015.

Media coverage

In 2015, TI Azerbaijan activities were covered by 144 media hits, including print, TV and electronic media with some of the most interesting links provided below.

- Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan reached 71%, results of TI Azerbaijan's monitoring
<http://anspress.com/index.php?a=2&lng=az&cid=1&nid=341790>
- Ways of Solving Problems in Registration of Individual Houses, by TI Azerbaijan
http://contact.az/docs/2015/Economics&Finance/072800124397en.htm#.VrjAr_mLTIU
- "We are still considered a corrupted country, even though the government take steps", TI Azerbaijan expert
<http://ann.az/az/hkumet-addimlar-atsa-da-hele-de-korrupsiyalasmis-lke-sayiliriq-ekspert/#.VrjBnPmLTIU>

Our Partners in 2015

- ✓ Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- ✓ Anti-corruption Department under General Prosecutor's Office
- ✓ Civil Service Commission
- ✓ Ministry of Justice
- ✓ Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of Population
- ✓ Ministry of Communications and High Technologies
- ✓ Ministry of Economy
- ✓ Ministry of Tax
- ✓ Ministry of Emergency Situations
- ✓ Azerigas PU
- ✓ Azersu OJSC
- ✓ Azerishiq OJSC
- ✓ State Committee on Property Issues
- ✓ State Registry of Real Estate
- ✓ State Committee for Architecture and Urban Building
- ✓ State Agency on Citizens' Services and Social Innovations
- ✓ Barda "ASAN service" center
(under the State Agency on Citizens' Services and Social Innovations)
- ✓ Department on E-services Development and Social Innovations
(under the State Agency on Citizens' Services and Social Innovations)
- ✓ "Constitution" Research Foundation
- ✓ Entrepreneurship Development Foundation
- ✓ SOS Children's Village, Ganja office
- ✓ Support to Women and Children Center
(under State Committee of Family, Women and Children Affairs)
- ✓ Social Rehabilitation Center for Children with Disability
(under United Aid for Azerbaijan (UAFA))

- ✓ Khazar University
- ✓ Baku State University

Cooperation with state agencies

TI Azerbaijan has established good working relations with several public agencies that were expanded in 2015 pursuant to round tables organized with Anti-corruption Commission, Azerishiq OJSC, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, State Agency for Citizens' Services and Innovations, Ministry of Taxes, Azerigas PU, State Registry of Real Estate.

Monitoring of recruitment to public agencies

In 2015, the same as before, TI Azerbaijan was invited by the State Civil Service Commission to be a part of independent observers at the recruitment process to various agencies, including Office of Prosecutor General and Ministry of Justice.

2015 publications by Transparency Azerbaijan

- A framework document on «Business Principles for Countering Bribery»
http://transparency.az/alac/files/2013_Business_Principles_EN.pdf
- Policy Paper on Whistleblowers http://transparency.az/alac/files/nis_ifseng.pdf
- “A trilateral integrity tender pact” concept paper, presented to the officials responsible for public procurement in state agencies in organization of public tenders humanitarian sector <http://transparency.az/alac/files/Satinalmalar%20Policy%20Paper.doc>
- «Easy Business by ASAN service centres» concept paper
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/Policy%20Paper%20for%20ASAN%20EN.pdf>
- A six months progress report on «E-services and e-government development in Azerbaijan»
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/Progress%20Report%20on%20E-Government%20EN.doc>
- Monitoring Report on Implementation of the National Anti-Corruption Action Plan for 2012-2015 (covering period September 2013 –December 2014)
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/ENG%20%20A5.pdf>
- Monitoring Report on the implementation of Azerbaijan Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 (covering period September 2013 – December 2014)
http://transparency.az/alac/files/OGP_Report_%20Eng%20final.pdf
- Report on the Results of Monitoring on the Implementation of Recommendations to public agencies <http://transparency.az/alac/files/Report%20ENG.docx>
- The conclusion and recommendations of a roundtable dated 28 January 2015 on “Increasing transparency in water supply”
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/TovsiyeAzersufinal.doc>
- The conclusion and recommendations of a roundtable dated 2 April 2015 on Labor Relations <http://transparency.az/alac/files/emek.pdf>
- The conclusion and recommendations of a roundtable dated 28 July 2015 on Registration of Private Houses

<http://transparency.az/alac/files/F%C6%8FRD%C4%B0%20EVL%C6%8FR-%20final.pdf>

- The conclusion and recommendations of a roundtable dated 20 November 2015 on Taxation of Real Estate
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/Dashinmaz%20emlak%20Tovsiye%2021%20Dek%20%202015%20son.pdf>
- The conclusion and recommendations of a roundtable dated 24 December 2015 on increasing transparency and accountability in gas supply
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/tovsiye%20son.pdf>
- The document describing the new rates to property and land taxes with detailed explanation and the calculation procedure, along with examples
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/Dashinmaz%20emlak%20vergisi%20AZE.pdf>
- Booklet on obtaining medical certificate for people willing to conclude marriage
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/nigah%20proseduru.pdf>
- The document describing household and utility taxes
<http://transparency.az/alac/files/Istismar%20vergisi%20Aze.pdf>

The link of online news bulletins:

<http://transparency.az/cnews/bulleten/>

Administrative issues

Transparency Azerbaijan was re-registered by the Ministry of Justice on 21 May 2014. TI Azerbaijan is chagrined to announce that the board of directors has served its second term by the end of the 2015. TI Azerbaijan staff would like to express gratitude to the board members for their services and welcome the new board members to be elected soon.

Members of the Board and Executive

Table 2.

	Name	Main occupation	Role within TI Azerbaijan
1	Fuad Suleymanov	Ph.D. in Legal Studies, independent lawyer	Founder, Chairman of Board
2	Sabit Bagirov	Entrepreneurship and Market Economy Development Assistance Foundation, ex-chairman of Board, PhD in Engineering, President	Founder Ex-chairman of the Board Board member
3	Durdana Mamedova	Head of Department on Constitutional Issues, Constitution Court of Azerbaijan Republic, PhD in Law	Founder Board member
4	Alimamed Nuriyev	President, Constitution Research Fund, Coordinator, Information and Cooperation Network of Anti-Corruption NGOs	Board member
5	Rena Safaraliyeva	Associate Professor of Chair of English Stylistics, Full Doctor in Linguistics	Founder, Executive Director, Limited rights Board member

Our employees and contact details

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Page on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/TransparencyAzerbaijan>

E-mail: info@transparency.az

Table 3.

Baku central office				
Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1009 Jafar Jabbarly street 16, floor 1, apt 7				
Tel: (994 12) 497 81 70; 497 68 15 Tel/Fax: (994 12) 596 20 38 Toll free: (088) 707 07 07				
	Position	Name	Education	E-mail
1	Executive Director	Rena Safaraliev	Ph. D. degree in General Linguistics from Foreign Languages University, Moscow and Full Doctor degree, Azerbaijan Languages University	rena@transparency.az
2	Project Director	Elvin Yusifli	Duquesne University, Master of Social and Public Policy, PA, USA	elvin@transparency.az
3	Senior Lawyer	Azer Talibov	PhD student in Law, Baku State University	azer@transparency.az
4	Junior lawyer	Ayten Alizamanli	Bachelor Degree in Law, Baku State University	ayten@transparency.az
5	Finance & Admin Manager	Zamina Aliyeva	Baku Computer College, Diploma in Administration and IT	zamina@transparency.az
6	Electronic services project coordinator	Mahammad Muradov	University of Paris-Sud 11 Master degree in diplomacy and strategic negotiations	mahammad@transparency.az
7	Accountant	Natavan Hajiyeva	Master's degree in Accounting, Public Economy Institute, Tashkent	natavan@transparency.az
8	Grantees Manager/PR and Media Specialist	Zumrud Ismayilova	MA in International Relations and European Studies, Central European University	zumrud@transparency.az
9	ICT and Social Networks coordinator	Nikita Kurbatov	Bachelor in Electrical Engineering, Azerbaijan Oil Academy	nikita@transparency.az
10	Youth component coordinator	Bahktiyar Aslanov	Master degree in Peace Studies, Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden	Bakhtiyar@transparency.az

Ganja center Ganja - H.Aliyev pr. 103/2 Tel/fax: (+994 22) 266 26 05 Toll free: (088) 202 02 02				
12	Lawyer/Office Director	Sevinj Sersan	Bachelor's degree in Law, Azerbaijan International University	sevinj@transparency.az
11	Project Assistant	Lala Abdullayeva	Bachelor's degree in Journalism, Baku State University	lala@transparency.az
Guba centre Guba AZ 4000, Azerbaijan Fatalikhan str, 65 Tel/ fax: (994 169) 35 14 91 Toll free: (088) 404 04 04				
13	Lawyer/Office Director	Eldar Kerimov	Master's degree in Law, St. Petersburg State University	eldar@transparency.az
14	Assistant	Imran Askerov	Certificate in Collective Farm Inspecting, Baku Executive Committee Trade Enterprise Training Centre	imran@transparency.az

Financial Data:

Table 4. Summary of TI Az 2015 financial data in Euro

Revenue	Euro 642,178
Equity/reserves at the beginning of the reporting period	Euro 36,734
Expenses	Euro 389,005
Net reserves at the end of the reporting period	Euro 289,907
Surplus/Deficit for the year	Euro 253,173

Control mechanisms

Financial statements and originals of supporting documents are regularly checked by donors (USAID, European Commission) in line with their procedures. Some of the projects are audited individually. The project activities as well as annual financial activities in 2015 at Transparency Azerbaijan are subject to an independent audit (to be) conducted in June 2016 and the results are added to annual report.

Compiled by:

Zumrud Ismayilova
APT Grantees Manager/PR and Media Specialist