

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 2008 was important for Azerbaijan and for our organization.

This year we continued to operate our five Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALACs) in Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran, Guba, and Sheki. We also continued our outreach program of free on-site legal sessions, especially in rural areas, which included training groups of public officials such as the police, the military, teachers, officials of the Real Estate Registry, and others.

We are especially pleased that the Azerbaijan chapter gained credibility with sister TI chapters by organizing training programs on how to set up an ALAC. This year we provided two five-day programs in Baku for our colleagues from TI Kazakhstan and TI Guatemala.

This year we were awarded a grant from Statoil Apsheron a.s. to create the “Anti-Corruption How-to-Guide” and a grant from OJSC Garadagh Cement to publish a catalogue of cartoons “Face-to-Face with Corruption”.

We are proud that the “National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption for 2007-2011” refers to Transparency Azerbaijan as a “strategic partner” of the State in the area of combating corruption.

Fuad Suleymanov,
Chairman of Board

About Transparency International

Transparency International is an international non-governmental organization, leading anti-corruption movements all over the globe. The Berlin-based Transparency International Secretariat coordinates anti-corruption activities in more than 90 countries through its national chapters. The chapters are independent local NGOs, free to choose their own policies 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 taken or imposed from the outside.

About Transparency Azerbaijan

Transparency 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 August, 2006. We work mainly in the areas of raising public awareness, promoting business ethics, and researching 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 in drafting policy and legislative acts.

Corruption Perception Index 2008

On 23 September 2008, Transparency International released its most well-known product – the “Corruption Perception Index for 2008”, 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. In 2008, Azerbaijan received 1.9 points, out of a total of 10 points for a corruption-free country, and ranked 158 out of 180 countries surveyed.

Table 1.

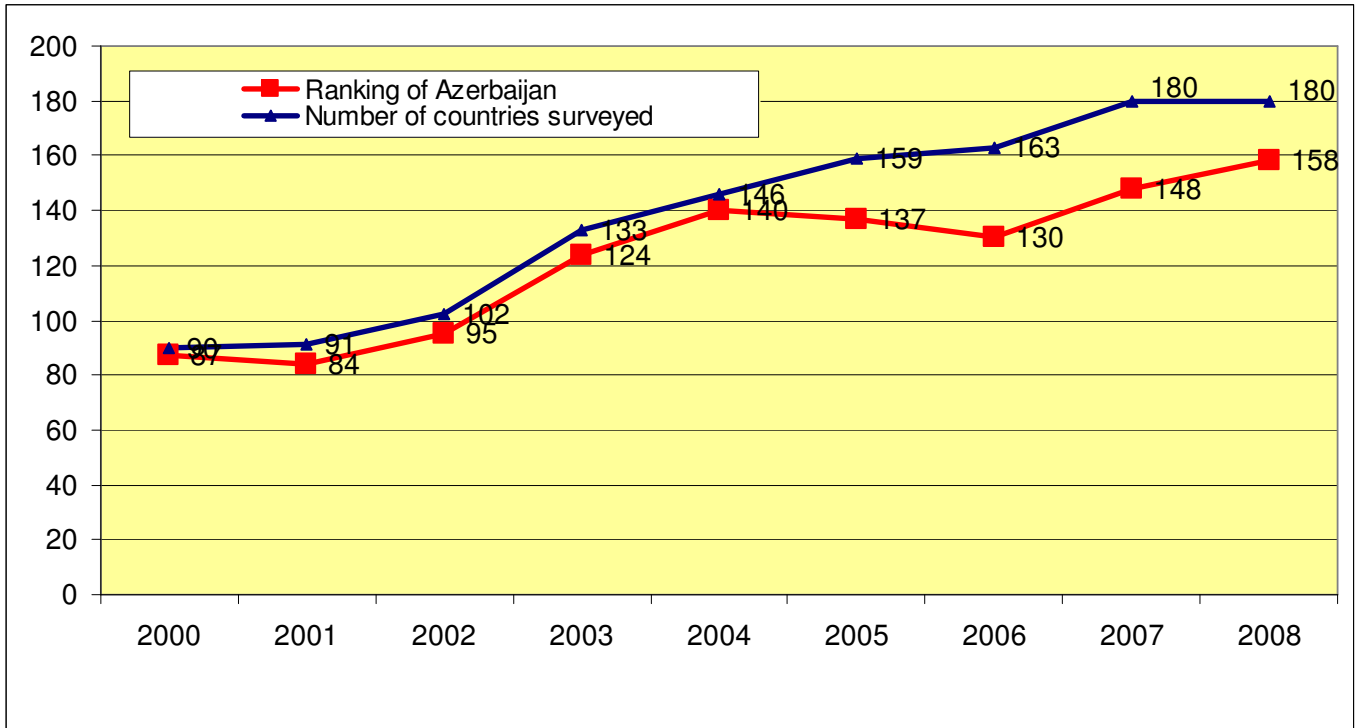
**Ranking and score of Azerbaijan in Transparency International
Corruption Perception Index 2000-2008**

Year	Rank among all countries surveyed	Number of countries surveyed	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	180	2.1
2008	158	180	1,9

The last column is Azerbaijan's average score on a scale from 0 (for a country perceived as overrun by corruption) to 10 (for a corruption-free country).

Figure 1.

Ranking of Azerbaijan on the CPI (Corruption Perception Index)



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

The Azerbaijan chapter is the only civil society organization in Azerbaijan which assists people in building up resistance against the corrupt practices of petty officials by providing them with legal advice through the Advocacy and Legal Advice Centre (ALAC) project. The chapter has clearly demonstrated that civil society can not only efficiently serve as a barrier between the populace and corrupt officials, but also enhance the productivity of government – NGO cooperation in combating corruption.

Another major contribution of the chapter is spreading business ethics skills among small and medium enterprises (SMEs), as well as legal and business administration students, while disseminating the Business Ethics code concept among local SMEs.

The chapter's centres in Ganja, Lenkoran, Guba and Sheki serve as NGO hubs and training grounds for young activists in the provinces, while the central office in Baku specialises in providing expertise on the state of corruption and assessment of efforts of various anti-corruption players in the country.

Our donors in 2008

USAID/Caucasus

British Government (Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Global Opportunities Fund)

OSCE Office in Baku

Transparency International

Statoil Apsheron a.s.

OJSC Garadagh Cement

2008 Projects

- ALAC (Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran), donor: Foreign and Commonwealth Office, UK, 12 months (July 2007-June 2008)
- ALAC (Baku, Ganja, Lenkoran), donor: USAID/Caucasus, 12 months (July 2008-June 2009, Lenkoran – June 2010)
- ALAC Guba, donor OSCE: 12 months (January-December 2008)
- ALAC Sheki, donor OSCE: 12 months (January-December 2008)
- “Anti-Corruption How-to-Guide”, donor Statoil Apreson a.s.
- “Face-to-face with Corruption” collection of cartoons, donor OJSC Garadagh Cement

Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers (ALAC) project

The goal of the ALAC is to provide people with the means to become actively involved in the fight against corruption in their societies. Direct beneficiaries of the project include ordinary people who do not have access to information and justice. Major activities of the project follow:

Legal aid. An anti-corruption hotline provides people with a convenient channel to report corruption, even if they do not live in the city where the centers are located. The hotline also acts as a screening mechanism, allowing genuine cases to be referred to the centers for face-to-face consultations. The hotline is staffed by volunteer law students, and overseen by legal assistants. Citizens may also make complaints in writing or via a website, although our experience indicates that these options are not particularly efficient because few people are initially able to articulate the act of corruption concisely.

If there is *prima face* evidence of corruption, as reported to the hotline, more detailed legal advice and counseling is provided during face-to-face meetings with lawyers. This involves helping clients to articulate and identify the act of corruption, assisting them in drawing up effective complaints (*e.g.*, evidence, documentation), and providing advice as to how to independently pursue the complaints. TI- Az does not legally represent nor “take on” individual cases. Rather, it empowers complainants to act.

Advocacy. Fact-based advocacy is critical to the success of the ALACs. Indeed, it is the centrality of this advocacy component which differentiates the ALACs from purely legal clinics. In other words, data generated from real complaints are used as the basis for advocacy campaigns. TA uses a range of advocacy tools, including regular press conferences, radio phone-ins providing advice, and publications.

Education. Anti-corruption education is organized for special target groups: rural populations, refugees and IDP’s, legal students, public officials, and others.

Transparency Azerbaijan succeeded in designing and implementing additional activities to support the ALACs’ original pillars, such as the two described below.

Capacity Building: support is provided to State authorities to strengthen their capacity to process complaints. Transparency Azerbaijan developed good working relations with the Ministry of Education and is a member

of the anti-corruption working group of the Ministry. The Ministry of Education is one of the few public agencies, which openly recognizes the facts of corruption and takes, institutional measures to combat it. This agency was the first to put together its anti-corruption action plan and to establish and operate its dedicated anti-corruption hotline with the help of civil society organizations, such as Transparency Azerbaijan, Dalga, Say No to Corruption in Education, and others. Also, TI Azerbaijan contributed to the upgrading of mechanisms for reviewing complaints at the State Registry of Real Estate and at the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection. Transparency Azerbaijan participates in the Anti-Corruption Network of government, civil society and the mass media.

Public outreach campaign through mobile trainings and seminars: Since the end of 2006, Transparency Azerbaijan has been running a special public outreach program focusing on various groups (civil society activists, the disabled, rural populations, national minorities, refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), public officials, and others.). In 2008 we arranged 260 outreach events, involving 5,538 beneficiaries.



Photo above: 17 April 2008 training for Masalli City Police Department by ALAC Lenkoran

Figure 2.
Number of ALAC calls/contacts initiated by citizens in 2008

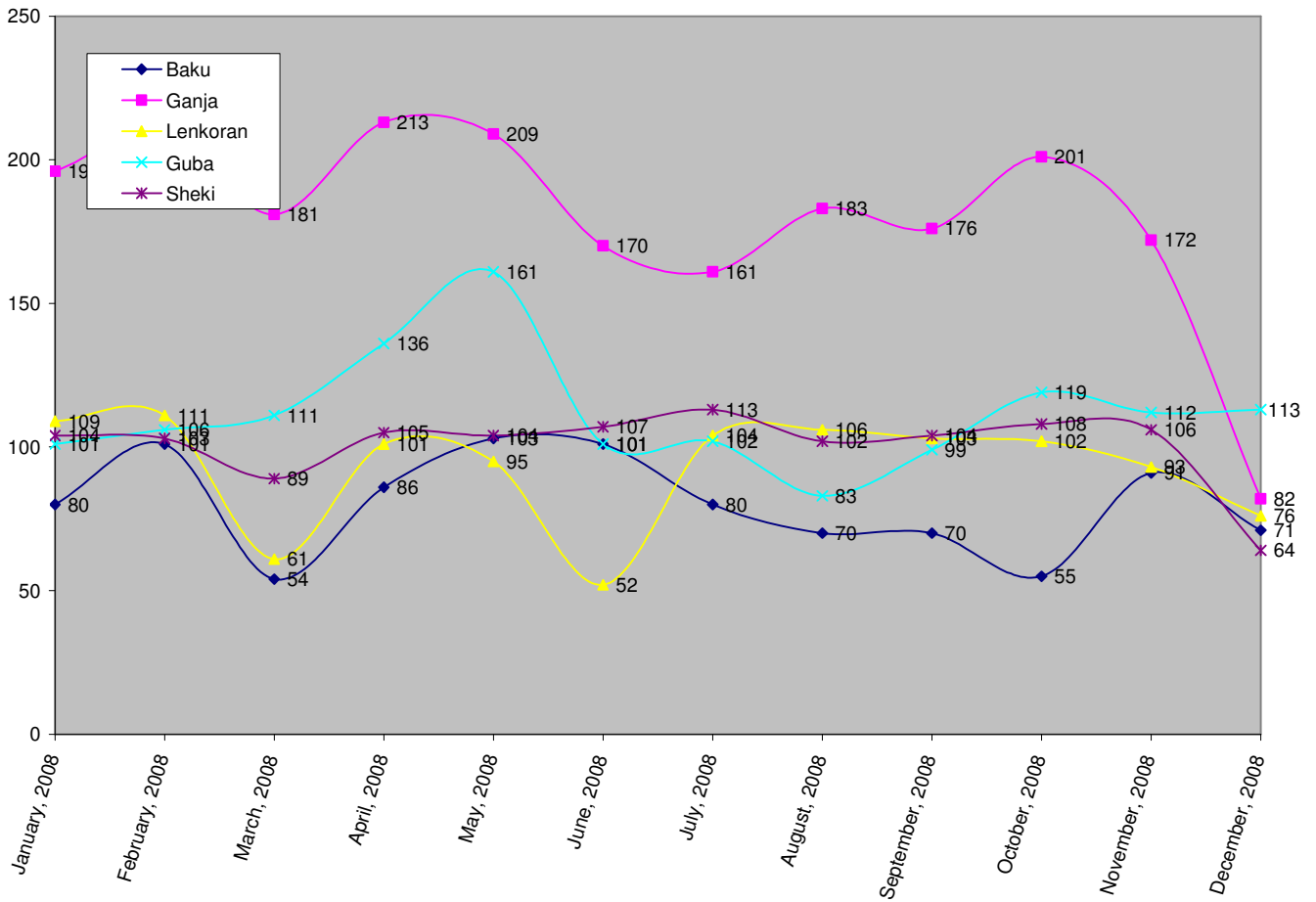
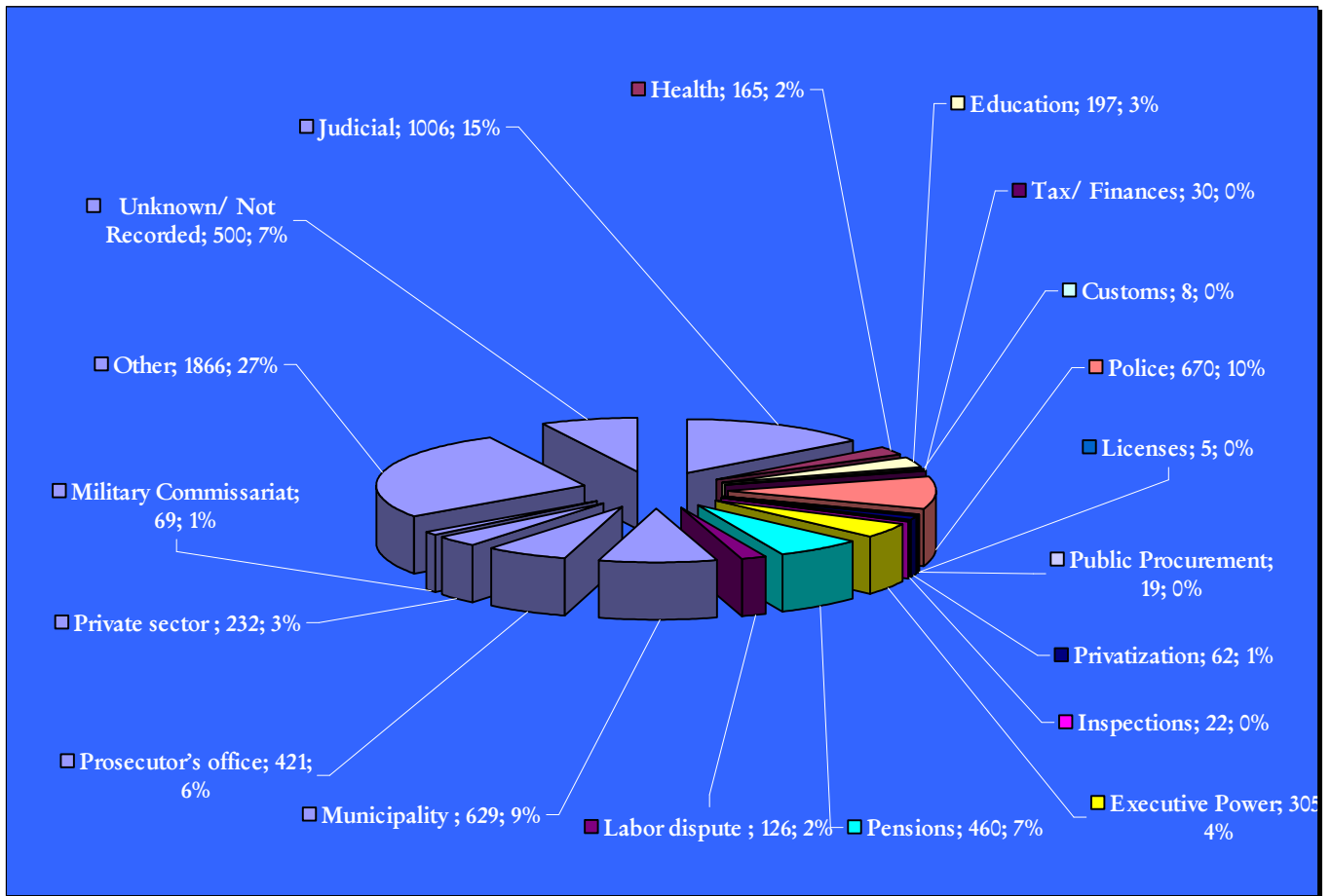


Figure 3.

Areas of complaint brought to ALAC as of December 31, 2008 (6,792 total complaints)



As demonstrated above, the areas of utmost public concern from the project's initiation in 2005 through 31 December 2008 were, from highest to lowest: the judicial system (15%), police (10%), municipalities (9%), pensions/social aid (7%), and local executive power (4%).

Analysis of Legislation

In 2008, TI Azerbaijan reviewed the anti-money laundering draft law, and three of our six suggestions were accepted. We also reviewed the new draft Law on Education.

Media coverage

In 2008, the media, including print and electronic media, covered 244 of TI Azerbaijan's activities.

Other activities and events

- Participated in the group of independent observers for the public test exam conducted by the Office of the Prosecutor General together with the State Students' Admission Commission.
- Participated in the 7th General Meeting of the Anti-Corruption Network for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ACN) of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Tbilisi, Georgia.
- Participated in the group of independent observers in the first stage of the recruitment process conducted by the Ministry of Justice together with the State Students' Admission Commission.

- Organized “National Anti-Corruption Weeks” (ACW) Campaign held within the framework of the Advocacy and Public Outreach component of the ALAC project.
- Produced the “Face-to-Face with Corruption” collection of cartoons, displaying works of young and mature artists to raise public awareness about corruption.
- Produced calendar-flyers with hotline numbers of the Ministry of Education and TI Azerbaijan to ensure smooth operation of anti-corruption hotlines during the 2008 winter and summer exam sessions in universities
- Participated in the TI Annual Regional and General meetings and the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Athens, Greece.
- Joined the team of Short Term Observers (STO) within OSCE Election Observation Mission, to observe the Presidential Elections of the Azerbaijan Republic in October 2008.



Photos above: Public Outreach campaign in Sheki

Our Partners

State Anti-Corruption Commission
 Anti-corruption Department under General Prosecutor’s Office
 Ministry of Education
 Ministry of Internal Affairs
 State Registry of Real Estate
 Ministry of Defence

Constitution Research Foundation
 Entrepreneurship Development Foundation
 Centre for Innovation in Education
 Society for Human Rights
 Legal Education Society
 Association of Azerbaijan Lawyers
 Eurasian Lawyers’ Association
 Young Lawyers’ Union
 Fund of Struggle Against Corruption
 Anti-Corruption Network of NGOs

2008 publications by TI Azerbaijan

- TI Azerbaijan ALAC booklet, 2008
- Face-to-Face with Corruption, collection of cartoons, 2008

- Rena Safaraliev, TI Azerbaijan Advocacy and Legal Advice Centers Project, in Anthology on the Theoretical and Practical Aspects of Processing the Corruption Related Crimes, publication of the Office of Prosecutor General, 2008.

2008 publications about TI Azerbaijan

- TI ALAC booklet 2008
- OSCE Activity Report (June 2007 – May 2008)

Table 2.
Members of the Board and executive

	Name	Main occupation	Role within TI
1	Fuad Suleymanov	Ph.D. in Legal Studies, Civil Society Programs Manager, OSI – Assistance Foundation – Azerbaijan.	Founder Chairman of Board
2	Sabit Bagirov	Entrepreneurship and Market Economy Development Assistance Foundation, ex-chairman of Board, Ph.D. in Engineering, President	Founder Ex-chairman of the Board
3	Durdana Mamedova	Head of Department on Constitutional Issues, Constitution Court of Azerbaijan Republic, Ph.D in Law.	Founder Board member
4	Rena Safaraliyeva	Associate Professor of Chair of English Stylistics, State Languages University, Full Doctor in Linguistics	Founder Executive Director Board member without voting right
5	Rashid Hajiyeu	Director, Media Rights Institute	Board member
6	Intigam Aliyev	Director, “Advocate Service” private law firm	Board member
7	Annagi Hajiyeu	President, Azerbaijani Lawyers Association	Board member

Table 3.
Our employees and contact details

Website: www.transparency.az

Baku central office

Baku, Azerbaijan, AZ 1009
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Tel: (994 12) 418 11 09; 497 68 15
Tel/Fax: (994 12) 596 20 38
Toll free: (088) 707 07 07
E-mail info@transparency.az

	Position	Name	Education	
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	Senior Project Coordinator	Jeyhun Atayev	Master's degree in Oriental Studies from Baku State University	jeyhun@transparency.az
3	Senior Lawyer	Yusif Agayev	Master's degree in Law from Kazakhstan State University	yusif@transparency.az
4	Senior Legal Assistant	Jamila Razzagova	5th year student of Law, Baku State University	jamilya@transparency.az
5	Project Assistant	Nisa Hajiyeva	5th year student of Law, Baku State University	nisa@transparency.az
6	Administrative/Finance Officer	Zamina Aliyeva	Baku Computer College, diploma in Administration and IT	zamina@transparency.az
7	Accountant	Natavan Hajiyeva	Master's degree in Accounting, Public Economy Institute, Tashkent	natavan@transparency.az
8	PR/Media Specialist	Samir Alibayov	Bachelor's degree in Geography, Baku State University	samir@transparency.az

Ganja center

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Javadkhan St., 35/1
Tel/fax: (994 22) 56 40 42
Toll free: (088) 202 02 02

8	Lawyer/Office	Sevinj	Bachelor's degree in	sevinj@transparency.az
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	Director	Mammadova	Law, Azerbaijan International University	
9	Assistant	Elnara Muradova	Bachelor's degree in Biology, Baku State University	elnara@transparency.az
Lenkoran center				
Lenkoran AZ 4200, Azerbaijan Gala Khiyabani st. 12 Tel: (994 171) 5 17 25 Fax: (994 171) 5 09 04 Toll free: (088) 303 03 03				
10	Lawyer	Ehtiram Fattayev	Bachelor's degree in Law, Azerbaijan International University	etiram@transparency.az
11	Coordinator/ Office Director	Afig Malikov	Ph. D. degree in Ecology, Lenkoran State University	afiq@transparency.az
Guba center				
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12	Lawyer/Office Director	Eldar Kerimov	Master's degree in Law, St. Petersburg State University	eldar@transparency.az
13	Assistant	Imran Askerov	Certificate in Collective Farm Check-up, Baku Executive Committee Trade Enterprise Training Course Center	imran@transparency.az
Sheki center				
Sheki AZ 5500, Azerbaijan M. Rasulzadeh str. 177, apt. 3 Tel/fax: (994 177) 4 26 55 Toll free: (088) 505 05 05				
14	Lawyer	Kamala Mammadova	Bachelor's degree in Law, Dagestan Government University	kamala@transparency.az
15	Coordinator/ Office Director	Tural Salamov	Bachelor's degree in Philology, San Marino International Academy of Sciences Academic Centre, Mingechevir Branch	tural@transparency.az

Financial Data:

Figure 4 shows our revenue sources in 2008.

Figure 4.

TI Azerbaijan Donors in 2008

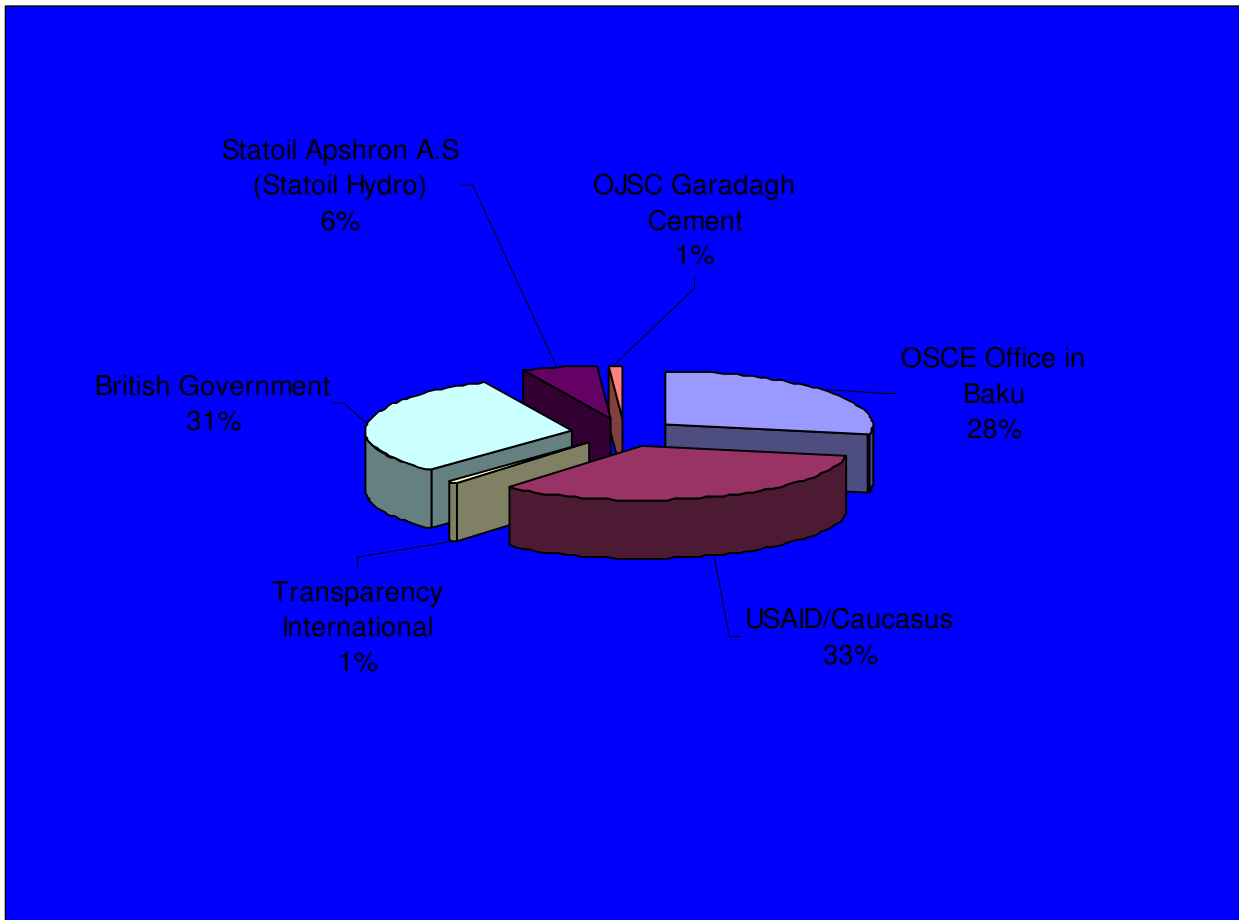
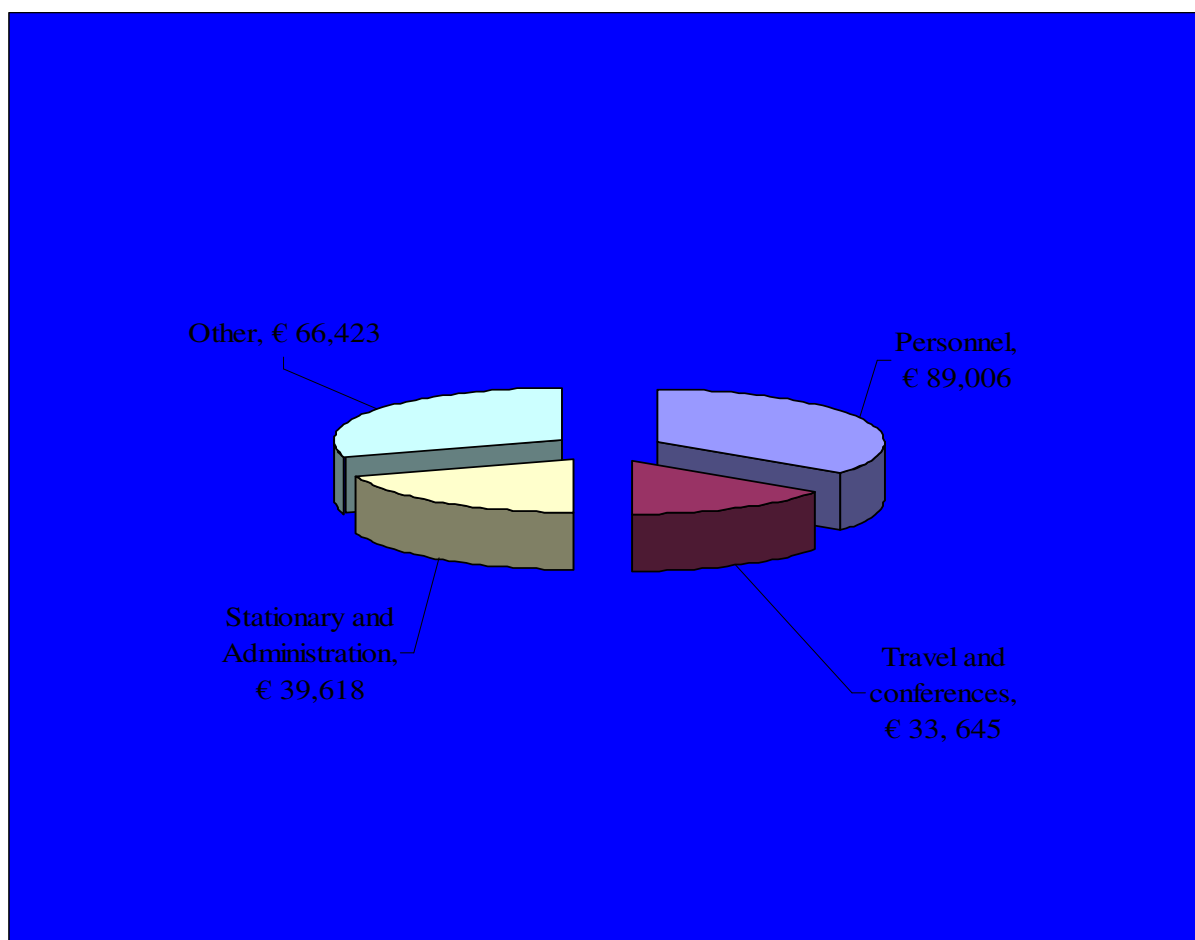


Figure 5 shows our expenses by category in 2008.

Figure 5

Our expenses by category (in Euros)



Our financial data in Euro for 2008 can be summarized as follows:

Revenue	228,633
Equity/reserves at the beginning of the reporting period	15,735
Expenses	228,692
Net reserves at the year end	15,676
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Surplus/Deficit for the year	- 59 Euro

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