



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

Science, Higher and Secondary Professional
Education Department

Role of a Ministry of Education in a STAREP Country and its relationship with universities

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Content

- Missions, Structure, and Activities of the Ministry of Education in Azerbaijan
- Functions of the Science, Higher, and Secondary Professional Education Department
- Relationship of Ministry of Education and Higher Education Institutions
- Challenges and Perspectives

Missions of the Ministry of Education

- The Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoEAz):
 - participates in the development and implementation of the state policy for education;
 - assures the improvement of the education system;
 - implements the state regulations in the field of education;
 - provides state governance over the quality of education;
 - achieves equitable opportunities for education in order to protect the constitutional rights of citizens to receive education;
 - carries out scientific, educational and methodological guidance to all educational institutions irrespective of ownership and organizational-legal form.

Lifelong Learning Strategy

- The application of the lifelong learning principle has been one of the central activities of the Ministry of Education of Azerbaijan in the recent years. In compliance with the State Programme on reformation of education in Azerbaijan, concept of lifelong learning was developed by national experts and adopted by the Ministry of Education. New Law on Education adopted in 2009 reflects various aspects of formal, nonformal and informal education.
- Qualifications Framework for Lifelong Learning of the Republic of Azerbaijan was designed with support of EU experts on the field and approved by the Cabinet of Minister in 2018.

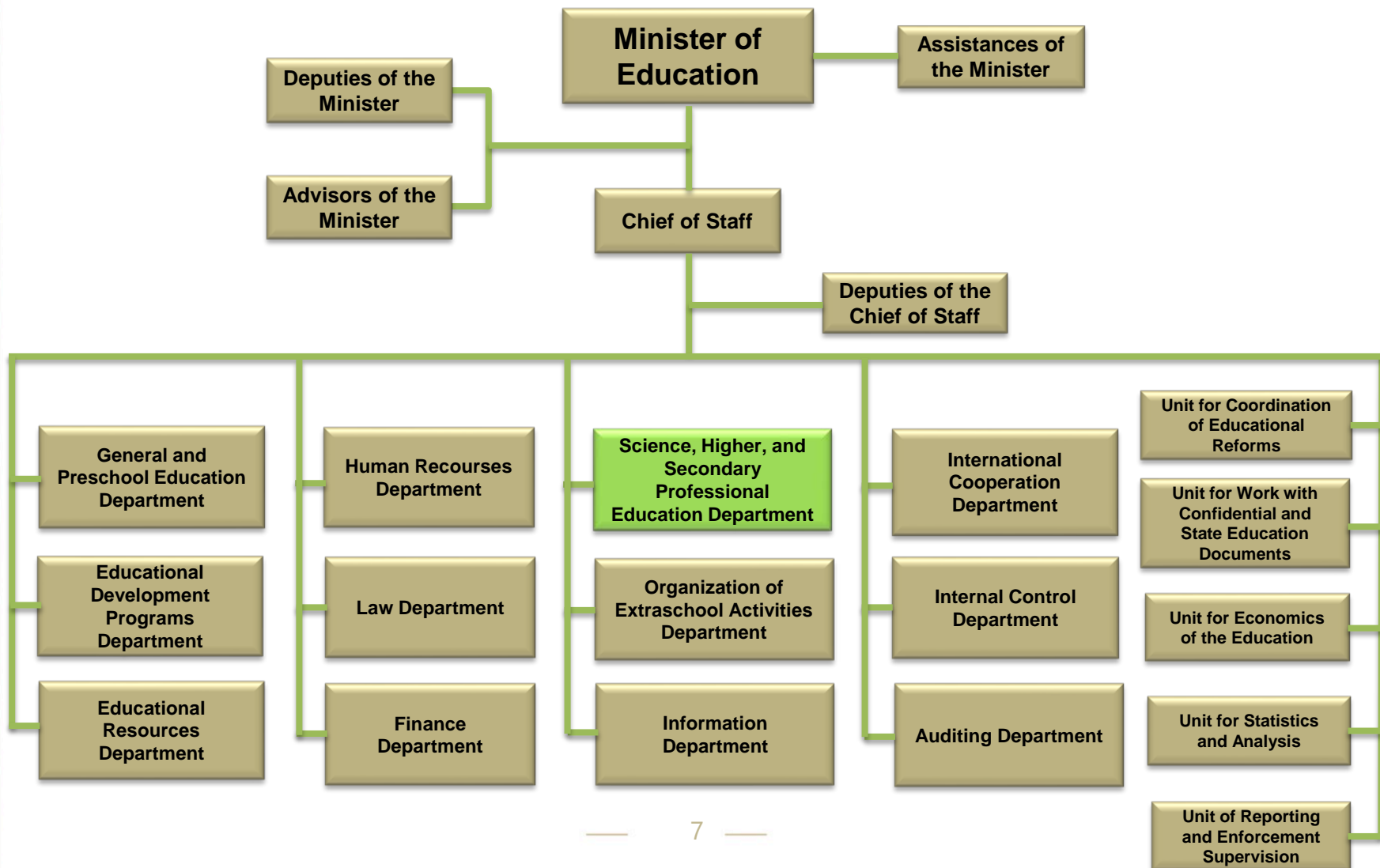
Distribution of responsibilities (1)

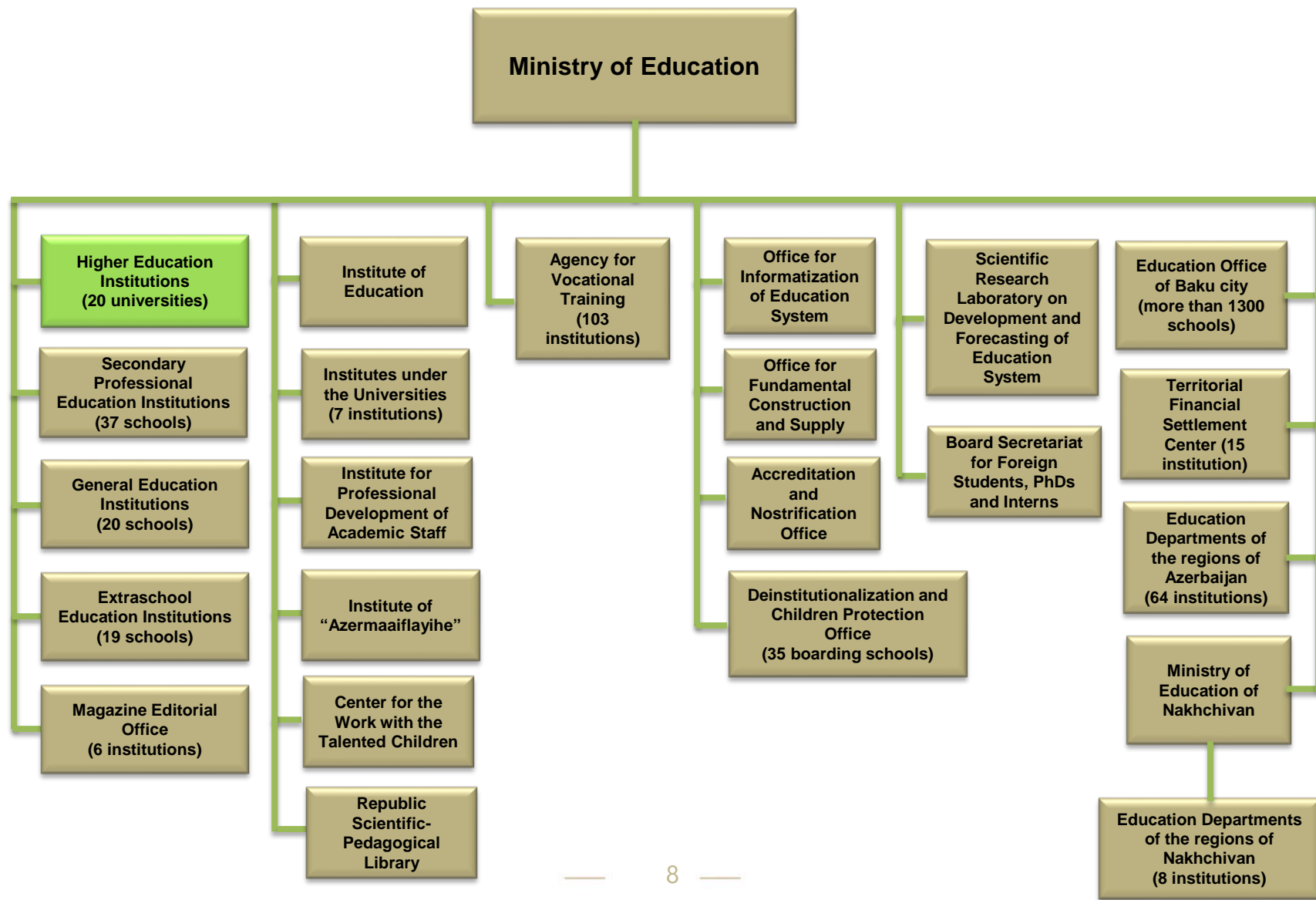
- Higher education is governed by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
- The Cabinet of Ministers decides the education strategy, supervises implementation of the Law on Education and the relevant legislative acts and documents, as well as defines the regulations for the establishment, restructuring and liquidation of higher education institutions. Moreover, the Cabinet of Ministers establishes, restructures and closes vocational institutions, as well as approves the list of qualifications, education regulations and rules. It also makes certain proposals on the development of the budget and funds for the development of education and defines state standards for education funding, as well as regulations for scholarship and salary payment.

Distribution of responsibilities (2)

- The Ministry of Education is the central executive body governing the education system of the country. It participates in the development and implementation of the state policy for education.
- 18 public higher education institutions of Azerbaijan are under the control of other ministries and executive bodies of the government (President Administration, Ministry of Culture and Tourism, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Youth and Sport, Ministry of Health, Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping, "Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL)" State Concern, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Emergency Situations, State Border Service, State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic (SOCAR), State Customs Committee).

Structure of the Apparatus of the MoEAz





Activities of the MoEAz (1)

- According to the Statue of the MoEAz, it has 61 activity fields:
 - Prepares legal bases for education;
 - Monitors implementation of State Policy and State Programs on the improvement of the national education system;
 - Provides interstate, regional, and international Improvement Programs in the field of education;
 - Defines general requirements of the organization process of education;
 - Controls the organization process of education in accordance to the state standards;
 - Provides planning, forecasting, coordination, assurance, procurement, and assessment in the field of education;
 - Provides accreditation service;
 - Conducts experiments in order to improve the quality of education and apply advanced forms and methods of teaching;

Activities of the MoEAz (2)

- Carries out state control over the quality of education in educational institutions;
- Provides state educational institutions with educational, scientific, scientific-methodical, information and communication technologies and other technical means;
- Offers a classification of qualifications on higher, secondary professional and vocational education;
- Develops a sample of state educational documents issued for graduates, defines its issuance rules, provides educational institutions with blank forms of state education certificate in accordance with the number of graduation contingent;
- Carries out the recognition of foreign specialties and educational documents;
- Applies to the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the establishment of scholarships for students;

Activities of the MoEAz (3)

- Organizes the training and further training of pedagogical staff and education personnel;
- Carries out financing of subordinate state educational institutions;
- Carries out cooperation with international organizations in the field of education;
- Helps Azerbaijanis living abroad to get general education in their mother tongue, as well as learning Azerbaijani language and literature, history and geography of Azerbaijan;
- Takes measures to ensure that citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan study abroad and carries out scientific research in line with existing rules.

Budget allocated for the education

- Azerbaijani GDP (PPP) per capita was about 4 131 U\$D in 2017
- Share of education expenditure is 3.2%
- Share of expenditure on higher education is 0.25%
- MoEAz aims to increase the share of education expenditure up to 5% until 2025

Functions of Science, Higher and Secondary Professional Education Department (1)

- Improvement of the documentation regulating the activities of the science, higher, and secondary professional education institutions;
- Development of study programs;
- Preparation of forecast of the admission of the students for higher and secondary professional education institutions;
- Organization of education process with credit system (ECTS) and regular awareness of academic and administrative staff on current legislation;
- Consideration of appeals to the Ministry regarding the relocation, dismissal, restoration and academic retirement of students enrolled in higher and secondary vocational education institutions;
- Summarize the results of the exam sessions, analysis, and preparation of relevant proposals;

Functions of Science, Higher and Secondary Professional Education Department (2)

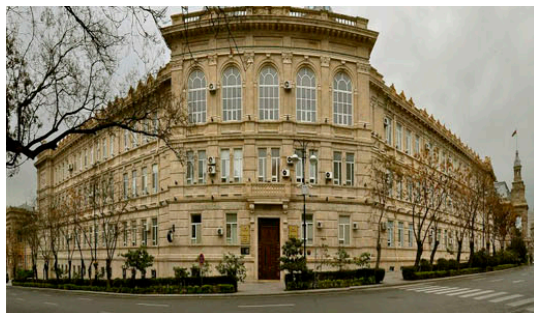
- Implementation of additional education;
- Monitoring of the quality of education;
- Work with the international study programs on higher education (Erasmus +, TAIEX, etc.) and TVINNING Projects;
- Implementation the provisions of the Bologna Declaration;
- Award students with Presidential and other scholarships;
- Providing feedback on licensing of higher and secondary professional education institutions;
- Cooperation with other ministries and committees;
- Coordination of implementation of agreements signed with higher education institutions of foreign countries;

Functions of Science, Higher and Secondary Professional Education Department (3)

- Work on the implementation of State Programs in the fields of science and higher education;
- Study and dissemination of advanced experience;
- Implementation of scientific-methodical guidance on the activities of doctoral studies at higher education and research institutions;
- Providing recommendations on the organization of scientific research work in higher education institutions;
- Conducting scientific-practical conferences, seminars, conferences, round tables, competitions, round tables;
- Ensuring integration of higher education institutions with Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences and other scientific organizations.

Higher Education

- Currently 51 higher education institutions (for 9,8 million population): 20 public, 18 state, 11 private and 2 branches of Russian HEIs
- 163 779 students (bachelor and master) at higher education institutions in 2017 (89% at public & state and 11% at private)
- including 3379 foreign students (56% Turkish, 44% other countries)
 - 5 from Moldova, 11 from Belarus, 32 from Ukraine, and 270 from Georgia



Brief history of the Azerbaijan HE

- 1919: Baku State University in Baku was established
- in the Communist era, universities were under political control, people with wrong profile were not allowed for studies and academic careers
- after 1991, HEIs emancipated rapidly and built up a strong autonomy



Policy Instruments

There are three main ways
how the Government can
influence the HE:

**accreditation,
internationalization,
specific support**

- **Accreditation Commission** as main QA institution; the Ministry can set only general rules;
- **Internationalization** reflects also the quality of the education, e.g. via mobility or employability of graduates, different projects;
- **Specific support** includes e.g. policy recommendations, action plans for improvement and advisory for HEIs.

Study conditions

- Government covers all **tuition fee expenses** of the following students:
 - students from **refugee families & children of national heroes**
 - students, who **deprived of parental care**
 - special **talented students**, who get the highest points from admission examinations
- State programme **on education abroad**
 - **in general** – 3558
 - **currently studding** – 497
 - **graduated** – 2008

European Higher Education Area

- Azerbaijan is an active member of **Bologna process** since 2005
- Main goals:
 - International mobility, cooperation and recognition
 - Flexible learning paths
 - Competitiveness of European HE
- Main principles have been introduced:
 - European Credit Transfer System (**ECTS**) – currently all HEIs implementing ECTS system
 - **Three cycle degree** system by Education Law in 2009
 - Diploma supplement (**DS**) – all HEIs awarded by unique DS
 - European Standards and Guidelines for **Quality Assurance (ESG)**

Division of study programmes

Bachelor's degree programme

- first cycle of higher education
- 240 – 300 ECTS (4 or 5 years)

Master's degree programme

- following after Bachelor's degree programme
- 90 – 120 ECTS (1.5 or 2 years)

Doctoral degree programme:

- following after Master's degree programme
- No ECTS system
- 2 levels: PhD (3 or 4 years) & Doc of Sci (4 or 5 years)

External Quality Assurance System

- Accreditation regulations in Azerbaijan
 - Rules for accreditation of educational institutions (Cabinet of Ministers, 28 September, 2010, #167)
 - Accreditation of HEIs stages:
 - preparing for accreditation;
 - self-assessment of education establishment;
 - carrying out an analysis by Accreditation Committee;
 - preparing a final certificate on accreditation;
 - determining the status of education establishment and granting a relevant quality document – certificate.
- Accreditation and Nostrification Office

Challenges & Perspectives

- Improvement of the study programs
- Training of trainers
- Cooperation with the labor market
- Employability of the graduates
- PhD level
- Recognition
- Modern laboratories
- Research and innovation
- Quality assurance

- Twinning projects
- TAIEX programs
- Different capacity building Erasmus+ projects
- University-Business cooperation
- Internatinalization
- Grants
- Best practices



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**Thank you for your
attention!**