



**Transparency
Azerbaijan**

FINAL MONITORING REPORT

On the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan For 2012-2015

September 2012 – December 2015

Baku – October 2016

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INTRODUCTION

Azerbaijan is one of 70 participant states of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) initiative that was officially launched on 20 September 2011 during the 66th session of the UN General Assembly. The country joined the Open Government Partnership and thus committed itself to improve its activities related to transparency and promotion of open government, contribute to the exchange of experiences and practices and also to the international efforts in this area.

The Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 (NAP) has been approved on September 5th, 2012 by the Presidential decree No 2421¹. The core principles and values of the National Action Plan relate to increasing transparency in the activities of the central and local executive authorities in the Republic of Azerbaijan, improving accountability, expanding public participation and introducing new technologies.

The Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan has been fully responsible for the development and implementation of the National Action Plan. The National Action Plan has been developed by the Commission on Combating Corruption in early 2012.

This monitoring report is based on the assessment methodology of the National Action Plan and covers the activities that have lead towards the implementation of specific commitments carried out between September 2012 and December 2015.

¹ For the full text of the National Action Plan, see Attachment 1 to this report.

The Commitments made by the Government of Azerbaijan through the adoption of the National Action Plan are structured as follows:

Area 1: Facilitation of access to information;

Area 2: On-going visibility of the state institutions activity;

Area 3: Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database;

Area 4: Increasing public's participation in the activity of the state institutions;

Area 5: Improvement of e-services;

Area 6: Increase of transparency in state financial control (SFC) institutions;

Area 7: Increase of transparency in tax control and audit;

Area 8: Increase of transparency in extractive industries;

Area 9: Awareness-raising and cooperation in the field of OGI.

The current report presents the results of the assessment on the implementation status of the all commitments based on the appropriate monitoring methodology. According to our findings, 71% of commitments undertaken by the Government of Azerbaijan under the OGP Action Plan for 2012-2015 have been implemented.

MONITORING METHODOLOGY

The monitoring methodology of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 was developed at the request of Transparency Azerbaijan by the experts of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) based in Saint-Petersburg, Russia and further improved by Veronica Cretu, member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Steering Committee of and President of Open Government Institute (Moldova).

This assessment report on the progress made, as part of the implementation of the National Action Plan, has the following objectives:

- ❖ To assess the degree to which the commitments made as a part of the National Action Plan on Open Government Promotion were implemented and completed as planned for September 2012 – December 2015;
- ❖ To analyze the main challenges that have affected the implementation of the commitments made as a part of the National Action Plan and to propose specific recommendations for the next steps.

The assessment methodology combines both quantitative and qualitative tools. The quantitative component includes the measurement of the implementation of all of the key commitments; the qualitative component is based on interviews with various experts from both the government and the civil society.

The National Action Plan has nine clusters of commitments, each cluster having specific actions and sub-actions to be implemented. Thus, each action of the Plan has been assessed on the basis of

specific indicators for scoring. These are characterized by the implementation level and their results expressed in points for each indicator are described below:

a) Assessment of the implementation level of activities based on a 0-3 score scale:

- ~ *Score 0 – indicates lack of any progress on the specific action or sub-action;*
- ~ *Score 1 – indicates that less than 20% of the action or sub-action being completed;*
- ~ *Score 2 - indicates that between 20%-70% of the action or sub-action being completed;*
- ~ *Score 3 - indicates above 70% of the action or sub-action being completed.*

b) Assessment of the implementation level of activities based on a 0-2 score scale:

- ~ *Score 0 – indicates lack of any progress on the specific action;*
- ~ *Score 1 – indicates delay in the implementation, with some preparatory work being done already;*
- ~ *Score 2 – indicates that action is being completed.*

The average score is calculated on the basis of on the score scale of the same commitments and scores for all actions and sub-actions being summed up.

NOTE ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF AZERBAIJAN IN OGP

During the process of finalization of the current monitoring report in early May (3-4 May, 2016) the OGP Steering Committee members met in Cape Town and one of the important issues on the agenda included Azerbaijan. The Steering Committee recognized the positive steps taken by the Government of Azerbaijan, including the submission of a new National Action Plan. However, Azerbaijan's status in the organization was designated as "inactive" due to ineffectiveness of measures implemented to improve conditions for civil society organizations' operation.

In this regard, on the 9th of September of this year, Council of State Support to Non-Governmental Organizations under the auspices of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan established Government-Civil Society Dialog Platform for Promoting Open Government Initiative, with participation of state agencies' and NGOs' representatives, pursuant to "Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2016-2018". The goal of the Platform is to support the progress in implementation of Open Government Partnership Initiative in Azerbaijan, to expand the scope of the implementation of transparency and open government principles in the work of state entities and to provide for public oversight of this Initiative's implementation in Azerbaijan.

At the same time, considering the recommendations of Government-Civil Society Dialogue Platform for Promoting Open Government Initiative, on 21 October 2016, Ilham Aliyev, President of Azerbaijan signed a decree facilitating the issuance of grants by the foreign donors to the Azerbaijani Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). Under the decree, starting

from January 1, 2017, the “single window” principle will be applied to the procedure for issuance of grants by the foreign donors to the NGOs in Azerbaijan.

The decree will allow simplifying the operation of the civil society institutions and the elimination of administrative and legal problems and open opportunities for the development of these institutions. As the decree allows the Non-Governmental Organizations to get grants more easily, they will be provided with the necessary financial support to implement their projects.

MONITORING PROCESS AND DATA COLLECTION

The monitoring methodology of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 was developed at the request of Transparency Azerbaijan by the experts of the Institute for Development of Freedom of Information (IDFI) based in Saint-Petersburg, Russia and further improved by the Open Government Institute (Moldova). In accordance with this methodology the expert group have conducted monitoring activities three times during 2012-2015 years in order to assess the implementation of the National Action plan.

During **the first** monitoring phase covering the period between September 2012 and September 2013 the implementation in all nine areas of activities of the National Action Plan were assessed. During **the second** monitoring phase covering the period between September 2013 and December 2014 assessment was restricted to implementation in only five out of nine areas of activities (first, second, fourth, fifth and eight areas). During **the third** monitoring phase covering the period between January and December 2015 the implementation in all nine areas of activities were assessed again.

The results of all three previous monitoring activities have been summarised in order to calculate the average scores (median) for this final report (both the areas themselves and their sub-areas). Thus, the average scores (median) for the first, second, fourth, fifth and eighth areas were calculated using the results of all three monitoring activities; the average scores (median) for the third, sixth, seventh and ninth areas – using the results of only two monitoring activities.

While preparing the final report, the expert group did its best to incorporate all the ongoing National Action Plan related activities as of June 2016. Based on the findings of monitoring activities, the expert group had also prepared a draft new National Action Plan for the second cycle (2016-2018) and presented it to the State Commission for Combating Corruption. The new National Action Plan project incorporates the findings from the previous monitoring activities, as well as responds to various challenges and shortcomings along with the recommended actions in order to improve the latter.

The project staff, in accordance with the monitoring methodology, developed the criteria for selection of central and local executive authorities to be monitored. The criteria cover all central executive authorities (ministries, state committees, agencies, etc.), Baku City Executive Authority, executive authorities of all districts of the capital city of Baku and cities of national subordination, as well as executive authorities of three districts per each economic region.

During the first monitoring period the expert group sent e-requests to 45 local executive authorities before sending official information requests in a written form.

During the first monitoring phase the information requests were also sent to 43 central executive authorities, all of those being central state institutions in charge of the implementation of the National Action Plan. Nine out of 26 central institutions that had responded to the information requests refused to disclose any information on the subject and cited various excuses (that activities were planned for a year-long period or the reports had already been sent to the Commission for Combating Corruption, etc). They requested that the reports be provided by the

Commission. The Commission for Combating Corruption has delivered the reports of a number of state agencies.

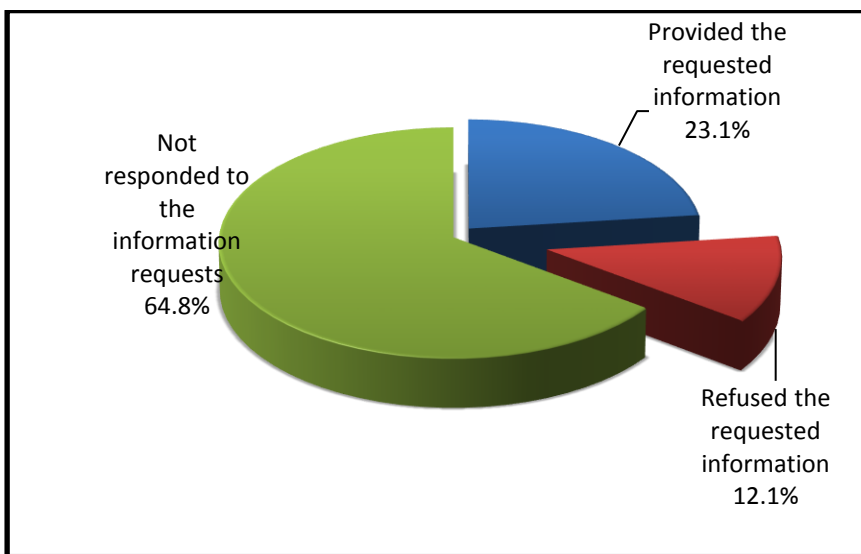


Figure 1. Responsiveness of the central and local authorities to the information requests during the first monitoring period

Accordingly, only 32 (36.4%) out of all 88 central and local executive authorities and other state institutions sent written responses to the information requests during the first monitoring period. 13 state institutions (14.8% of all institutions) refused to provide any information on the subject and 19 state institutions (21.6%) disclosed full or partial information. The remaining 56 central and local executive authorities and other state institutions (63.6%) did not respond to the information requests at all.

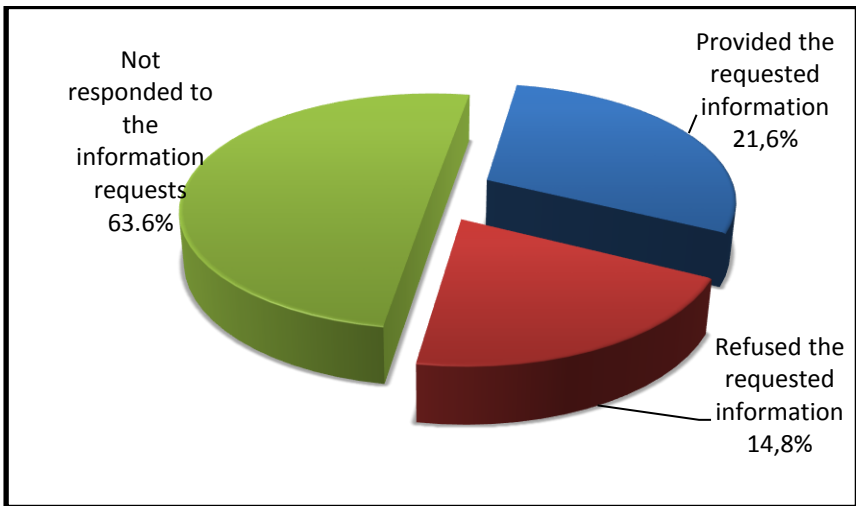


Figure 2. Responsiveness of the central and local authorities to the information requests during the second monitoring period

Since the *third monitoring phase* covered all areas outlined in the National Action Plan, the expert group sent two information requests to central and local executive authorities and other state institutions.

The first information request was sent in August 2015 to 42 central executive authorities and 45 local executive authorities in order to acquire information on the areas of activities completed in 2014. The number of central state institutions that responded to the first information request was 28. 20 of those institutions provided the requested information and disclosed their National Action Plan activities reports for 2014.

The number of the local executive authorities that responded to the information requests was only 10. Seven of local executive authorities provided their reports.

Accordingly, 38 of all 87 central and local executive authorities (43.7% of all central and local executive authorities that received information requests) responded to the information requests sent in 2015. 27 of them (31%) provided their annual reports.

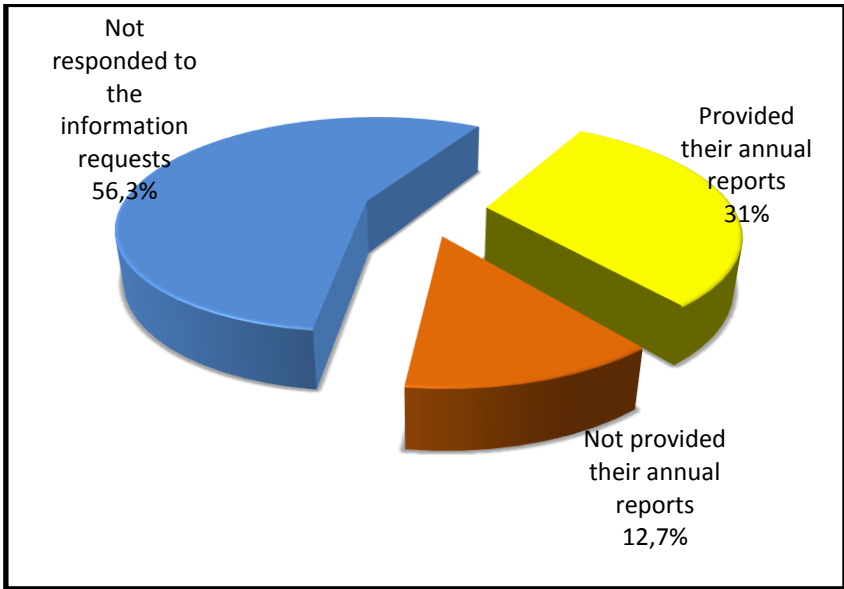


Figure 3. Responsiveness of the central and local authorities to the first information request during the third monitoring period

The expert group sent another information request to the central and local executive authorities in January 2016, in order to assess the implementation of the National Action Plan activities that were still in progress as of 2015. No information requests were addressed to the Special State Protection Service². Since the State

² The Special State Protection Service had accomplished the activity they were responsible for (Article 2.6 of the NAP: *Identification of a common template and*

Agency for Public Procurement³ and the Ministry of National Security⁴ were abolished by that time, they were taken out of the list of monitored state institutions. Thereby, the total number of the central and local executive authorities included in the monitoring process became 91 (46 central and 45 local executive authorities).

The expert group sent information requests to 45 central executive authorities, among them the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), the Central Bank, the Chamber of Auditors, and the Chamber of Accounts, as well as 45 local executive authorities.

In response to the second information request, 27 central executive authorities have officially replied and 21 of them provided the requested reports.

Accordingly, 38 (42.2%) of all 90 monitored central and local executive authorities responded to the second information request, while only 27 of them (30% of total surveyed) provided the requested reports. 11 bodies (12.2%) refused to provide their reports.

minimum criteria to be met by the websites of the state authorities in accordance with modern standards.) during the first reporting period.

³ The Agency was abolished by the Presidential decree dated January 15th 2016 citing Paragraph 32 of Article 109 of the Constitution of Azerbaijan.

⁴ The Ministry of National Security was abolished by the Presidential decree dated December 15th 2015 in order to increase the efficiency of intelligence services and improve the structure of public administration. Two new bodies replaced the ministry -- the State Security Service and the Foreign Intelligence Service.

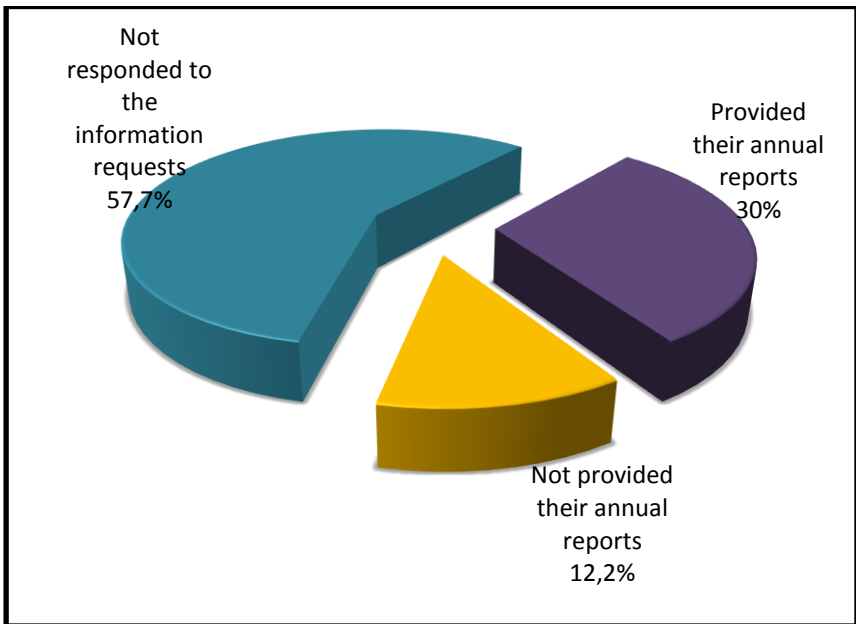


Figure 4. Responsiveness of the central and local authorities to the second information request during the third monitoring period

Accordingly, a total of 180 information requests were sent to the local executive authorities in four separate occasions during all three monitoring periods. 33 or 18.3% of all information requests were responded by the respective local executive authorities and only 21 of these responses (11.7%) contained the requested information. In 12 cases (6.7%) the requested information was refused to be disclosed. 147 information requests (81.7%) were not answered in any form.

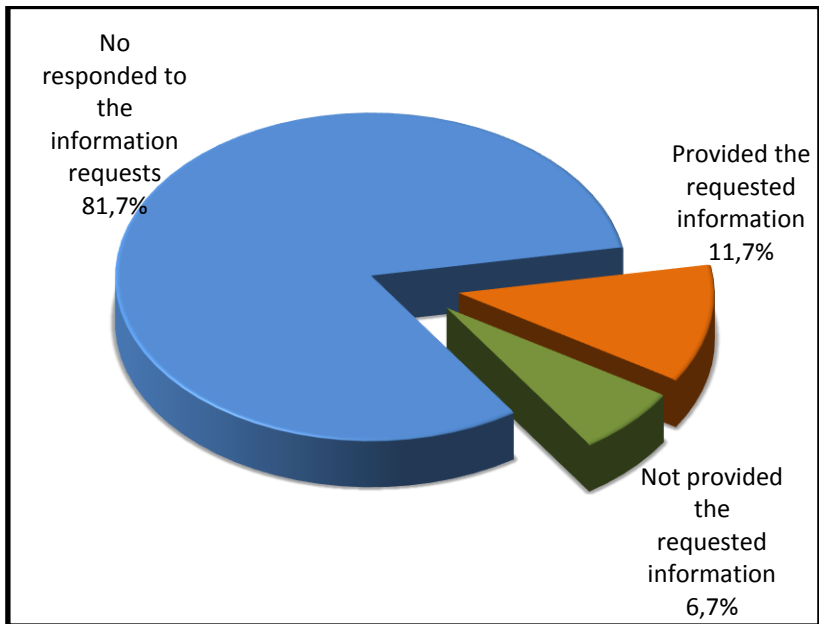


Figure 5. Responsiveness of the local authorities to the information requests during all three monitoring periods

In case of central executive authorities and other state institutions a total of 176 information requests were filed on four separate occasions during all three monitoring periods. 107 or 60.8% of all information requests were responded by the respective institutions and 73 of these responses (41.5%) contained the requested information in full or in part. In 34 cases (19.3%) solicited information was refused to be disclosed.

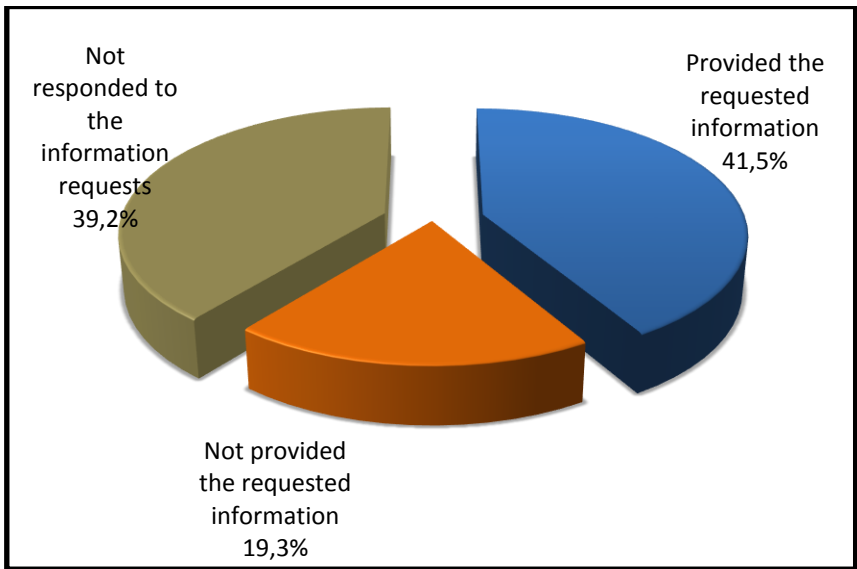


Figure 6. Responsiveness of the central authorities to the information requests during all three monitoring periods

In total, during all three monitoring periods 356 written information requests were sent to central and local state institutions responsible for the implementation of the National Action Plan. 140 or 39.3% of these requests received written answers.

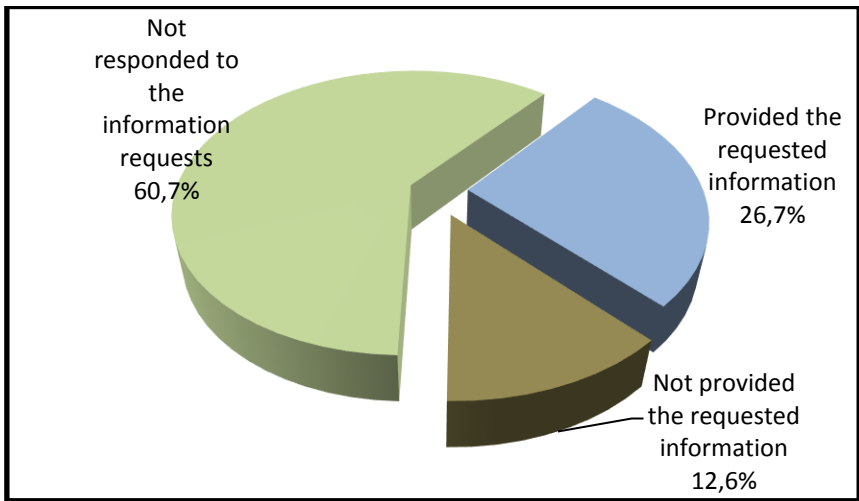


Figure 7. Responsiveness of the central and local authorities to the information requests during all three monitoring periods

It is worth mentioning several central state institutions for their detailed and comprehensive responses to the information requests. These include State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, the Ministry of Economy and Industry, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Defence Industry, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the State Oil Fund, the Financial Monitoring Service at the Central Bank, the State Civil Service Commission, and the Chamber of Auditors. The Ministry of Taxes and the State Committee for Securities have regularly published their detailed reports on their official websites. Respective executive authorities of Binaqadi, Ismayilli, and Dashkasan districts also stand out among the local executive authorities for their comprehensive answers to the information requests.

Table 1. Maximum average scores and actual results for areas of activities

Areas of activities:	Maximum average score	Result
Area 1: Facilitation of Access to Information	3	1.4
Area 2: On-going visibility of the state institution activity	2.4	1.6
Area 3: Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database	2	1.7
Area 4: Increasing public's participation in the activity of state institutions	2.7	1.6
Area 5: Improvement of e-services	2.4	1.7
Area 6: Increase of transparency in state financial controls (SFC) institutions	1.9	1.3
Area 7: Increase in transparency of tax control and examination	2	1.8
Area 8: Increase of transparency in extractive industries	2	1.9
Area 9: Awareness- raising and cooperation in the field of OGI	2	1.5
Total average score	2.3	1.6

As it can be seen from the chart, according to the monitoring results, the implementation of activities in:

- the first area of the NAP (“Facilitation of access to information”) received 1.4 score out of maximum 3;
- the second area (“On-going visibility of the state institutions activity”) received 1.6 out of maximum 2.3;

- the third area (“Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database”) received 1.7 points out of maximum 2;
- the fourth area (“Enlargement of the public participation in the activity of the state institutions”) received 1.6 points out of 2.7 maximum;
- the fifth area (“Improvement of e-services”) received 1.7 points out of maximum 2.4;
- the sixth area (“Increase of transparency in state financial control (SFC) institutions”) received 1.3 out of maximum 1.9;
- the seventh area (“Increase in transparency of tax control and examination”) received 1.8 out of maximum 2 points;
- the eighth area (“Increase of transparency in extractive industries”) received 1.9 out of maximum 2;
- the ninth area (“Awareness-raising and cooperation in the field of OGI”) received 1.5 out of maximum 2.

According to the monitoring results, out of 37 assessed activities, 8 received maximum scores (21.6%); 17 – are above the average (45.9%); 5 are on average (13.5%), 5 are below average (13.5%), and remaining 2 – got minimum (5.4%).

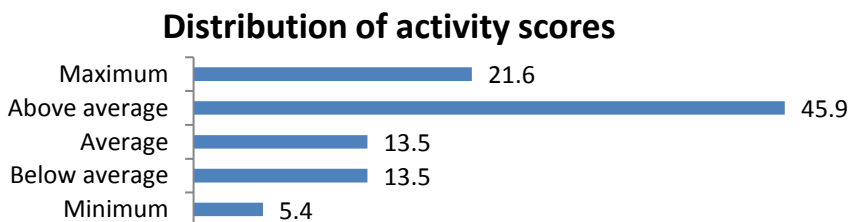


Figure 8. Monitoring results

The highest results have been recorded as per the following activities:

2.6. Identification of a common template and minimum criteria to be met by the websites of the state authorities in accordance with modern standards.

5.3. Development of the unified system in order to ensure the electronic information exchange between the state institutions.

6.7. Publication of the reports on the implementation of state budget and the relevant legislation drafts prior to referral to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

7.1. Provision of necessary information to and awareness raising among tax payers.

7.2. Implementation of measures in order to align the activity of the tax institutions with the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency.

8.1. Continuing the cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and both local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, as well as civil society institutions, in order to ensure continuous implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.

8.3. Disclosure of the annual reports on the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.

9.4. Provision of the financial support to the civil society institutions for the implementation of the measures foreseen in the Action Plan.

The lowest results are observed in following activities:

1.3. Improvement of the structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with its role of overseeing the implementation of the Law on the Right to Obtain Information and organization of specialized training for the respective employees.

6.3. Application of the IT in the state financial control area and elaboration of the e-control system.

Table 2. DETAILS ON THE ASSESSMENT RESULTS PER EACH AREA

Area 1	Facilitation of access to information
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1.4 (2013-2014) 1.4 (2015)
Average score	1.4
1.1.	<i>Designation of the employees in charge of the access to information, adoption of the internal rules on freedom of information and awareness raising by public institutions.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities in 2012-2014.
Indicator for assessment	1.1.1. Number of central and local executive authorities that have designated employees in charge of the access to information
Methodological basis:	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities have appointed employees in charge of the access to information; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities have appointed employees in charge of the access to information; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities have appointed employees in charge of the access to information; 0 – No evidence of progress.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2

Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period 22 of 90 monitored central and local executive authorities (24.4%) have designated employees in charge of the access to information. During the second monitoring period 34 of 92 monitored central and local executive authorities (31.28%) have designated employees in charge of the access to information. While preparing the final report the expert group have analysed the activity reports for 2014 and the official responses to the information requests filed in 2015. Accordingly, 40 state institutions out of 48 central and 45 local state institutions (37.2%) have designated employees in charge of the access to information.</p> <p>Monitoring activities during the implementation of the National Action Plan revealed that the designation of employees in charge of the access to information was a mere formality and it has not made any contributions to the information transparency of state agencies. Most state institutions have appointed their press secretaries also as officials in charge of the access to information and these appointments have not brought any serious progress in their work in terms of access to information.</p>
Indicator for assessment	1.1.2. Number of central and local executive authorities that have adopted the internal rules on freedom of information.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities have adopted the internal

	<p>rules on freedom of information;</p> <p>2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities have adopted the internal rules on freedom of information;</p> <p>1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities have adopted the internal rules on freedom of information;</p> <p>0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>1 (2012-2013)</p> <p>2 (2013-2014)</p> <p>2 (2015)</p>
A score	1.7
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period 15 out of 90 monitored central and local executive authorities (16.7%) and during the second monitoring period 26 out of 92 monitored central and local executive authorities (23.9%) have adopted the internal rules on freedom of information. While the final report was at the preparation phase, number of central and local executive authorities that have adopted the internal rules on freedom of information reached 33 out of 93 monitored state institutions (30.69%).</p> <p>The internal rules on freedom of information in most state institutions duplicate the provisions of the Law on Access to Information, so they do not lead to more openness in the work of officials in charge of access to information.</p>
1.2.	<i>Comprehensive training for responsible civil</i>

	<i>servants in order to ensure freedom of information</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities in 2012-2014.
Indicator for assessment	Number of central and local executive authorities that have conducted comprehensive training for responsible civil servants to ensure freedom of information.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities have conducted comprehensive trainings for responsible civil servants to ensure freedom of information; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities have conducted comprehensive trainings for responsible civil servants to ensure freedom of information; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities have conducted comprehensive trainings for responsible civil servants to ensure freedom of information; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.7
Rationale	During the first monitoring period 12 out of 90 monitored central and local executive authorities (13.3%) and during the second monitoring period 24 out of 92 monitored central and local executive authorities (22.08%)

	<p>have organised comprehensive training sessions for civil servants in charge of the access to information. While the final report was being prepared the number of state institutions that have organised training sessions reached 28 out of 93 monitored state institutions (26.4%).</p> <p>Monitoring activities revealed that most state institutions were unaware of the substance of this provision. In their official responses to the information requests the state institutions presented all their seminars and round table discussions as the implementation of this commitment. However this provision envisages the organisation of specialised training for civil servants in charge of the access to information.</p>
1.3.	<i>Improvement of the structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with its role of overseeing the implementation of the Law on the Right to Obtain Information, specialized training of the relevant employees.</i>
Responsible for implementation	The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) during 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	1.3.1. Improvement of the structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Methodological basis	<p>3 – The structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights has been improved;</p> <p>1 – Preparatory activities are underway for improvement of the structure of the Office of</p>

	the Commissioner for Human Rights; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	<p>The Commissioner states in the annual report for 2012: "The project of responsibilities, structure and staff positions of the intended "Department of Information Provision" at the Office of the Commissioner have been already developed and sent to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval, received positive feedback. Although the Ministry of Finances was tasked to resolve the issue and finance the department in 2012, the necessary actions have not been taken yet."</p> <p>During monitoring period the official responses of the Office to the information requests also stated that no decision had been taken in accordance with the Commissioner's proposals for new staff positions.</p>
Indicator for assessment	1.3.2. Specialized training of the relevant employees of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of relevant employees of the Office of the Commissioner have received specialized training; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of relevant employees of the Office of the Commissioner

	<p>have received specialized training; 1 – Less than 20% of relevant employees of the Office of the Commissioner have received specialized training; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>0 (2012-2013) 0 (2013-2014) 0 (2015)</p>
Monitoring score	0
Rationale	<p>Although the Office of the Commissioner has not been allocated relevant staff positions and technical resources, responsible employees of the Office have received specialized training on the freedom of information. As the number of staff positions in the intended department is not confirmed yet, it is not possible to identify the percentage of responsible employees that have received training. Therefore this activity has been given 0 score.</p>
Area 2	On-going visibility of the state institutions' activity
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>1,75 (2012-2013) 1,5 (2013-2014) 1,6 (2015)</p>
Average Score	1.6
2.1	<i>Uploading and updating information on the web pages of the central and local executive authorities</i>

Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on regular basis.
Indicator for assessment	2.1. The number of state institutions regularly updating their websites about their activities.
Methodological basis:	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities regularly upload and update information about their activities on their websites; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities regularly upload and update information about their activities on their websites; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities regularly upload and update information about their activities on their websites; 0 – None of central and local executive authorities regularly upload and update information about their activities on their websites.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	There is deep inequality of information shared as well as divergent positions on the disclosure of information among the numerous central and local executive authorities that were covered in all monitoring activities between 2012 and 2015. Therefore, it is difficult to assess and characterize these authorities in general terms. Implementation by central executive authorities

was much better in comparison with the local executive authorities.

During the entire monitoring period, activities of 45 central executive authorities and other central institutions and 45 local executive authorities were assessed. The official responses of these authorities to the requests of information, and their websites, as well as information about their activities on the Internet and social media, were taken into account during the assessment. The official responses to the requests for information, as well as the attitude towards openness of information differ significantly among the state institutions. Three years of monitoring revealed no significant changes in the attitude of state institutions either.

Some authorities take transparency seriously and respond to the requests for information thoroughly and according to the law (the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, the Ministry of Education, the State Commission for Students Admission, the State Statistics Committee, the State Committee for Securities, the Ministry of Taxes, Binaqadi District Executive Authority, Ismayilli District Executive Authority, etc), other authorities are not interested in disclosing information and are "closed" institutions (mostly local executive authorities, etc).

Two state institutions should be mentioned in particular for regular update of the information about their activities on the Internet. The

Ministry of Education has created several websites (edu.gov.az, portal.edu.az, mektebli.president.az, nostrifikasiya.edu.az, xaricdetehsil.edu.gov.az) to coordinate and promote their various activities; and the Ministry of Taxes has two websites with a vast array of information (taxes.gov.az and e-taxes.gov.az). On the other side, the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights takes adequate steps to ensure disclosure of information on their official website (www.ombudsman.gov.az). Another example is the latest press release in the relevant section of the website of the Youth and Sport Ministry which was published back in 2012; the schedule for the public office hours dates back to 2012 as well.

The monitoring results show that there is a significant gap between the most open and most closed state authorities. Some central executive authorities demonstrate their interest in dissemination of information among wider audience by distributing information about their activities several times a day, posting it on social networks and sending press releases, written and audio-visual information to the media.

Existing legislation provides administrative liability for information owners who fail to comply with the requirements of the Law on Access to Information. Paragraph 181-3 was amended to the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the Law

number 167-IIIQD dated 20 October 2006. The new Administrative Offences Code in force from 1 May 2016 also has the same provision under article 374⁵.

However, the issue with local executive authorities is challenging. All local executive authorities had their websites created in 2012, but they are not interested in publishing and updating information online. With minor exceptions aside, none of them have active e-services on their official websites. Usually, on a standard website of a local executive authority, few pieces of news are published during a month. But these articles do not cover legal activities of the local executive authorities and are mostly about public events, cultural activities or about heads of some central executive authorities meeting local residents in the district area. The information posted on the websites is not of much use to the population, but serves for PR of the local authorities. Information related to complaints from citizens to the local officials, ways to address social and economic problems, as well as spheres of activities of local authorities is rarely published.

⁵ Article 374 of the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan states: 1. Restricting the right to obtain information by the information owner or deliberately providing the false information to the requestor; 2. Failing to organize access to information by the information owner; 3. Refusing to accept a written request for access to information; 4. Violating the legislative requirements for storage, filing and protection of documents by the information owner; 5. Persecuting the official for disclosing information on wrongdoings that are of public interest: natural persons shall be fined in an administrative order between 20 AZN and 25 AZN; official persons – between 80 AZN to 90 AZN; legal persons – between 250 AZN to 300 AZN. <http://e-qanun.az/code/13>

Most of the information on these websites was introduced when the web pages were created and several sections of these websites have not been updated throughout the past three years.

"The Statute of Local Executive Authorities" approved by the Presidential decree dated 6 June 2012, which constitutes the legal basis of local authorities, has tasked these authorities with about 180 powers and 100 duties on areas of social-economic development of respective districts, agriculture, funding, consumption, social protection, labour, public housing and utility, environment, construction and maintenance, architecture, education and culture, children, youth and sports, tourism, mass media, law enforcement, public order and security, management of state property, healthcare, etc. Unfortunately, none of the local executive authorities publishes information about their activities in abovementioned areas. Especially, information on budget spending, tenders and their conditions is rare.

One significant aspect of the work of local executive authorities is adoption of normative acts. However, the websites of local authorities do not contain any of these normative acts, though they cover some general information on legislation. However, paragraph 6.4 of the Statute states: "The implementation of normative acts adopted by local executive authorities is mandatory for individuals and legal entities in its jurisdiction."

Although there are functioning municipalities

	across the country, websites of local executive authorities do not contain any links to municipal websites or there is no information about them or about delineation of power between the municipalities and local executive authorities.
2.2	<i>Preparation of the annual reports and publishing them online</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities in 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	2.2. The number of central and local executive authorities preparing and publishing their annual reports regularly.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities have published their annual reports on their official websites; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities have published their annual reports on their official websites; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities have published their annual reports on their official websites; 0 – None of central and local executive have published their annual reports on their official websites.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	In line with the assessment methodology, the expert group analysed the information about the activities of central and local executive authorities published on their official websites.

The analysis demonstrated that only the Customs' Committee, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, and State Committee on Property Issues have published detailed reports about their activities. Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, State Social Protection Fund, State Land and Mapping Committee, Ministry of Interior Affairs and State Statistical Committee have published rather general, not detailed reports. The website of Ministry of Labour and Social Protection has a link that leads to the annual report, but there is no information placed under it. Other central executive authorities have not published any annual reports on their websites. In general, annual reports of the central executive authorities do not disclose any information about expenditure of budgetary funds.

The analysis of the websites of local executive authorities revealed that only the Executive Authority of Binaqadi District published annual report on its activities. All other local executive authorities have not published any annual reports. The website of the Executive Authority of Binagadi District contains other useful information as well, including a detailed report on the activities of the local authority. Another positive example for 2015 was the website of Ismayilli District Executive Authority that had several useful additions to the standard template utilized by all local authorities: there was

	<p>information about hotline 164, the members of the Public Council were listed and 2015 report on ethics was published.</p> <p>However, the assessment took into account the fact that some general information about the activities of central and local executive authorities, particularly such as meetings of high level officials, can still be accessed from their websites.</p> <p>The assessment indicator for this paragraph requires only the information from the websites of state institutions – whether they have prepared and published their annual reports or not, however, the official responses of the respective authorities to the requests for information have also been taken into account. According to these responses, the majority of central and local executive authorities stated that they have prepared their annual reports. However, the central and local executive authorities that have not published their reports online have missed to attach their reports to the official responses they have sent.</p> <p>It should be noted that the websites of all local executive authorities are based on the same template and the information they contain is mostly statistical and described in general terms.</p>
2.3	<i>Holding press conferences and other direct public communication events about performance of state institutions.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities in 2012-2015.

Indicator for assessment	2.3. Number of central and local executive authorities holding press conferences at least once a year or communicating directly with the public.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities hold press conferences at least once a year or communicate directly with the public; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities hold press conferences at least once a year or communicate directly with the public; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities hold press conferences at least once a year or communicate directly with the public; 0 – None of central and local executive authorities hold press conferences at least once a year or communicates directly with the public.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 3 (2013-2014) 3 (2015)
Average score	2.6
Rationale	The monitoring revealed that most central and local executive authorities have held annual meetings dedicated to their activity reports and disseminated respective information about them. News about these presentation events was published in the media, but the reports themselves are not available on the websites of local executive authorities. It was not possible to identify whether those reports cover

	<p>implementation of 180 powers and 100 duties entrusted to the local executive authorities⁶. The texts of the annual reports are not available to the public and transparency is not ensured in this respect.</p> <p>The situation with the central executive authorities is much more positive. All institutions held presentations of their reports at least once a year and disseminated news of these meetings. Some central state institutions also published their reports on their official websites, while others did not make their reports available to the public.</p> <p>One of the main concerns is that the official websites of all local executive authorities lacked special sections for the implementation reports, and reports on the National Action Plan activities were not published either in general or in particular forms. These reports were mostly disclosed in the joint annual meetings with the ruling New Azerbaijan Party at the end of the year.</p> <p>The websites of central executive authorities do not always list the reports in separate sections. In order to achieve greater transparency the reports should be published in a special section on the websites – in downloadable formats (doc, pdf, etc) and easily accessible from the main page.</p>
2.4	<i>Dissemination of reader-friendly versions of the legislation regulating the activity of the state</i>

⁶ "The Statute of Local Executive Authorities" approved by the Presidential decree dated 6 June 2012

	<i>institution, guiding principles developed.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on an on-going basis
Indicator for assessment	2.4.1. Preparation of the guiding principles of the legislative acts regulating the activities of state institutions in a simple and comprehensible form.
Methodological basis	2 – The guiding principles have been prepared in a simple and comprehensible form; 1 – Activities towards preparation of the guiding principles have been carried out, but their adoption is delayed; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 1 (2015)
Average score	1.3
Rationale	The monitoring methodology requires that the preparation of guiding principles of the legislative acts regulating the activities of state institutions in simple and comprehensible forms should be assessed according to the official responses to the information requests. During the monitoring process most state institutions in their responses to the information requests stated that they had prepared the guiding principles of the legislative acts regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms. Unfortunately, very few state institutions had any respective information available on their

	official websites. This allows us to come to the conclusion that although there have been some activities to prepare the guiding principles, their adoption is being delayed.
Indicator for assessment	2.4.2. The central and local executive authorities have prepared and published the legislation regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms.
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on an on-going basis.
Methodological basis	3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities have prepared and published the legislation regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms; 2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities have prepared and published the legislation regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms; 1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities have prepared and published the legislation regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms; 0 - None of central and local executive authorities have prepared and published the legislation regulating their activities in simple and comprehensible forms.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 1 (2015)
Monitoring score	1.3
Rationale	The monitoring methodology requires that the

preparation of the legislation regulating the activities of central and local state institutions and their publication in simple and comprehensible forms should be assessed according to the official responses to the information requests. Most state institutions in their responses to the information requests stated that they had prepared the legislation regulating their activities published them in simple and comprehensible forms ⁷ . Unfortunately, very few central and local state institutions had these publications available on their official websites. Up to 20% of the central executive authorities prepared and published document forms and samples, instructions and tutorials related to their activities ⁸ . Therefore, the preparation and publication of these forms and tutorials can be considered as preparation and publication of the legislation regulating activities of respective institutions in simple and comprehensible forms.

⁷ Samples from the Ministry of Taxes: <http://taxes.gov.az/modul.php?name=e-xidmetler>, <http://taxes.gov.az/modul.php?lang=&name=birpencere&bolme=legal>, <http://taxes.gov.az/encox/suallar.html>, <http://taxes.gov.az/modul.php?name=e-xidmetler&cat=3>; the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection: <http://www.mlsp.gov.az/az/pages/19/52>, <http://www.mlsp.gov.az/az/pages/6/33>, <http://www.mlsp.gov.az/az/pages/6/36>; the Ministry of Economy and Industry: http://www.economy.gov.az/index.php?option=com_vitabook&view=vitabook&Itemid=273&lang=az

⁸ Some examples from the Ministry of Taxes: <http://taxes.gov.az/modul.php?name=birpencere&lang=&bolme=legal&bolme2=erize>, <http://taxes.gov.az/modul.php?name=birpencere&lang=&bolme=legal&bolme2=nizami>; and the Ministry of Education: http://xaricdetehsil.edu.gov.az/uploads/Elektron_erizenin_doldurulmasina_dair_telimat.pdf

	<p>Among the local executive authorities only the executive authorities of Binagadi and Ismayilli District published similar materials on their respective websites. The websites of other local executive authorities do not contain any similar materials.</p> <p>It should be noted that these document samples, forms, tutorials and other materials are more diverse and comprehensive on the websites of the Ministry of Taxes and the State Customs Committee. Similar materials on the websites of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the State Social Protection Fund and the State Committee for Student Admission allows us to assess their implementation status as average.</p>
2.5	<i>Development of the internet portals dedicated to all areas covered by the state programs.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	2.5. Number of the Internet portals dedicated to all areas covered by the state programs.
Methodological basis	<p>3 – The Internet portals dedicated to at least half of all areas covered by the state programs have been developed;</p> <p>2 – The Internet portals dedicated to the areas covered by the state programs haven't been developed, but some preparatory works have been carried out;</p> <p>0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned</p>

	activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	<p>The state programs, national action programs and actions plans covering numerous areas have been monitored during the assessment process. Some of these programs have been completed in 2013. The majority of monitored 48 central executive authorities did not develop separate websites for these programs and just added "State Programs" sections to their official websites. These sections usually contain information about the programs as such and no information about their implementation. However, some state institutions have created separate websites dedicated to e state programs and their implementation. For example, the Ministry of Education has developed the Internet portal for the State Program on Study of Azerbaijani Youth Abroad (www.xaricdetehsil.edu.gov.az) and it is fully operational. Another such portal is www.mesafedenmekteb.edu.az and covers the application of ICT in the education process. Another portal intended for publishing of electronic textbooks – www.e-derslik.edu.az has been just launched.</p> <p>The Ministry of Communication and High Technologies has also developed the Internet portal (www.azerkosmos.az) within the State</p>

	<p>Program on Establishment and Development of Space Industry. The E-Government Program is one of the successful state programs⁹ and has its own operational Internet portal (www.e-gov.az). The information requests were sent to all state institutions covered by the monitoring activities and only two state institutions gave some information about the Internet portals they had developed for the state programs; one institution stated that preparatory work was underway to develop the portal. The Ministry of Internal Affairs wrote in its official response that it had started the preparatory work in this direction. However, the monitoring process revealed that no websites were developed or any preparatory work had been carried out in connection with numerous state programs, especially in the areas of agriculture and healthcare. Attachment 4 to this report details the status of the Internet portals for state programmes.</p>
2.6	<p><i>Identification of a common template and minimum criteria to be met by the websites of the state authorities in accordance with modern standards¹⁰.</i></p>
Responsible for	Cabinet of Ministers, Special State Protection

⁹ For instance, 339 out of 460 officially approved e-services have been integrated into the electronic government portal and are available for online users. Number of all services available on the portal is 423 out of all 500 services provided by all state institutions. More than 27,500,000 online applications have been lodged since the launch of the portal.

¹⁰ The common template and minimum criteria to be met by the websites of the state authorities are regulated with "The REQUIREMENTS on the Development and Maintenance of the Internet Information Resources of the State Institutions" was approved by the decree number 189 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated September 4, 2012: <http://e-qanun.az/framework/24256>

implementation	Service, Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, Commission on Combating Corruption during 2013.
Indicator for assessment	2.6. Measures included in the annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis	1 – Measures were included; 0 – Measures were not included.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	The annual report of the Cabinet of Ministers for 2013 was not published on the website of the Cabinet of Ministers, but was published as a booklet and distributed among the Members of Parliament. The report states that a certain document entitled "The Requirements on the Development and Maintenance of the Internet Information Resources of the State Institutions" was approved by decree number 189 of the Cabinet of Ministers back on September 4th, 2012. Although this document was approved one day before the approval of the National Action Plan for 2012-2015, the websites of the state authorities have been aligned to the requirements of the common template and minimum criteria set by this document and thus, this action item has been completed.
2.7	<i>Inclusion of the information on measures taken</i>

	<i>in order to promote open government and combat corruption in the reports of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	2.7. Inclusion of the information on measures taken in order to promote open government and combat corruption in the reports of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis	1 – Measures were included; 0 – Measures were not included.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 0 (2013-2014) 0 (2015)
Monitoring score	0.3
Rationale	The annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers were not published on the websites of the Parliament or the Cabinet of Ministers. This assessment is based on the speeches delivered by the Prime Minister Artur Rasi-zadə before the Parliament on March 16, 2012, March 15, 2013, March 14, 2014 and March 17, 2015 while presenting the annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers. However, no measures taken to promote open government and combating corruption were addressed in the Prime Minister's speeches. The 429-page "Report on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of

Azerbaijan for 2015" that was distributed among the members of parliament had no systematic information on OGI NAP implementation.

Even section 12 on the implementation of main state programmes does not mention OGI NAP, but contains information about other programmes, such as the State Program on Social-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018, the State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015, and the State Program on the Reliable Supply of Food Products to the Population in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015. The report of the Cabinet of Ministers mentions the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 only four times; and in each case refers to fragmented details about work done by various state institutions in regards to the implementation of the plan.

For the first time, OGI NAP is mentioned in section 6 (Social areas) subsection 8 (Family, women and children issues)¹¹: "Together with Azerbaijan University and within the framework of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 a training entitled "Increasing transparency and providing better services to the citizens in the area of family and children issues" was delivered to

¹¹ Report on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015, p. 200.

students and civil servants."

In subsection 10 (Migration) of the same section there is information about implementation of the fourth activity in the fourth area of NAP¹²: "In several cities covered by various regional migration departments, "Open door" events – citizen forums were held and these events were reported in print and online media as well as TVs."

In section 8 (Institutional areas) subsection 5 (Management and privatization of state property, and state registration of real estate) the report says: "Submission of respective information on the implementation of activities outlined in the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 approved by the Presidential Decree number 2421 on 5 September 2012 was ensured." Next paragraph elaborates this as the submission of the annual NAP implementation report by the State Commission for Combating Corruption¹³.

In section 9 (Defence and public order) subsection 2 (Improvement of activities of law-enforcement agencies and fight against crime) the report says: "in line with the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015, the head of media service was identified as the person responsible for ensuring the freedom of information; as well as relevant

¹² Report on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015, p. 212.

¹³ Report on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015, p. 275

	information is regularly updated on the websites of the ministry and its divisions about transparency in activities, legal awareness of citizens, respective legislative acts, and e-services." ¹⁴
Area 3	Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1.5 (2015)
Average Score	1.7
3.1	<i>Regular updating and ensuring operating mode of the State Register for Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the official legal citation source.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Ministry of Justice on an on-going basis.
Indicator for assessment	3.1.1 Regular update of the online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis:	2 – The online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is updated systematically in line with the requirements of existing legislation; 1 – The online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is updated in line with the requirements of existing legislation, but not in a systematic way; 0 – No evidence of progress observed

¹⁴ Report on the activities of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2015, p. 348

	confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.5
Rationale	<p>The analysis of the online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.huquqiaktlar.gov.az) during the first and third periods of monitoring activities revealed that it was updated on a regular basis and in line with the requirements of the existing legislation.</p> <p>The updates are also in line with the provisions of the chapter XIV of the Constitutional Law on Legislative Acts, and the Regulation of the Rules of State Registration of Legislative Acts. Legislative changes are also reflected on e-ganun.az website, which is a part of the State Register and it is also updated in line with the current requirements of legislation.</p>
Indicator for assessment	3.1.2. The online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is accessible without any disruptions.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – The online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is accessible without any disruptions;</p> <p>1 - The online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is accessible without any serious disruptions;</p> <p>0 – The online version of the State Register of</p>

	Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is accessible with serious disruptions.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	<p>The analysis of the online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.huquqiaktlar.gov.az) and its “sister” web page (e-qanun.az) showed that they are usually in operation with some minor disruptions. These disruptions are not serious and occur when there are some significant legislative changes or when new legislative acts are adopted.</p> <p>Improvement of the work of the online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan is one of the actions whose implementation may be considered satisfactory in general. Both the online version of the State Register of Legislative Acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan (www.huquqiaktlar.gov.az) and its “sister” website (e-qanun.az) have usually been in continuous operation for three years. Disruption in their operation is of technical nature and usually occurs when there are some significant legislative changes or new legislative acts are adopted. However this disruption should be avoided at all since both websites have a wider audience accessing them every day.</p> <p>It should be noted that there is a need to</p>

incorporate some other legal texts into the online register, although they are not among the legislative acts listed in the chapter XIV of the Constitutional Law on Legislative Acts. Some notable examples may be the reports of the Cabinet of Ministers on implementation of the National Actions Plans on combating corruption, and on the Open Government Initiative. Additionally, other official acts, including official documents of public interest issued by the Cabinet of Ministers and other central executive authorities, should be incorporated into the online register (e.g. all documents related to the reports of the Cabinet of Ministers, other legal acts issued by the Cabinet, etc).

Observations revealed that there were a substantive number of English-speaking users of the online register and there is a big demand for the English-language versions of legal acts of the Republic of Azerbaijan. There is an urgent need to create an advanced English-language version of the online register. Even though several state institutions do already have English-language versions of some legislative acts on their official websites, the expert group considers that a more holistic approach is needed in this regard. Therefore, taking into account some international practices it is important to create an English-language version of the online register and regularly update it. There is also a need for social ads to be placed across the mass media in order to attract wider

	audience to the online register of legislative acts.
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Area 4	Increasing public's participation in the activity of the state institutions
Scores given during monitoring activities	0.83 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average Score	1.6
4.1	<i>Involvement of the civil society representatives in the elaboration of draft legislation of public interest, organization of public hearings by state institutions</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on an on-going basis.
Indicator for assessment	4.1. Number of the draft legislation acts of public interest elaborated with the involvement of the civil society representatives.
Methodological basis:	3 – Half of the draft legislation acts of public interest were elaborated with the involvement of the civil society representatives; 2 – Less than half of the draft legislation acts of public interest were elaborated with the involvement of the civil society representatives; 1 – Preparatory works are underway for the involvement of the civil society representatives in the elaboration of draft legislation acts of public interest; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given	0 (2012-2013)

during monitoring activities	2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.3
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period (September 2012 – September 2013) none of the 42 monitored central executive authorities organised any public discussion events. During the second monitoring period (September 2013 – December 2014) 14 of the monitored 48 central executive authorities organised public discussion events. During the last monitoring period (January 2015 – December 2015) 16 of monitored 46 central executive authorities held public discussion of draft legislation acts.</p> <p>Activities in this direction are delayed mostly because legislation regulating public hearing and public discussion of draft legislative acts was developed significantly later than the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan.</p> <p>Public discussion of the draft legislative acts was first included among the six possible forms of the public participation¹⁵ as set out in the Law on Public Participation of the Republic of Azerbaijan adopted on November 22, 2013 which entered into force on January 1, 2014.</p> <p>The Law provides that the public hearings and public discussions of draft legislation acts</p>

¹⁵ Paragraph 5.1. The forms of the public participation are following: 5.1.1. the public council; 5.1.2. the public discussion; 5.1.3. the public hearing; 5.1.4. the study of public opinion; 5.1.5. the public discussion of draft legislation; 5.1.6. the written consultation

presented to the Parliament are to be organized by the Parliamentary Apparatus¹⁶.

The special section of the website of the Parliament should contain the draft legislation act itself, its sponsors, registration number of the act, the relevant committees it has been sent to, the schedule and the place of public hearings, the period and procedures of public discussions, the mechanism for collecting feedback, comments and suggestions, procedures of their review, the deadline for the announcement of the results, and also the results of the review process of the feedback received, comments and suggestions. The Parliamentary Apparatus is responsible for:

informing the public about the results of feedback collecting process, comments and suggestions;

updating the text of the draft law after the first and second readings in the Parliament.

The Law states that the procedure for public hearing of the draft legislative acts is regulated by the regulations of the Parliament. However, the Internal Regulations of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan¹⁷ has not been amended to incorporate relevant provisions and no mechanism for holding a public hearing around the draft legislative acts has been established as of date.

During the entire monitoring period (2012-2015) it was observed that some draft legislative

¹⁶ The Law on the Public Participation, Article 18.

¹⁷ Adopted by the Law no. 74-IQ dated May 17, 1996

acts were published in the "Draft legislation" section of the website of the Parliament (www.meclis.gov.az). However, it was also revealed that many draft legislative acts that were brought before the Parliament had not been published on the official website. The reason behind withholding these acts from the public is unknown. There was no information available on their sponsors, registration numbers, relevant committees, schedule and place of public hearings, period and procedures of public discussion, mechanism for feedbacks, comments and suggestions, procedures of their review, deadline for the announcement of the results, and also the results of the review process of feedbacks, comments and suggestions.

When it comes to the situation of the central executive authorities, it is different from that of the Parliament. The Law does not define the unified procedure of the public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities, neither by local self-government institutions. Article 19 of the Law states that public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities, as well as the local self-government institutions is conducted according to the procedures defined by the relevant executive authority. The Presidential decree no. 816-IVQ dated November 22, 2013 specified "the relevant executive authority" stated in the law as the Cabinet of Ministers.

The Presidential decree dated January 16, 2014 on the implementation of the "Law on the Public Participation" has tasked the Cabinet of Ministers with preparing the unified procedure for the public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities, as well as the local self-government institutions in three months' time and present it to the President.

On May 30, 2014 the Cabinet of Ministers finally approved "The Procedure of the public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities, as well as the local self-government institutions" by the decree number 172.

The Procedure defines the public hearing as a meeting of authorized representatives of the respective authorities, members of the civil society institutions, individual citizens, experts and professionals to hold public consultations on the draft legislation acts and to raise awareness of the citizens. The Procedure defines the public discussion as a meeting of authorized representatives of the respective authorities, members of the civil society institutions, individual citizens, experts and professionals to get suggestions about the draft legislation from different segments of the population.

Thus, according to the Procedure, public hearing is intended to inform the citizens of the issues, while the public discussion is to create space for discussions, getting feedback,

suggestions and recommendations.

The procedure requires that central executive authorities create a special section on their websites and link it to the e-government portal when public hearings and public discussions on the draft legislation acts have to take place. Relevant central executive authority should publish the draft legislation act on its official website and on the e-government website when the act is sent for further deliberations. The draft legislation act should remain in the special section of the website for a period of 60 days in order to receive feedback, comments and suggestions from the civil society institutions, individual citizens, experts and professionals. If the central executive authority is mandated to prepare the draft legislation act for a period of three months or less, the draft act should be available on the website for a period of 10 days. In addition to the draft legislation act itself, central executive authority should also publish information about respective act of the President that the draft legislation act is intended to support, as well as schedule and place of public hearings, period and procedures of public discussion, mechanism for feedbacks, comments and suggestions, procedures of their review, deadline for announcement of the results. The central executive authority should publish, on a special section of its official website, the feedback, comments and suggestions received from the civil society institutions, individual citizens, experts and

professionals and ensure that other people also have the opportunity to get acquainted with the feedback, comments and suggestions received. The public should also be informed about the results of the review process of feedback, comments and suggestions and be informed if the draft legislation act has been updated according to feedback, comments and suggestions received, and then the updated version of the draft act should be published on the website.

The Procedure requires public hearing and public discussion to be open: "Any legally capable citizen and civil society institution should be able to participate in the public hearing and public discussion and express their views"¹⁸.

Another government initiative related to publishing draft legislative acts for public discussion is www.icazeler.gov.az website. The www.icazeler.gov.az website was established according to the Presidential decree No 509 dated October 26, 2011 "on several issues related to licenses and permits system for required to deal with certain types of entrepreneurial activity". The decree tasked the Ministry of Economy and Industry to create, during a three months period of time, an Internet portal containing information on

¹⁸ The Procedure of the public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities, as well as the local self-government institutions, section 3: "The holding of the public hearing and public discussion of the draft legislation acts prepared by the central and local executive authorities".

licenses and permits issued by the central and local executive authorities (the names of licenses and permits, their legal basis, required documents, names of the issuing institutions and their legal addresses, etc). The Ministry was also tasked to create a special rubric on the website for draft legislation on entrepreneurial activities and to keep draft legislation acts posted on the website during a one month period of time.

Therefore, the target groups for draft legislation acts posted on the websites of the Parliament and other state institutions, and <http://www.icazeler.gov.az> are different. While the website of the Parliament publishes draft legislation acts that have been presented to the Parliament, the second website publishes only those draft legislation acts that deal with entrepreneurial activities. The first website aims to reach out to all citizens with voting rights, while the second website addresses only entrepreneurs.

The results of monitoring process covering the entire three-year period revealed that some central state institutions have special sections on their websites for draft legislative acts, but still do not publish any draft legislation. Neither in the official responses to the information requests, nor on the official websites, there is any sufficient information about the acceptance of proposals from the civil society in the process of adoption of legislative acts that were open to the public discussion. During the

monitoring process, none of the central executive authorities was observed holding public discussion in accordance with the requirements of the Procedure. In most cases, the central executive authorities who held public discussions have partially complied with the requirements.

In the 2014 review of the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015, The State Committee for Combating Corruption noted problems in this direction and recommended to the central executive authorities to hold public hearing directly with the public, involve representatives of the civil society groups who are specialised in a given field, and benefit from their experience, as well as regularly receive their feedback and ideas, and make outcomes of public discussions open to the public.

It should also be noted that there were certain challenges in assessment of implementation in this direction. As the central executive authorities did not submit their work plans for the National Action Plan to the monitoring group, it was difficult to determine whether these institutions had been engaged in any activities related to drafting legislative acts. Monitoring group did their best to analyse the reports and relevant data to identify those institutions which did not have any commitments to prepare draft legislative acts and thus were released from implementing the respective action.

4.2	<i>Establishment of the appropriate councils or cooperation networks with a view to improve interaction with the civil society by state institutions delivering public services.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities during years 2012-2013.
Indicator for assessment	4.2. Number of the appropriate councils or cooperation networks established by the state institutions delivering public services.
Methodological basis	2 – All state institutions delivering public services have established appropriate councils or cooperation networks; 1 – Some state institutions delivering public services have established appropriate councils or cooperation networks; 0 – No progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	The activities in this direction were planned to start in 2012, but development of the given legislative framework was further delayed. However, councils or cooperation networks had been established within some institutions even before the National Action Plan was adopted. During the first monitoring period only seven central executive authorities out of 84 central and local state institutions had public councils. During the second monitoring period only seven central and one local authority had public

councils (out of total 94). During the third monitoring period only 10 out of 91 state institutions had public councils operating (eight central and two local executive authorities). As of December 31, 2015 public councils were operating at the State Civil Service Commission, the State Migration Service, the State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, the Ministry of Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the Ministry of Justice and the State Oil Fund.

During the third monitoring period (January-December 2015) Ministry of Economy and Industry started the process of establishing a public council. For this purpose internal regulation of the council, a decree regulating future activities of the council and a public notice on selection of council members were drafted. Establishment of the public council and selection of their members were regulated by "The Regulations for the Election of Public Councils by the Civil Society Institutions" approved by the Cabinet of Ministers on May 30, 2014 in accordance with the Law on Public Participation.

As of the end of 2015, only two local state institutions (respectively Binaqadi and Ismayilli district executive authorities) had established public councils. It should be noted that the deadline for establishing public councils expired on December 31, 2013.

According to the requirement of the Presidential decree that approved the Law on the Public Participation dated 22 November 2013, the Cabinet of Ministers prepared and approved "The Regulations for the Election of Public Councils by the Civil Society Institutions" on May 30, 2014. This act regulates procedures for establishing public councils. Unfortunately, another requirement of the Presidential decree which tasked the Cabinet of Ministers to prepare suggestions on central executive authorities to be placed under public control and submit them to the Presidential review is not implemented as of date. It should be noted that the time period allocated for the implementation of this requirement was only three months.¹⁹

In line with "Regulations for the Election of Public Councils by the Civil Society Institutions" every capable citizen aged at least 16 and possessing high moral and ethical qualities and appropriate experience or knowledge in the given area may be a member of public council, regardless of their race, ethnicity, religion, language, gender, origin, property status, social position, convictions, and membership status of any political parties, trade unions or other social organizations. The Regulations cover all aspects of establishment of public councils.

Unfortunately, most central and local executive authorities did not take this activity seriously

¹⁹ Signed on January 16, 2014

	<p>and some institutions even ignored the paragraph 4.2, while preparing activity reports on the National Action Plan. Some state institutions presented local elders' councils or other NGOs they were cooperating with as public councils. Such a view of public councils is stemming from misunderstanding of the principles of Open Government and the role and need to engage civil society in the government's decision making process. It should also be noted that only six out of eight public councils at the central executive authorities were created in accordance with the Regulations.</p> <p>In the 2014 review of the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015, The State Committee for Combating Corruption noted that the deadline for the establishment of public councils had expired but recommended the following: "the state institutions have to establish public councils at their earliest convenience, take all necessary measures for the functioning of those councils and inform the Commission on these measures."</p>
4.3	<p><i>Usage of web-pages as a means of involving the public in decision-making processes on matters of public concern (reception of comments and proposals of citizens, organization of discussions, development of the Questions-Answers (Q&A) sections, etc.)</i></p>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on an on-going basis.
Indicator for	4.3. Number of the central and local executive

assessment	authorities using their websites as a means of involving the public in decision-making processes on matters of public concern.
Methodological basis	<p>3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities use their websites as a means of involving the public in decision-making process;</p> <p>2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities use their websites as a means of involving the public in decision-making process;</p> <p>1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities use their websites as a means of involving the public in decision-making process;</p> <p>0 – None of central and local executive authorities uses their websites as a means of involving the public in decision-making process.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>0 (2012-2013)</p> <p>2 (2013-2014)</p> <p>2 (2015)</p>
Monitoring score	1.3
Rationale	<p>All of the monitored 46 central and 45 local executive authorities have interactive question-and-answer and online application sections on their official websites. Most central executive authorities published FAQs as separate menu items on their websites.</p> <p>However, there was no or little information available in the reports of state institutions on</p>

using their websites as means to facilitate public participation in the decision-making process. A close analysis revealed that the relevant FAQ sections on the websites of some central executive authorities were not updated and the online application functions were a mere formality.

The below question and its answer taken from the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection²⁰ is a good example:

Question: How are income tax and social insurance contribution calculated from the salary?

Answer: According to Article 176.1 of the Labour Code, total deductions may not exceed 20 percent of the employee's compensation. In the case of legal actions defined by law, the deductions may not exceed 50 percent of his compensation.

According to Article 176.2, when legal documents require several simultaneous deductions, the employee always shall be paid 50 percent of his compensation.

First of all, we would like to bring to your attention that salaries equal to the amount of minimum wage (today this amount is equal to 93.5 AZN) are exempt from income tax; only social insurance contributions are deducted from them. If a salary exceeds the amount of minimum wage, then income tax is calculated not from the entire salary, but from the part

²⁰ <http://www.mlsp.gov.az/az/pages/19/52>

	<p>exceeding the minimum wage. If a salary exceeds 200 AZN, then income tax is calculated from the entire salary</p> <p>Note: The minimum wage is no longer a factor in calculation of income tax from salaries and was replaced by the subsistence minimum four years ago; the information in the FAQ section has not been updated yet. The Tax Code was also respectively amended to reflect this. Besides, the minimum wage is not 93.5 AZN, but 105 AZN.</p> <p>Continuous monitoring of the implementation of the National Action Plan has revealed that the websites of local executive authorities were more outdated and dysfunctional in this respect. During the final assessment, online applications were sent to 11 randomly chosen local executive authorities (Fuzuli, Beylaqan, Qusar, Shamkir, Quba, Lankaran, Shirvan, Barda, Imishli, Qax, and Qabala) and not a single inquiry was answered. Thus, it was revealed that online application section on the websites of local executive authorities did not work and were present on the websites only because of the standard based template²¹.</p>
4.4	<i>Organization of the "Open-Door" forums by state institutions.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities on an on-going basis.
Indicator for assessment	4.4. Number of the central and local executive authorities organizing "Open Door" citizen

²¹ Look at sub-activity 2.6 in this report

	forums.
Methodological basis	<p>3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities organized "Open Door" citizen forums;</p> <p>2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities organized "Open Door" citizen forums;</p> <p>1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities organized "Open Door" citizen forums;</p> <p>0 – None of central and local executive authorities organized "Open Door" citizen forums.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>2 (2012-2013)</p> <p>3 (2013-2014)</p> <p>3 (2015)</p>
Average score	2.7
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period (September 2012 – September 2013) 35 institutions out of 42 central and 42 local executive authorities organised "Open Door" forums. During the second period (September 2013 – December 2014) this number was 78 out of 48 central and 46 local executive authorities. During the final year when 46 central and 45 local executive authorities were covered by the monitoring the total number was 73.</p> <p>Organisation of "Open Door" forums was among one of those the best implemented commitments. However, there were still some state institutions that did not organise any "Open Door" forums for citizens. Another</p>

	<p>shortcoming was that very little if no information was available in the activity reports to confirm or describe the organization of "Open Door" forums. There was no information on the official websites or in any press releases or reports detailing the topics discussed, number of participants, questions raised and answered, problems solved or whether the notices about the events were distributed in advance. The state institutions gave only general and brief information on the events and passed over details.</p> <p>In the 2014 review of the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015, State Committee for Combating Corruption also noted these problems and recommended: "The number of "Open Door" forums organised by state institutions should be increased and the general public should be informed about the upcoming events through mass media and the Internet. Every complaint should be listened to and necessary measures taken. Additionally, the state institutions should provide comprehensive information about the "Open Door" events in their next reports (number of forums, approximate number of participants, information disseminated in media, etc.)."</p>
Area 5	Improvement of e-Services
Scores given during monitoring activities	1,04 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)

Average Score	1.7
5.1	<i>Evaluation of the e-services and public disclosure of the results.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations of the Republic of Azerbaijan on an on-going basis.
Indicator for assessment	5.1.1. Evaluation of all forms of e-services.
Methodological basis:	2 – The evaluation of the e-services is being conducted; 1 – The preparatory work for the evaluation of the e-services is underway; 0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the implementation of planned activities.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.6
Rationale	The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has approved the "Guidelines on the evaluation of the organization and provision of e-services by the state authorities" and conducted assessments of respective e-services in both 2014 and 2015 in line with these guidelines. In 2014 the agency conducted an assessment of the organization and provision of e-services by 45 state authorities. In the official response to

	<p>the information request addressed to the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, the Ministry stated that one of its staff members took part in the assessment process (Letter number HKŞ-34/36, dated March 19, 2014).</p> <p>In 2015 the agency conducted the assessment of the organization and provision of 438 e-services offered by 39 central executive authorities. Each e-service was analysed according to the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • digitization and connectivity, • information openness and access, • ease of use. <p>Separate reports were prepared for each state institution on the status of organization and provision of their e-services with relevant deficiencies, remedies, and recommendations. The working group used special software to prepare their reference on the results of assessment of e-services during the reporting period.</p> <p>The agency also reviewed 21 administrative regulations defining the procedures of provision of e-services submitted by various state institutions. Besides, the agency reviewed projects of 12 new e-services to be offered by 5 central executive authorities. These reviews were done in line with the "Rules of reviewing the availability of the project proposals submitted by public authorities on information systems, information resources, and e-services".</p>
Indicator for	5.1.2. The publication of the evaluation results.

assessment	
Methodological basis	2 – The results of the evaluation of the e-services have been published; 1 – The results of the evaluation of the e-services have not been published, but the preparatory work for publication are underway; 0 – No facts observed confirming the publication of the evaluation results.
Scores given during monitoring period	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations approved the "Guidelines on the evaluation of the organization and provision of e-services by the state authorities" and published the document on their website ²² . The agency also prepared the timetable of its assessment of the e-services provided by central executive authorities also published on the website ²³ . The Ministry of Communication and High Technologies regularly publishes statistical information on the e-services provided by the state institutions in form of monthly newsletters on their official website ²⁴ . The Ministry also publishes these materials in hard copies and organizes their distribution and dissemination

²² <http://www.asan.gov.az/az/content/view/349/2427>

²³ http://vxside.gov.az/redirect/index/cat_id/69/MainOrNot/1 (2014) and <http://vxside.gov.az/redirect/post/pid/1257> (2015).

²⁴ <https://www.e-gov.az/az/content/read/42>

	<p>among the interested parties.</p> <p>Judging from the summary of monitoring findings, it can be stated that the responsible state institutions took significant steps in the assessment of e-services and public disclosure of their results. The Guidelines on the evaluation of the organization and provision of e-services by the state authorities is a good guarantee for the implementation of commitments in this direction. Publication of the lists of state institutions whose e-services were assessed, as well as the timetables of assessment is commendable. Unfortunately, the results of assessment activities were not disclosed comprehensively. Publishing the results of assessment in each state institution in a comprehensive and explanatory manner could give a much broader impression of e-services which were assessed.</p>
5.2	<i>Public presentation on e-services delivered by state institutions within their area of activity, at least once a year.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central and local executive authorities during years 2013-2015.
Indicator for assessment	5.2. Number of state institutions holding public presentations on their e-services at least once a year.
Methodological basis	<p>3 – More than 70% of central and local executive authorities delivering/providing e-services have held a public presentation at least once a year;</p> <p>2 – Between 20% and 70% of central and local executive authorities delivering/providing e-</p>

	<p>services have held a public presentation at least once a year;</p> <p>1 – Less than 20% of the central and local executive authorities delivering/providing e-services have held a public presentation at least once a year;</p> <p>0 – None of central and local executive authorities delivering/providing e-services have held any public presentations.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>0 (2012-2013)</p> <p>2 (2013-2014)</p> <p>2 (2015)</p>
Average score	1.3
Rationale	<p>Judging from the monitoring findings it can be stated that results of implementation of commitments in this direction improved over the years. While it was only one state institution (Ministry of Economic Development) which organized a public presentation on their e-services during the first monitoring period, the number of central executive authorities holding these presentations increased; thus, made 17 in 2014 and 21 in 2015. However, according to the monitoring findings, it cannot be affirmed that every central executive authority holding these presentations did a satisfactory job. Most of these state institutions stated that they had promoted their e-services as part of various events dedicated to other topics.</p> <p>Ministry of Economy and Industry, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, State Social Protection Fund and</p>

	<p>Ministry of Communication and High Technologies were the good examples of the state institutions which organise public presentations about their e-services on a regular basis. During the reporting period these central executive authorities organized public presentations about their e-services in different parts of the country on a regular basis and also took into account the regional representation. An increase in number of central executive authorities holding public presentations on their e-services over the years, as well as e central state institutions organising this kind of events in a systematic manner should be considered as a positive step forward. However, most central executive authorities did not organise any public presentations on their e-services nor allocated any time to present their e-services at other public events and this low performance leads to poor understanding of e-services amongst the general public. Central state institutions which demonstrated poor performance in this direction affect other institutions which demonstrated good performance and eventually slowed down the overall progress in the implementation of this commitment.</p>
5.3.	Development of the unified system in order to ensure the electronic information exchange between the state institutions.
Responsible for implementation	State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, Special State Protection

	Service during years 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	<i>5.3. Development of the unified system for the electronic information exchange between the state institutions.</i>
Methodological basis	2 – The unified system for the electronic information exchange between the state institutions has been developed; 1 – Preparatory work for the development of the unified system for the electronic information exchange between the state institutions are underway; 0 – No evidence of progress was observed regarding the development of the unified system for the electronic information exchange between the state institutions.
Scores given during monitoring period	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	During the first monitoring period, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies developed the "Electronic Government" State Information System that integrated 39 state institutions. According to the information provided by the State Special Protection Service, they established a 10 Gb/s IP/MPLS system over DWDM network and the information exchange between the state institutions went through this network. Work was also underway to expand the existing network. Judging from the work of the Ministry of

Communication and High Technologies in this direction, it can be stated that integration of new state institutions into the unified information exchange system is a continuous process. In July 2013 the number of state institutions integrated into the system was 35 and in September of the same year it already reached 39. According to the information collected, in 2014 this number reached 40.

During the reporting period, 446 e-services were approved and 296 of them were integrated into the e-government portal. A total of 374 e-services have been provided via the e-government portal, of which 78 not approved yet. However, 150 approved e-services were not integrated into the e-government portal during the reporting period²⁵.

It should also be noted that the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies together with the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations have prepared a draft law on state information systems and information resources and presented it to the government for further elaboration.

A special e-government portal (www.e-gov.az) was developed to organise information exchange between the information systems of various state institutions and to allow citizens to access the government e-services through "one stop shop" principle. The e-government portal can be considered the most successful step

²⁵ http://www.mincom.gov.az/assets/Uploads/bulleten%202022_portala.pdf

	<p>taken in this direction.</p> <p>Based on the monitoring findings, it can be stated that continuous work was underway for further development of the e-government portal. However, several challenges persisted. Some state institutions were not integrated into the portal at all and other state institutions did not integrate all of their all e-services. Several e-services were not actively used. The electronic document exchange between the state institutions through a single window was not fully completed. All these problems slowed down the overall progress in this direction.</p>
5.4.	<i>Improvement of electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central executive authorities, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations during years 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	5.4. The electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – Measures for the improvement of the electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues have been implemented;</p> <p>1 – Preparatory work for the improvement of the electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues are underway;</p> <p>0 – No evidence of progress observed confirming the preparation and implementation of measures for the improvement of the</p>

	electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.6
Rationale	<p>During the first reporting period the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations created necessary conditions for electronic payments to be in place, particularly for the notary public services (concerning 39 official documents); as well as eight services of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, three services of the State Committee for Property Issues, four services of the Ministry of Taxes, one service of the National Archives, seven services of the State Migration Service, 10 services of the Ministry of Justice, one service of the State Land and Mapping Committee and one service of the State Social Protection Fund.</p> <p>The Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan established the National Payment System (NPS) infrastructure. One new component of the NPS, the Centralized Information System for Mass Payments (CISMP), was developed and put into use. The main objectives of CISMP were to improve the internal information systems of the public utility and other public service companies and to integrate them into NPS, to improve the collection rate and transparency of public utility payments and to integrate the financial turnover of public utility companies</p>

into the banking system. The introduction of CISMP based on new technologies enabled the subscribers to obtain full information on their utility debts and make all payments via desired payment methods (cash, payment cards, bank transfers, Internet banking) at any payment service points of the financial institutions integrated to the system. Information on any payments in favour of companies integrated into the system was delivered to the respective companies in 30 seconds. At the same time, any changes in the electronic subscriber database of participating entities were delivered to the centralized information database in real time through the high-level data exchange interface with the internal information system of participating entities.

The Central Bank also created the Government Payment Portal (GPP) on the basis of CISMP to ensure online payment of duties and other payments for services provided by state institutions. In total, 220 types of payments for services provided by the state institutions could be made in cash at about 1500 payment service points of the "Azərpoçt" LLC and 42 banks integrated to the infrastructure, as well as via payment cards using the Internet resource (www.gpp.az) of the GPP . The public utility companies – "Azərenerji", "Bakıelektrikşəbəkə", "Azərsu", "Azəriqaz" and "Azərilstiliktəchizat", the state institutions – State Mortgage Fund, State Migration Service, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Economy and

	<p>Industry, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Social Protection Fund, State Customs Committee and Central State Road Police, landline phone service providers – "Bakı Telefon Rabitəsi" and "Aztelekom" and the mobile operator – "Azercell Telekom" LLC were already integrated into the GPP infrastructure ²⁶ . According to the observations made during monitoring, activities one of the biggest beneficiaries of the e-payment system was the Ministry of Taxes. The Ministry of Taxes stated in their official response to the information request that during the reporting period a total of 154.4 million AZN had been collected through 754,163 payments using the electronic payment system.</p> <p>Based on the monitoring findings, it can be stated that measures for the improvement of electronic payments of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues had been well implemented. Not only the e-payment system was developed over the years but other significant measures were taken to simplify the system and make it more available to the general public.</p>
5.5.	<i>Implementation of measures facilitating access to e-services in the regions.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Central executive authorities, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies,

²⁶ <https://gpp.az/az/site/member/government>

	Special State Protection Service during years 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	5.5. Implementation of the measures facilitating the access to e-services in the regions.
Methodological basis	3 – At least one measure has been implemented in more than 70% of the regions for facilitating the access to e-services; 2 – At least one measure has been implemented in between 20% and 70% of the regions for facilitating the access to e-services; 1 – At least one measure has been implemented in less than 20% of the regions for facilitating the access to e-services; 0 – No measures have been implemented for facilitating the access to e-services in the regions.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.6
Rationale	During the early monitoring period, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies prepared National Broadband Internet Development project. Paragraph 3.6 of the Presidential decree dated December 30, 2012 approving the 2013 budget of the State Oil Fund provided that relevant funds are allocated for the implementation of the project. Accordingly, a new state programme was prepared and submitted to the respective authorities for further deliberation. This project envisaged that people in every settlement of the country,

including the remote mountain villages, shall have access to high-speed broadband Internet and other advanced telecommunication services over the fibre-optic. In line with the project, the remote mountain villages shall have access to Internet with a minimum speed of 30 Mbps and the cities – 100 Mbps; and the number of broadband Internet users shall reach 85% of total population. However, implementation of the project did not take place during the monitoring period.

According to the official letter of the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, self-service booths with a high-speed Internet access were set up in the post offices in 30 remote villages across the country. The centres functioning at local telecommunication hubs in the districts were provided with an access to the Internet. Also, during the reporting period, the Ministry established an alternative regional service centre in Yevlax city serving the broadband Internet subscribers of Aztelekom in Yevlax, Barda, Agdam and Tartar telecommunication hubs. Residents of other districts in the region would be able to use the services of the centre in the future.

In order to facilitate access to e-services in the regions and to raise the awareness of the local residents, State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations had a mobile ASAN service – specially equipped buses serving population of 37 districts by providing e-services in 21 locations throughout the country. Another

service provided by ASAN centres was so-called "self-service". Special "self-service" booths installed in ASAN centres provide an opportunity for citizens to use all types of electronic services by means of computers connected to the Internet²⁷. There were three "self-service" booths installed in Sumgait ASAN service centre and four booths in Ganja ASAN service centre.

Another central executive authority well-known for its activities related to facilitation of the access to e-services in the regions is Ministry of Economy and Energy. During the reporting period, the Ministry held numerous presentations about its activities in 59 districts. One of the topics of these presentations was the e-services provided by the Ministry. The Ministry also presented its online resources (www.icazeler.gov.az, www.yoxlama.gov.az, and www.biznesinfo.az) and e-services to entrepreneurs in Ganca, Shamkir, Goranboy, Qabala, Barda, Xizi, Qusar, Dashkasan, Xachmaz and Yardimli districts.

All 50 e-services of the Ministry of Taxes provided since July 07, 2013 were also available in all its regional service centres.

²⁷ One of the services available in the ASAN centres is so-called "self-service". "Self-service" is an opportunity for citizens to use all types of electronic services by means of computers connected to the Internet in the booths installed in the ASAN centres. Citizens without their own personal computers may come to ASAN centres to use these computers to access various e-services. Citizens who have problems using e-services available on the websites of state institutions may ask help for the staff of ASAN centres. "Self-service" booths are currently available in all ASAN centres: http://www.asan.az/uploads/files/Texniki_avadanliq.pdf

	Analysis showed that all currently available opportunities to use e-services in the regions were not fully utilised during the reporting period. There were several reasons for this, namely low IT skills among population living in the regions, financial difficulties to acquire up-to-date information and communication consumer gadgets, poor Internet infrastructure, etc. According to the official letter of the Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, the main objective today is to provide quality Internet services to all areas of the country. However, failure to implement the National Broadband Internet Development project is preventing the access to high-quality Internet services in all regions.
Area 6 ²⁸	Increase of Transparency in State Financial Control Institutions
Scores given during monitoring activities	1,4 (2012-2013) 1,2 (2015)
Average Score	1.3
6.1	<i>Delineation of powers of the state financial control institutions and development of draft legislation providing improved legal basis for the state financial control.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Taxes during years 2013-2014.

²⁸This area was not included in the second monitoring period (2013-2014). Therefore the evaluation is provided based on the results of two monitoring periods (2012-2013 and 2015).

Indicator for assessment	6.1.1 Delineation of powers of the state financial control institutions.
Methodological basis:	3 – Powers of more than half of the state control institutions are delimited; 2 – Powers of fewer than half of the state control institutions are delimited; 1 – Powers of the state control institutions are not delimited, but some preparatory work is underway; 0 – Powers of the state control institutions are not delimited, or no preparatory work is underway.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	During the first monitoring period the only activity observed in this area was the delineation of the powers of State Financial Control Service. During the third monitoring period none of the respective public agencies responded to the information requests enquiring into implementation status of this paragraph. No systematic information on implementation of the National Action Plan is available on websites of these institutions, as well as in annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers to the Parliament. The Ministry of Taxes stated in their report that they had not received any documents delimitating the powers of state financial control institutions. A close monitoring of legislation sections of the

	official websites revealed that no new activities were recorded on the delineation of powers of the state financial control institutions during years 2014 and 2015. During the entire implementation period of the National Action Plan the only activity observed in this area remains the establishment and delineation of powers of the State Financial Control Service at the Ministry of Finance. The latest legislative act concerning the activities of this institution was adopted in August 2013 ²⁹ .
Indicator for assessment	6.1.2 The Law on State Financial Control is drafted.
Methodological basis	2 – The law has been drafted; 1 – The law is being drafted; 0 – The law has not been drafted yet and no preparatory work is underway.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	During the first monitoring period this action was not implemented. According to the information provided by Ministry of Finances, some preparatory work was underway to prepare the Law on State Financial Control and best practices among the European countries have been studied. Therefore, implementation of this paragraph was assessed as 1 (given that

²⁹ <http://www.maliyye.gov.az/node/1680>

the law was being drafted). During the third monitoring year none of the respective public agencies responded to information requests asking for the implementation status of this paragraph. No systematic information on implementation of the National Action Plan was available on the websites of these institutions, as well as in the annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers to the Parliament. The Ministry of Taxes stated in their report that they had not received any documents for review or feedback. The State Commission for Combating Corruption stated in their OGI NAP reports for years 2013 and 2014 that the Ministry of Finances had reviewed the relevant international practices, drafted a legislative act, and sent it to the Cabinet of Ministers. However, the draft law was not brought before the Parliament nor there was any information available about the draft law on the official website of the Parliament³⁰. Besides, as it was clear from the statement issued by the head of the Chamber of Accounts to the media, the Law on State Financial Control was not on the government's agenda; instead, Budget Code was being drafted at that moment. However, a new draft law on the Chamber of Accounts was also prepared in order to improve financial control³¹. The Presidential decree dated April 28, 2016 approving the law which amended Article 308-1

³⁰ <http://meclis.gov.az/?/az/legislation/>

³¹ http://fins.az/budce/891396/Dovlet_auditi_maliyye_pozuntularinin_qarsisini_alacaq_HESABLAMA_PALATASININ_SADRI.html

	<p>of the Criminal Code ("Misusing resources of the state budget, special purpose budget funds or extra-budgetary funds for unintended purposes") can be considered another step towards creating advanced legislation for state financial control.</p> <p>According to the new amendment cases of misuse resources from state budget, special purpose budget funds or extra-budgetary funds for unintended purposes with significant amounts being misused, shall result in ban of holding a certain position or carrying out certain activities for a period of three years accompanied with the penalty in the amount of 8,000 to 10,000 AZN, or in deprivation of freedom up to three years accompanied with ban of holding a certain position or of carrying out certain activities for a period of three years. In cases when large amounts have been misused, deprivation of freedom from three to six years accompanied with ban of holding certain position or from carrying out certain activity for up to three years. Amendments also clarify the definition of " the significant amount" (308-1.1) as an amount from 50,000 to 250,000 AZN, and the definition of the "large amount" (308-1.2) as an amount starting from 250,000 AZN.</p>
6.2	<i>Enhancement of accountability of state financial control institutions and disclosure of the results of the financial examinations, analyses and statistical data to the public</i>
Responsible for	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts,

implementation	Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Taxes during years 2013-2015.
Indicator for assessment	6.2.1. Implementation of relevant measures to enhance the accountability of state financial control institutions.
Methodological basis	2 – Relevant measures to enhance the accountability of state financial control institutions are being implemented; 1 – Preparatory work is underway for relevant measures to enhance the accountability of state financial control institutions; 0 – No facts were observed on implementation of any measures to enhance the accountability of state financial control institutions.
Scores given during monitoring activities	0 (2012-2013) 0 (2015)
Average score	0
Rationale	Relevant measures to enhance accountability of state financial control institutions were meant to be included in the Law on State Financial Control. Since the law is not adopted, it shows that the measures have not been implemented. Therefore, the score for the implementation of this activity was 0 (zero) during both monitoring periods. Analysis of the websites of state financial control institutions revealed that there had been no progress made towards accountability on their behalf. For example, the latest report of the

	State Financial Control Service covered only the first half of 2015 ³² .
Indicator for assessment	6.2.2. Disclosure of analyses and statistical data about the results of financial control to the general public.
Methodological basis	2 – Analyses and statistical data about the results of financial control are disclosed to the general public; 1 – Analyses and statistical data about the results of financial control are not disclosed to the general public, but some preparatory work is underway; 0 – Analyses and statistical data about the results of financial control are not disclosed to the general public, no preparatory work is underway;
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	During the monitoring period the state financial control institutions published their annual reports on their official websites and disclosed them to the general public through mass media. The State Financial Control Service at the Ministry of Finances disclosed more detailed information for the first half of 2015 than during the previous years. The Chamber of Accounts also started to open up more detailed information on their audit activities.

³² <http://www.maliyye.gov.az/node/1847>

	However, it should be noted that the comprehensiveness of the disclosed reports still were not satisfactory. The reports of the State Financial Control Service were never more than one page long. The reports of the Chamber of Accounts were more detailed but still did not fully comply with the Open Government principles.
6.3.	<i>Application of the IT in the state financial control area and elaboration of the e-control system.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Taxes during years 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	6.3. Electronic control system (e-control) is established.
Methodological basis	2 – Electronic control system (e-control) is established; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to establish the electronic control system (e-control); 0 – Electronic control system (e-control) is not established and no preparatory work is underway;
Scores given during monitoring activities	0 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)
Average score	0.5
Rationale	The first measure in this direction was establishment of the Information System for Treasury Management (ISTM) based on SAP programme. ISTM was meant to improve the treasury system of Ministry of Finance. Starting

from 2014, all direct expenditures in national and foreign currencies are managed through this system. The software managing the transactions between the Ministry of Finances and budgetary institutions also works in ISTM. Additionally, the State Treasury Agency at the Ministry of Finances established Treasury Information Management Portal. The purpose of this portal is to allow any state institutions to send their documents in scanned form to the Treasury Agency after they acquire e-signatures or ASAN signatures.

Ministry of Taxes revised the terms of use for the Automated Tax Information System at the Central Bank and allowed for a greater exchange of data since 25 November 2014.

However, the Treasury Information Management Portal is not fully operational. Not all central executive authorities and their regional divisions, or all required financial documents are covered by this system. "Access with the certificate" function on the portal (<https://portal.dxa.gov.az/>) was not active during the reporting period. Some central and local executive authorities have not acquired e-signatures and ASAN signatures so far. State Treasury Agency stated in their latest press release that they had contracted Cerberus company to help improve the document management, reception of documents sent using e-signatures and preparation of relevant reports. During the reporting period the unified electronic control system was not fully

	operational, despite the fact that several measures were taken to develop it. In order to achieve progress in the application of IT in the state financial control and establishment of the e-control system, several necessary measures have to be taken, namely: to develop an electronic system based on working mechanisms: educate skilled personnel especially in local offices of state and budgetary institutions and deliver relevant training to employees in order to update their skills continuously.
6.4.	<i>Organization of the mutual activity between state financial control institutions, establishment of the state financial control central database, development of the electronic data exchange.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Taxes during years 2013-2014
Indicator for assessment	6.4. Establishment of the central database of state financial control institutions.
Methodological basis	2 – The central database of state financial control institutions is established; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to establish the central Database of state financial control institutions; 0 – The central database of state financial control institutions is not established and no preparatory work is underway.
Scores given during monitoring	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)

activities	
Average score	1
Rationale	During the first monitoring period Ministry of Finances indicated that they had started some preparatory work to create such a database. However, the database was not yet in use as of end of 2015. The Ministry of Taxes stated in their 2014 report that they had prepared relevant web services for integration to Financial Monitoring Service at Central Bank. According to the mass media, information exchange between Ministry of Taxes and Chamber of Accounts were also taking place. Therefore, the score awarded for the implementation of this paragraph was 1 during both monitoring periods.
6.5	<i>Improvement of the mechanism of control over the publication of the financial reports, drawn by the state institutions in accordance with the International Standards of Financial Reporting or National Accounting Standards, along with the auditor's report.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finances during years 2013-2014.
Indicator for assessment	6.5. Measures to improve control over the publication of the financial statements of the state-owned enterprises together with the auditor's report.
Methodological basis	2 – Measures to improve control took place; 1 – Preparatory work to improve control are taking place; 0 – Measures to improve control did not take place and preparatory work was delayed.

Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	<p>Any measures taken in this direction were observed only during the first monitoring period. State institutions responsible for implementation of this activity did not respond to information requests during the third monitoring period. In order to assess implementation status in this direction, the expert group monitored the official websites of the given institutions, as well as all relevant information disseminated in mass media. Reports on implementation of the National Action Plan prepared by State Commission on Combating Corruption for both 2013 and 2014 were also consulted. According to the Commission reports, in connection with the implementation of this provision, articles 12 and 16 of the Law on Accounting, article 247.1 of the Code of Administrative Offences, as well as “Rules of submission, reporting period and publication of annual financial reports and consolidated financial reports of commercial entities” (approved by decision no 97 of the Cabinet of Ministers dated on 27 May 2010) were amended.</p> <p>The relevant articles of the Law on Accounting</p>

(articles 12 and 16) were amended in May 2012, the Code of Administrative Offences³³ – in November 2012. The latter provision was kept intact in the new Code on Administrative Offences that was adopted in 2015 and came into force on January 1, 2016.

The aforementioned decision of the Cabinet of Ministers was amended on 9 September 2012. The Cabinet of Ministers issued another decision on 1 October 2014 renewing the list of all institutions of public importance that have to do accounting and prepare their financial statement in accordance with the International Financial Reporting Standards (except loan giving organisations, insurance companies, investment funds, non-state social funds, publicly listed legal entities). Some state-owned enterprises like SOCAR, Azərsu or Azərenerji publish their annual financial statements together with auditor's report in order to comply with requirements of international financial institutions and attract their funding. However, other enterprises in the list, like some of SOCAR subsidiaries and Azerbaijan Airlines, do not publish their financial statements

³³ "Violation by the accounting subject of the regulations for execution, filing the statutory financial accounts and consolidated financial reports and other statements and information to be submitted to insurance supervision body, including correct reflection of information and indices in statements and other forms required under legislation, as well as keeping registration documents stipulated by the legislation entails imposition of the penalty on official persons in the amount of 300-400 manats, legal entities — 1500-2000 manats."

http://www.taxes.gov.az/uploads/qanun/2011/mecelleler/inzibati_xetalar_mecellesi_eng.pdf

	separately.
6.6	<i>Development of proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over the drafting and execution of local budget, including correspondence of the expenditures to the approved budget indicators, as well as the local municipality financial reports.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finances, Chamber of Accounts during 2013.
Indicator for assessment	6.6. Development of proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over drafting and execution of local budgets.
Methodological basis:	2 – Proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over drafting and execution of local budgets were presented; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to develop Proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over drafting and execution of local budgets; 0 – Proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over drafting and execution of local budgets were not developed.
Scores given during monitoring period	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.5
Rationale	According to the amendments from May 29, 2012 to paragraph 14.2 of the Law on Accounting procedures of preparing and submitting financial statements on local budget execution, reporting periods and their public disclosure are defined by the Law on Basics of

Municipal Finances. The previous version of the same provision entrusted these procedures to municipalities. These amendments set out standard forms for the disclosure of execution of local budgets to general public by all municipalities. However, according to observation and assessment by experts, most municipalities did not comply with these new procedures, the main reason being absence of any liabilities for municipalities for failure to comply with these procedures.

In the official response to the information request the Ministry of Finances stated that they had created all necessary conditions for municipalities seeking financial assistance from the state budget to submit all their documents in electronic form (three-year information on budgetary revenues and expenditures, quarterly and yearly reports on local budget execution, etc) starting from June 2012. In turn, Ministry of Justice stated that "the judicial authorities have been preparing legislative proposals to set up control mechanisms and procedures to make municipalities to comply with budgetary standards while preparing and executing local budgets, spending local funds and reporting financial statements."

According to the annual report on administrative oversight over the activities of municipalities (2013) submitted by the Ministry of Justice, proposals to amend the Law on the Basics of Municipal Finances, as well as to Code on Administrative Offences in line with

	<p>the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 were developed.</p> <p>Analysis of legislation in this area showed that the Law on the Basics of Municipal Finances and the Law on Accounting included provisions on financial reporting by municipalities, drafting and execution of local budgets, regulations of subsidies, subventions, and loans to municipalities, oversight over preparation of reports, etc. Besides, Ministry of Finances considered incorporating municipalities into the electronic financial reporting.</p> <p>According to the recent changes made to the Law on Local (Municipal) Taxes and Payments, municipalities could no longer accept local taxes or payments in petty cash – those have to be paid through banks, postal service and other non-cash means.</p> <p>Judging from the monitoring findings, it can be stated that both Ministry of Finance and Municipal department of the Ministry of Justice developed proposals on control mechanisms and procedures concerning preparation and execution of local budgets, and submitted those to respective authorities. Some of these proposals were incorporated into the legislation. What slowed the progress in this direction was the failure of local municipalities to act upon new regulation, again for absence of any working mechanisms to guarantee implementation thereof.</p>
6.7	<p><i>Publication of the reports on the implementation of state budget and the relevant</i></p>

	<i>legislation drafts prior to referral to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.</i>
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances during years 2013-2015.
Indicator for assessment	6.7. Measures to ensure the publication of the state budget and other relevant draft legislation prior to being presented in the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis:	1 – Reports on the execution of state budget and other relevant draft legislation are published prior to being presented before the Parliament; 0 – Reports on the execution of state budget and other relevant draft legislation are not published prior to being presented before the Parliament;
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)
Average score	1
Rationale	Implementation of this action was assessed during the first and third monitoring periods, although it had to be implemented for the entire period covered by the National Action Plan. During the first monitoring period Ministry of Finance in their official response to the information request stated that in order to inform general public comprehensive details on the state and consolidated budgets for 2013 were published on the Ministry's website before being presented to the Parliament. However, it should also be noted that the Law on execution of the state budget for 2012 was published on the Ministry's website on June 4, 2013 after it

	<p>had been presented to the Parliament on May 31, 2013. During 2012-2013 monitoring period "Timely information on the implementation of the budget" section on the Ministry's website did not contain any information on final annual implementation of the state budget for 2012 either. Ministry of Finance also stated that in line with paragraphs 20.2 and 20.7 of the Law on Budget System, they had published quarterly reports on the implementation of the state budget presented to the Cabinet of Ministers. As a result the implementation in this direction was awarded the highest score of 1.</p> <p>During the third monitoring period screening of mass media and the website of Ministry of Finance revealed that the state and consolidated budgets for 2016 were published on the Ministry's website at the beginning of October 2015 before being presented to the Parliament. Therefore this activity received the highest score (1) for 2015.</p>
Area 7³⁴	Increase in Transparency of tax control and examination
Scores given during monitoring activities	1.66 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average Score	1.8
7.1	<i>Provision of necessary information to and awareness raising among tax payers</i>

³⁴ This area was not included in the second monitoring period (2013-2014). Therefore the evaluation is provided based on the results of two monitoring periods (2012-2013 and 2015).

Responsible for implementation	Ministry of Taxes during years 2012-2014.
Indicator for assessment	7.1. Implementation of measures aimed at providing taxpayers with necessary information.
Methodological basis:	2 – Measures aimed at providing taxpayers with necessary information were implemented; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to implement measures aimed at providing taxpayers with necessary information; 0 – Measures aimed at providing taxpayers with necessary information were not implemented and no preparatory work is underway;
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Monitoring score	2
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period Ministry of Taxes in their official response to the information request stated that they had submitted their implementation report on the National Action Plan to Cabinet of Ministers and State Commission for Combating Corruption. Therefore, the expert group had to rely on the information published on the Ministry's official website.</p> <p>Analysis of the information revealed that the Ministry had already started implementation of Development Concept for Services Provided to Taxpayers in 2011-2015. In 2012. Ministry of Taxes published 15 titles of small information booklets reflecting the necessary information</p>

about tax legislation and tax administration, including advantages of non-cash payment means, bank cards and POS-terminals. In total, the Ministry published 111,500 copies (9,900 of them in English) and took appropriate measures to deliver them to taxpayers. The official newspaper of the Ministry ("Vergilər") and online questions and answers section on the Ministry's website were also active during this period. In 2013, the Ministry again published 14 titles of small information booklets in Azerbaijani and English, reflecting necessary information about tax legislation and tax administration and took appropriate measures to deliver to taxpayers.

During the third monitoring period Ministry of Taxes in their official response to the information request stated that in February 2014 they had imprinted the ministry's logos on 40 cars to raise more awareness among the taxpayers. These cars are used in management of document circulation, provision of mobile services, provision of services related to the use of POS-terminals, meetings with taxpayers and municipalities, events organised at schools or for the Tax Friends network, as well as advertisement and promotion.

In order to facilitate the use of POS terminals throughout the country, "For fast track, do not pay in cash!" campaign was launched in big shopping centres. Public service ads about the need and importance of employment contracts were printed on the plane tickets. In cooperation

	<p>with advertisement agencies operating in Baku, the Ministry placed on the average up to 90 advertisement boards and videos per month in different parts of the city, including along the road and big shopping centres, stressing the importance of employment contracts. These kinds of activities are being implemented on a regular basis. Besides, the Ministry published necessary information and guiding materials on their official website which brings up to 3 million visitors a year. There is also a FAQ section available on the website. The Ministry also took measures to send necessary information to the taxpayers via text messages.</p>
7.2.	<i>Implementation of measures in order to align the activity of the tax institutions with the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency.</i>
Responsible for implementation	The Ministry of Taxes during years 2012-2013.
Indicator for assessment	7.2. Implementation of measures in order to align the activity of the tax institutions with the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – Measures to align the activity of the tax institutions with the IMF Code of Best Practice on Tax Transparency were implemented;</p> <p>1 – Preparatory work is underway to implement measures to align the activity of the tax institutions with the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency;</p> <p>0 – No measures were implemented and no preparatory work was observed;</p>

Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period the Ministry of Taxes started to provide e-services, such as electronic declarations, electronic tax invoices, electronic VAT payments through unified deposit accounts, etc.</p> <p>During the third monitoring period Ministry of Taxes reported to the Cabinet of Ministers that they were taking some measures to align activities of fiscal institutions with the IMF Code of Good Practices on Fiscal Transparency. These measures included: monitoring conducted by the Ministry of Taxes, aligning respective legislation and activities of Ministry with the Code and implementation of the respective provisions of the Code within the competence of the Ministry.</p> <p>At the same time, IMF has been working to improve the Code and draft amendments and supplements to it during the reporting period. The final text of the Code has been prepared taking into account feedbacks and comments and sent to the Executive Board of IMF for approval.</p>
7.3.	Implementation of measures in order to improve electronic payment of taxes and other mandatory payments.
Responsible for implementation	Ministry of Taxes during years 2012-2013.

Indicator for assessment	<i>7.3. Implementation of measures to improve electronic payment of taxes and other mandatory payments.</i>
Methodological basis	2 – Measures to improve electronic payment of taxes and other mandatory payments were implemented; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to implement measures to improve electronic payment of taxes and other mandatory payments; 0 – No measures were implemented and no preparatory works were observed.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Monitoring score	1.5
Rationale	During the first monitoring only some preparatory work was underway in Ministry of Taxes to implement measures to improve e-payment of taxes and other mandatory payments. According to the report of Ministry, several measures were implemented in order to improve e- payment of taxes and other mandatory payments during the third monitoring period. In particular, Ministry of Taxes together with Central Bank implemented relevant measures to integrate Ministry of Justice into Government Payment Portal in order to facilitate payment of state duties using non-cash payment means. Ministry of Justice prepared lists of budget classification of duties and treasury accounts of

	<p>institutions collecting duties. Technical and other aspects of integration of the information system of the Ministry to Government Payment Portal were thoroughly discussed as well. Internet Tax Office of the Ministry also has a new feature available to taxpayers starting from 21 October 2013. If any debts on VAT interests are incurred by taxpayers via their VAT deposit accounts, the amount is automatically charged from the sub-account to the budget.</p> <p>Ministry of Taxes implemented other several important measures to increase the range and numbers of e-services provided to the civil society and business community, in line with the Presidential "Decree on Some Measures in The Area of Organization of Electronic Services Provided by The State Institutions". The Ministry had also launched an e-payment system of taxes and duties in cooperation with Central Bank. During entire reporting period, payments worth 154.4 million AZN entered the state budget via 754,163 payment operations. The Ministry upgraded its operational software to meet the needs of activities (preparing and sending of notifications) regarding the use of POS terminals.</p>
Area 8	Increase transparency in extractive industries
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1.66 (2013-2012) 2 (2015)
Average Score	1.9
8.1.	<i>Continuing the cooperation between the</i>

	<i>Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and both local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, as well as civil society institutions, in order to ensure continuous implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.</i>
Responsible for implementation	State Oil Fund during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	8.1. Implementation of measures for the continuous cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and both local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, along with civil society institutions, in order to ensure continuing implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis:	2 – Some measures have been implemented; 1 – Preparatory work for some measures are in progress; 0 – No measures have been implemented and no preparatory work is in progress.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	During the first monitoring period the implementation of this paragraph was awarded the highest possible score because it was fully implemented. In their letter from May 17, 2013 addressed to the Transparency Azerbaijan, the

State Oil Fund stated that EITI activities went on in accordance with the work plans for 2012 and 2013. During that period the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) consisting of the representatives of companies engaged in extractive industries, civil society and the government organized 10 meetings; conducted a training program on increasing the quality of EITI accountability for both local and foreign companies part of the Memorandum; one new company joined the initiative.

During the second monitoring period the expert group based its analysis on the contents of the letter sent to Transparency Azerbaijan by the State Oil Fund on January 15, 2015. According to the letter, EITI activities went on in accordance with the work plan. During that period the Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG), comprised of representatives of companies engaged in extractive industries, civil society and the government held 12 meetings; a seminar was held for the local and foreign production companies and members of EITI NGO coalition in connection with the adoption of new EITI standards; the SOFAZ hosted an International Conference “10 years of Azerbaijan in EITI. From history to new stage” devoted to the 10th anniversary of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) implementation in Azerbaijan. One of the most significant actions was signing of a new Memorandum of Understanding on "Implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in

the Republic of Azerbaijan" between the EITI Commission, local and foreign extractive industry companies operating in Azerbaijan and NGO Coalition for Improving Transparency in Extractive Industries. Additionally, given the kick off of the EITI validation process in Azerbaijan on January 1, 2015, a pre-validation workshop was held for the EITI parties on 24 December 2014.

In response to the new difficulties associated with the participation of civil society in the EITI process in Azerbaijan, and according to the EITI Board decision, a high profile fact finding mission visited Baku during the week of September 19-22, 2014. The Mission met and held discussions with the members of the NGO Coalition for Improving Transparency in Extractive Industries, other civil society representatives, members of the diplomatic missions and the Multi-Stakeholder Group. The EITI Board discussed the findings during its meeting on October 14-15, 2014 and concluded that the situation for civil society in Azerbaijan was unacceptable. It was proposed that a high-level mission visit Baku to help convey the above. However, such visit did not take place during 2014.

During the third monitoring period the implementation of paragraph 8.1 was assessed basing on the official response sent by the State Oil Fund to the information request filed by Transparency Azerbaijan. In their response, the State Oil Fund stated that EITI activities went

	<p>on in accordance with the work plan for 2015. The Multi-Stakeholder Group (MSG) consisting of the representatives of companies engaged in extractive industries, civil society and the government held 7 meetings; EITI Coalition organised series of roundtables in cities of Shirvan, Neftchala and Gadabay with the support of the World Bank and SOFAZ; a seminar to increase the proficiency of companies in preparing EITI reporting forms and improve the transparency of EITI reporting took place, etc. EITI NGO Coalition also organized a seminar entitled "The compliance of the 2013 EITI report of Azerbaijan with EITI Standard" in October 2015, in order to familiarize NGO representatives with new EITI Standard. The seminar took place in the administrative premises of SOCAR and was funded by the Council on State Support to NGOs.</p>
8.2	Continuation of the public disclosure of the information on cumulative incomes obtained by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries.
Responsible for implementation	State Oil Fund during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	8.2. Public disclosure of the information on cumulative incomes obtained by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries.
Methodological basis	2 – The information is disclosed; 1 – Preparatory work is underway to disclose the information;

	0 – No information is disclosed and no preparatory work is in in progress.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 1 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period the State Oil Fund in their aforementioned letter from May 17, 2013 stated that the 16th report (for 2011) on the cumulative revenues of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries was made public on June 4, 2012³⁵. It was also the first time that the report on the cumulative revenues of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries was published together with the independent auditor's reconciliation report and the Review of the EITI Coalition. According to the information published on the relevant websites of the State Oil Fund and the EITI Secretariat, the EITI Multi-stakeholder Group (MSG) met within the premises of the State Oil Fund on June 4, 2013. The government coalition disclosed the next report (for 2012) on the cumulative revenues from the extractive industries which was verified by Moore Stephens.</p> <p>During the second monitoring period only some preparatory work was underway to disclose respective information. As noted in the extracts</p>

³⁵ <http://www.eiti.az/index.php/az/hesabatlar/2012/506-2012-hesabat-illik-2>

from the minutes of the EITI Multi-stakeholder Group's 28th meeting on 19 February 2014, published on the website of the State Oil Fund and the EITI Secretariat³⁶, it was decided that the preliminary report should not be prepared for the next reporting year and the Independent Administrator should present the new Terms of Reference updated in accordance with the Standard, the reporting forms and the methodology of collecting contextual data by 23th February of 2014. In order to continue this activity on a regular basis, the Multi-Stakeholder group established a working group with the participation of all parties. The working group focused on the contextual data during the evaluation period, but the work was not completed in 2014. The Multi-stakeholder Group has approved the 18th report, but the report was not disclosed to the public. The Coalition of Azerbaijani NGOs for Improving Transparency in Extractive Industries prepared the Review of the draft version of the 18th Report (for 2013) and the auditor's reconciliation report and presented it to the Multi-stakeholder Group on 3 November 2014. In the letter dated January 15, 2015 sent to the Transparency Azerbaijan, the State Oil Fund stated that the 18th Report (for 2013) on the cumulative revenues of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries, prepared in accordance with the EITI

³⁶ <http://www.eiti.az/index.php/az/senedler/protokollardan-cixaris/42-protokollardan-cixaris-28>

	<p>Standard, as well as the independent auditor’s draft reconciliation report (more detailed than previous years), had been presented to the Multi-stakeholder Group on October 3, 2014. However, as the final version of the report was not ready, the EITI Coalition has not provided its updated opinion and the report was not discussed at the MSG.</p> <p>During the third monitoring period the 18th Report (for 2013) on the cumulative revenues of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries, prepared in accordance with the EITI Standard, as well as the independent auditor’s draft reconciliation report (more detailed than previous years) were approved on July 16, 2015. The independent auditor’s draft reconciliation report for 2014 was presented to the Multi-stakeholder Group on 25 December and the EITI Implementation Report for 2014 was disclosed on 30 July.</p>
8.3	Disclosure of the annual reports on the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.
Responsible for implementation	State Oil Fund during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	8.3. The publication of the annual report on the implementation of the EITI in Azerbaijan.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – The annual report on the implementation of the EITI in Azerbaijan was published;</p> <p>1 – Preparatory work is in progress for the publication of the annual report on the implementation of the EITI in Azerbaijan;</p> <p>0 – The annual report on the implementation of</p>

	the EITI in Azerbaijan was not disclosed and no preparatory works are in progress.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2013-2014) 2 (2015)
Monitoring score	2
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period it was confirmed that the annual report on the implementation of the EITI in Azerbaijan was published³⁷.</p> <p>During the second monitoring period the State Oil Fund stated in the letter from January 15, 2015 sent to the Transparency Azerbaijan that the annual report on the implementation of the EITI in Azerbaijan for 2013 was disclosed on June 29, 2014.</p> <p>During the third monitoring period the State Oil Fund in their response to the information request stated that the annual report on the implementation of EITI in Azerbaijan for 2014 was disclosed on June 29th, 2015.</p>
Area 9	Awareness raising and cooperation in the field of OGI
Scores given during monitoring activities	1.2 (2012-2013) 1.7 (2015)
Average Score	1.4

³⁷<http://www.eiti.az/index.php/az/hesabatlar/2012/526-mhsht-illik-hesabat-2012>

9.1.	Evaluation of implementation of the Action Plan and disclosure to the public of its results on annual basis.
Responsible for implementation	Commission on Combating Corruption during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	9.1.1. Annual evaluation of the implementation of the National Action Plan.
Methodological basis:	2 – The implementation of the National Action Plan was evaluated; 1 – Preparatory work was underway to evaluate the implementation of the National Action Plan; 0 – The implementation of the National Action Plan was not evaluated or no preparatory work was observed.
Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.5
Rationale	The assessment of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan is done by the State Commission on Combating Corruption. The Commission summarises all reports submitted by central and local executive authorities for a given year and publishes its annual assessment towards the middle of next year. During the first year of the National Action Plan the Commission undertook some preparatory work for conducting the assessment and publishing its results. For the following years the Commission has been conducting the assessment on a regular basis in line with the

special methodology and published assessment results.

Both central and local executive authorities have to report all key details on the implementation of measures outlined in the National Action Plan to the Cabinet of Ministers and the Commission on Combating Corruption in line with the Presidential decree from September 5, 2012 which approved the plan.

However, monitoring activities during 2012-2015 revealed that the Cabinet of Ministers did not include a separate section on the implementation of the National Action Plan into its annual reports. Only a section dealing with the activities of various state institutions mentioned work done within the National Action Plan albeit in a scattered manner.

The Information of the Commission on Combating Corruption on the carried out measures in 2014 regarding the implementation of the National Action states: "[...] according to the results of the assessment conducted for the year of 2012-2013, 64% of the actions envisaged in Action Plan were implemented by state institutions. The current assessment provided by Commission covers the implementation status of activities carried out by central and local executive bodies for the year of 2014. Commission notes that, compared to previous year, the information provided by central executive bodies are more comprehensive and accurate according to the recommendations made by Commission in

previous assessment. In general, according to the results of the assessment conducted by the Commission, the state authorities fully implemented 76% of the actions envisaged for the year of 2014. More information on this has been published in the website of Commission”³⁸.

Along with the reports submitted by central and local executive authorities, the Commission also takes into account other sources of information, namely reports by mass media, and research, opinion and feedback by civil society groups.

The assessment by the commission is a two-step process. In the first step, the Commission evaluates 45 actions in 9 areas and identifies whether and why they are implemented in full, in part or not at all by respective state institutions. Each action is assigned scores on a 0-2 scale. 0 score means "not implemented"; 1 score means "implemented in part"; 2 score means "implemented in full". Scores for all actions are added separately for each state institution, and the average scores for full, partial or non-implementation implementation are calculated according to the score board of the same group of commitments. As part of the second step, the general implementation level of the actions envisaged for the given year is

³⁸ Information of Commission for Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan on progress made in the implementation of Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015. This information is used as an alternative for the official evaluation of activities for 2015, which is yet to be placed on the Commission's website. <http://www.commission-anticorruption.gov.az/upload/file/Azerbaijan%20Self-Assessment%20for%202014.pdf>

determined based on the results of the initial evaluation.

However, some parts of the assessment by the Commission are disputable. For example, the assessment of one of the important areas of the National Action Plan – On-going visibility of the state institutions activity can be a good example on this. The monitoring group faced enormous challenges while looking for information during the assessment process. The main reason was that state institutions had not published their reports on their official websites; neither responded to information requests or provided only partial information. Even the websites of local executive authorities do not have "Reports" section.

In contrast, the Commission gives the following assessment to the implementation of paragraph 2.1 (Uploading and updating of information on a regular basis about activities of state institutions on their respective web-pages) “The requirements of this article were implemented fully by 90% of the state authorities; 6% implemented them partially and 4% failed to implement. Information on activities of central executive bodies is updated on a regular basis on web sites and accessibility of information was provided. Regarding the local executive bodies, information was partially updated on their web pages, while reports and other data of special importance for citizens were not prepared in a comprehensive format. Commission notes that, web pages of state

	<p>institutions should be regularly updated and used as efficient tools for establishing communication with citizens.</p> <p>The assessment given to the implementation of paragraph 2.2 (Compiling annual reports by the state authorities and uploading them to their web-pages) is equally positive: “The requirements of this provision were implemented fully by 90% of the state authorities; while 4% did not implement them. Commission notes that, even though the annual reports were compiled by local executive bodies, however, their disclosure on internet web pages has not been fully maintained. Additionally, this kind of information should be placed in easily accessible form in web pages.”</p>
Indicator for assessment	9.1.2. Publication of the evaluation results of the implementation of the National Action Plan.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – The evaluation results of the implementation of the National Action Plan were published;</p> <p>1 – Preparatory work is underway to publish the evaluation results of the implementation of the National Action Plan;</p> <p>0 – The evaluation results of the implementation of the National Action Plan were not published and no preparatory work is underway.</p>
Scores given during monitoring activities	<p>1 (2012-2013)</p> <p>2 (2015)</p>
Monitoring score	1.5
Rationale	During the first monitoring period (September

	<p>2012–September 2013) the Commission on Combating Corruption did not publish its assessment report on implementation of the National Action Plan. But in its official response to the information request the Commission stated that the assessment report was in the process of being drafting.</p> <p>During the third monitoring period the Commission published its assessment reports on its official website (antikorrupsiya.gov.az). The reports were available in PDF format for reading and downloading in the Materials section of the menu, under "Implementation of the Action Plan" sub-menu.</p> <p>While drafting this final report on the implementation of the National Action Plan, the expert group observed that the assessment report for 2015 was not published by the Commission regardless the fact that the first half of 2016 had already passed.</p>
9.2.	Publication and dissemination among the public of the educational material on Open Government Initiative
Responsible for implementation	Commission on Combating Corruption, Cabinet of Ministers and central and local executive authorities on an ongoing basis.
Indicator for assessment	9.2. Publication of the educational materials on Open Government Initiative.
Methodological basis	<p>2 – Educational materials were published;</p> <p>1 – Educational materials were prepared for publication;</p> <p>0 – No materials were published and no preparatory work for publication is in progress.</p>

Scores given during monitoring activities	1 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	1.5
Rationale	<p>The monitoring findings revealed that there had been no significant increase in the publication of educational materials since the National Action Plan was adopted in 2012. Very few central executive authorities published educational materials on the Open Government Initiative and the implementation in this direction was minimal. There was no information about the publication of such materials in the annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers. Some NGOs published materials on Open Government with the financial support of the Council for State Support to NGOs</p> <p>A close study of the websites, reports and other related resources of central and local executive authorities covered by this monitoring revealed that there were certain challenges in this area. More specifically, most of 45 local executive authorities covered by the monitoring, did not publish educational materials to promote Open Government principles. In response to information requests, and the reports published on the official websites, this was explained by the lack of funding in local budgets. Only Sumqayit City Executive Authority and Binaqadi District Executive Authority stated in their reports that they had implemented this action (2015).</p>

	<p>Taking into account financial challenges, Commission on Combating Corruption recommended that central and local executive authorities use modern information and communication technologies to promote open government on the Internet and social networks. However, most state institutions did not follow this recommendation either.</p> <p>Some of 45 central executive authorities covered by the monitoring published both educational materials about open government and other publications on various actions outlined in the National Action Plan. Some of these publications were posted on their official websites. Some central executive authorities presented other publications about their general activities as the implementation of this commitment.</p>
9.3	Continuation of measures within the framework of implementation of commitments as part of the membership of Azerbaijan in the Open Government Partnership.
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities and Commission on Combating Corruption during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	9.3. General assessment of the implementation of the National Action Plan.
Methodological basis	2 – Significant achievements are recorded; 1 – Some achievements are recorded; 0 – No achievements are recorded.
Scores given during monitoring	1 (2012-2013) 1 (2015)

activities	
Average score	1
Rationale	<p>During the first monitoring period (September 2012 – September 2013) implementation in most areas received low scores. Therefore, the first monitoring phase should be considered as a preparatory period of the National Action Plan. Following years certain progress was recorded in the implementation of commitments ("Improvement of e-services", some sub-areas under "Increasing public participation in activity of the state institutions"). However, results in other areas got worse over the years ("On-going visibility of the state institutions activity", "Increase of transparency in extractive industries", and some sub-areas under "Increasing public's participation in the activity of the state institutions").</p> <p>The expert group faced enormous challenges while collecting information for assessment during all three years of monitoring. Especially, the pattern of responses to the information requests revealed that some state institutions still refused to disclose public information on unjustified pretexts.</p> <p>During the first monitoring period some executive authorities admitted that they had no idea about the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan as it was the first year of the activities. Even the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights did not respond to the question (twice) about the responsibilities, structure and staff positions of</p>

its projected "Department of Information Provision". Therefore, this issue had to be assessed through on the Commissioner's report to the Parliament.

During the second monitoring period (September 2013 – December 2014) only six out of 46 local executive authorities responded to the information requests (respective executive authorities of Astara, Ismayilli, Lankaran, Qobustan, Qusar and Sabunchu districts). Two of them (Lankaran and Sabunchu) refused to provide any information on the pretext that the reports were to be submitted to the Cabinet of Ministers and the State Commission on Combating Corruption once a year in line with the legislation. Authorities which refused to disclose information were tracked back via phone calls, while their rejection letters were forwarded to the Commission but no solution was identified in this respect. The remaining four local executive authorities provided only general information on their activities. Therefore, assessment of activities of 40 local executive authorities which did not respond at all and two authorities which refused to provide any information had to be based on their official websites and other related resources and invaluable assistance from the Commission on Combating Corruption that agreed to provide the missing reports.

Responses of central executive authorities were not satisfactory either during the second

monitoring period. Only 26 out of 43 central state institutions (60.5%) responded to the information requests. 11 institutions refused to provide any information on the pretext that they had to submit their reports to the Commission. Only 15 central state institutions responded to the questions partially or in full. This constituted only 34.9% of all central executive authorities covered by the monitoring activities. During the third and final monitoring period, the expert group sent information requests to 45 central executive authorities, among them Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman), Central Bank, Chamber of Auditors, and Chamber of Accounts, as well as 45 local executive authorities.

In response to information request, 27 central executive authorities (60%) officially replied and 21 of them provided the requested reports. Six authorities (13.3%) refused to provide their reports and referred to their Internet resources or to the State Commission on Combating Corruption. 18 bodies (40%) did not respond to information requests in any form.

Only 11 local executive authorities responded to the information requests (24.4%) and six of them (13.3%) provided the requested reports. Five authorities refused to provide their reports (11.1%) and the remaining 34 (75.6%) did not respond to the requests in any form.

Accordingly, 38 (42.2%) of all 90 monitored central and local executive authorities responded to the second information request,

	<p>while only 27 of them (30%) provided the requested reports. 11 bodies (12.2%) refused to provide their reports and 52 (57.7%) did not respond in any form.</p> <p>Only 14 out of 46 monitored central executive authorities published their activity reports on the websites during the third monitoring period. Some of these reports do not contain comprehensive information on the implementation of the National Action Plan commitments and provide general, superficial and disconnected information only.</p> <p>During the entire monitoring period the expert group analysed official responses to the information requests, materials published on official websites and online media to assess implementation of the National Action Plan. The findings and their subsequent discussions within the expert community allow concluding that no significant progress in this area was noted in implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015.</p>
9.4.	Provision of the financial support to the civil society institutions for the implementation of the measures foreseen in the Action Plan.
Responsible for implementation	Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities, Council for the State Support of the NGOs with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commission on Combating Corruption during years 2012-2015.
Indicator for assessment	Provision of financial support to civil society institutions for the implementation of the

	measures outlined in the National Action Plan.
Methodological basis	2 – Financial support was provided; 1 – Preparatory work is in progress to provide financial support; 0 – No financial support was provided and no preparatory work is in progress.
Scores given during monitoring activities	2 (2012-2013) 2 (2015)
Average score	2
Rationale	<p>Assessment of the reports of central executive authorities during three-year monitoring period revealed that most institutions, including Council on State Support to NGOs and the Commission on Combating Corruption, provided financial support to civil society institutions for implementation of measures outlined in the National Action Plan. The Council played an active role in this sense through provision of funds to civil society to support activities outlined in the National Action Plan throughout all three years. However, other central and local executive authorities were also responsible for the implementation of this paragraph, did not provide any support. Especially, there was no evidence of support on the part of local executive authorities.</p> <p>The role of the Cabinet of Ministers was to develop legislative base to support civil society funding. Despite the fact that activities related to development of legislation began late, several</p>

important documents in this area have been adopted.

On 21 October 2015 the President issued the decree No 654 approving the list of state institutions that may award grants to legal entities and individuals in Azerbaijan in line with the latest amendments (no. 1081-IVQD, 17 October 2014) to the Law on Grants. The decree identifies following institutions as grant-awarding agencies:

Ministry of Youth and Sport

Ministry of Culture and Tourism

Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources

Ministry of Communication and High Technologies

Ministry of Education

Ministry of Healthcare

Ministry of Finances

Council on State Support to NGOs

Commission on Combating Corruption

On 21 October 2015 the President also issued the decree No 652 on "the Rules of coordinating grants awarded to NGOs by state institutions with the Council on State Support". According to these Rules, the grant-awarding state institutions have to award grants in agreement with the Council. This means that the Council has to review the topics and areas of proposed grants and submit their feedback to the relevant institutions. The Rules require that the institutions submit information about the areas they intend to fund next year to the Council, no later than 30 December of the incumbent year.

The Council has to review and compare proposals within 20 working days after they receive the relevant information; and within 10 working days the Council has to submit their feedback in writing. The Rules also require that state institutions submit information about NGOs participating in the call for proposals to the Council within 10 working days after they receive relevant applications. The Council has to give their feedback about the NGOs and their grant proposals to the state institutions within 10 working days. State institutions have to take into account feedback of the Council in both cases. If the Council fails to provide feedback to relevant state institutions on grant competitions, intended topics and areas of grant activities, as well as on the process of awarding the grants within the set timeline, it is considered that the Council does not have any objections and provides its consent by default.

The process of bringing the legislation in line with the aforementioned Rules was not finalised in 2015, but continued in 2016. The Cabinet of Ministers amended the "Rules on Registration of Grant Contracts (Decisions)" with the decree no. 73 on 22 February 2016. And the Regulations of the Council on State Support to NGOs were amended by the Presidential decree No 845 on 17 May 2016.

However, awarding grants to the NGOs by the state institutions continued during the reporting period, despite the fact that grant legislation was not yet updated and finalised in 2015. Therefore

	implementation of this action was awarded the score of 2 which states that financial support was provided.
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MAIN CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

During the entire monitoring process the expert group has made a total of 44 recommendations based on the findings of the assessment of the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan: 19 recommendations during the first monitoring period, 9 during the second period, and 16 during the last monitoring period.

The expert group also prepared a draft new National Action Plan for 2016-2018 and presented it to the State Commission on Combating Corruption. About 40% of our recommendations were used in the final Action Plan. This new National Action Plan project incorporates the results of the assessment of the implementation of the previous National Action Plan, problems encountered during the implementation process and their remedies, as well as all measures necessary to establish transparent and accountable governance mechanisms in Azerbaijan in line with the Open Government principles.

The draft reflects the final opinion of the expert group on the implementation of the National Action Plan for 2012-2015³⁹ and is given below.

THE OPEN GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR 2016-2018

(Draft⁴⁰)

³⁹ 40% of recommendations from the project were incorporated in part or in full into the new National Action Plan for 2016-2018 approved by the Presidential decree from April 27, 2016

⁴⁰ The project was prepared by the expert group (Prof. Fuat Rasulov, Qalib Togrul, Hafiz Hasanov, Alasgar Mammadli and Racab Imanov) which had monitored the implementation of the National Action Plan for two subsequent years under the coordination of Dunya Camalova, as well as recommendations by TA staff members.

The Republic of Azerbaijan joined the Open Government Partnership in September 2011. The Open Government Partnership is a multilateral initiative that aims to increase the transparency in the work of state institutions, strengthen accountability of governments, raise efficiency in management of public funds, improve corporative accountability, and support public participation in decision making and policy formulation and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.

In order to increase transparency in governance and adjust it to the international best practices, Azerbaijan adopted and implemented the National Strategies to Increase Transparency and Combat Corruption (respectively, 2004-2006 and 2007-2011), the National Action Plan to Combat Corruption (2012-2015) and the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan (2012-2015). The respective state institutions and the civil society took part in both the preparation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015 and the monitoring of its implementation.

The implementation status of activities planned as per key nine areas of the first National Action Plan makes it necessary to continue implementation of some of these activities on a regular basis, along with incorporating and implementing new areas of activities in order to improve the implementation of Open Government principles in Azerbaijan.

The results of the assessment on the implementation of the first National Action Plan (2012-2015) lead to the following conclusions:

1. Facilitation of access to information

Commitment 1.1. Monitoring findings revealed that most state institutions had appointed their public relations officers or heads of legal departments also as officials responsible to ensure freedom of information. The internal rules on freedom of information in most state institutions usually bear resemblance to the provisions of the Law on Access to Information. Therefore, the work of officials responsible for freedom of information may have a reduced impact on the information openness of the state institutions. Which is why, it is considered appropriate for state institutions to approve of a separate staff position for officials responsible for freedom of information, prepare an effective standard for the internal rules on freedom of information and prepare and publish annual reports on the activities of officials responsible for freedom of information in order to strengthen their work.

Commitment 1.2. While some state institutions conducted certain trainings for their employees, trainings should be organized on a regular basis. Officials of some local executive authorities, responsible for freedom of information, shared that they are not informed enough about the legal requirements related to their mandate. Therefore, centralised professional training sessions for officials responsible for freedom of information should be organized more and cover all central and local executive authorities in order to ensure freedom of information does actually happen at the institutional level.

Commitment 1.3. The main measure as per the given paragraph is improvement of the structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights in line with its role of overseeing implementation of the Law on Obtaining Information. It has not been implemented. The Commissioner stated, in the annual report

to the Parliament, that the project on main tasks and responsibilities, structure and staff positions for a future "Department of Information Provision" at the Office of the Commissioner had been already developed and sent to the Cabinet of Ministers for approval. The feedback received was positive. The Ministry of Finances was tasked to resolve the issue and provide financial support to the department back in 2012. The Cabinet of Ministers did not issue any decrees related to the establishment of this department. Therefore, it is necessary to include this measure in the new National Action Plan.

The newly adopted Code on Administrative Offences lays down such a form of liability.⁴¹ The Code on Administrative Offences already provides for administrative penalties for officials who prevent access to information. Article 181-3 of the Code provides in details administrative penalties for violating the requirements of the Law on Obtaining Information. In cases of limiting the access to open information or deliberately providing wrong information by the information holders, individuals shall be fined from 20 to 25 AZN, officials from 80 to 90 AZN, and the legal entities from 250 to 300 AZN.⁴² When access to information is not organized or put in place, individuals shall be fined from 20 to 25 AZN, officials from 85 to 90 AZN, and legal entities from 250 to 300 AZN. In cases of refusal to accept written information requests, individuals shall be fined from 20 to 25 AZN, officials 90 AZN, and the legal entities from 300 AZN. Thus, the Code stipulates that a small fine of 80-90 AZN is applied if officials violate the requirements of the Law on Obtaining Information. Because the penalty is so light, it does not motivate the officials responsible

⁴¹ Article 374 of the Administrative Offences Code of the Republic of Azerbaijan <http://e-qanun.az/code/13>

⁴² The Central Bank's official exchange rate of 1 US Dollar to 1 Azeri Manat is 1 to 1.60 for October 20, 2016.

for freedom of information to respond to information requests in a timely and comprehensive manner.

Commitments 1.5, 1.6 and 1.7 aim to provide public access to comprehensive information on the state budget, public funds and projects funded from the public funds.

2. Ongoing visibility of the state institutions activity

It is necessary for activities envisaged per all seven paragraphs in this area to be continued on a regular basis. The measures taken to increase transparency in the work of state institutions, promote Open Government principles and strengthen the public and media control mechanisms were not implemented to their full extend during the implementation of the first National Action Plan (2012-2015). These measures should not be short-term only. Transparency, accountability, as well as civil society, media, and citizen control over the governance are not time-limited issues and should continue being addressed on a permanent basis.

Activities envisaged in **commitments 2.1, 2.2 and 2.3** were only partially implemented during the monitoring period, and they relate to “state institutions regularly publishing and updating information on their official websites concerning their activities, preparing annual reports on their activities and disclosing on their websites, organising media conferences on their activities, organising direct communication events with the public”. Considering the rapid development of ICTs it is necessary to create conditions for utilising more of these new tools in aforementioned activities. New methods of communication with citizens, media and civil society through social media should be taken to a new level.

The activity envisaged in **commitment 2.4** – preparing and distributing reader-friendly versions and guiding principles of the

legislation regulating activities of state institutions – should also be implemented on an ongoing basis. However, it is also necessary for the legislation to be analysed by expert groups to give suggestions on simplifying legislation to be prepared, as well as to screen the laws for provisions creating loopholes and opportunities for corruption practices, special online guidebook explaining the basic rights and the legal knowledge for the citizens to be prepared and published in an easily accessible web page.

The activity envisaged in **commitment 2.5** related to developing online portals for state programmes and ensuring the continuous operational state – is also necessary to be continued on a regular basis, because new state programmes are being systematically adopted for various areas all the time. Continuity and consistency in this area is very important. Unfortunately, online portals developed for state programmes, do not contain comprehensive information. It is important that these portals contain all relevant legal acts, statistics and updated information on state programmes, as well as contact details and an interactive feedback system.

Commitment 2.6 is completely updated in the project. In the first National Action Plan this commitment covered only executive authorities. The new version of commitment provides a broader definition of state institutions and covers the Parliament, central and local executive authorities, courts, municipalities and other institutions established by legal acts. It is necessary to develop a common template and minimum criteria to be met by the websites of all state authorities in accordance with modern standards and also provide information security standards.

3. Improvement of the State Register of Legislative Acts

One of the reasons for continuing improvement of the State Register of Legislative Acts is that the body of legal texts is not

fully available, despite the fact that significant measures were undertaken during the implementation of the first National Action Plan (2012-2015). Thus, publishing all international conventions, treaties, agreements and other documents, that Azerbaijan is a party to on e-qanun.az website, translation of legal documents in foreign languages and publishing on websites, as well as, uploading legal texts of some central executive authorities and local executive authorities in the central register and other websites will increase transparency in this area.

Therefore, this project envisages three activities in this area until the end of 2016. The functionality of online versions of the State Register (e-qanun.az and huquqiaktlar.gov.az) should also be improved.

4. Increasing public participation in the activity of state institutions

Commitments 4.1, 4.3 and 4.4 in this area require that these measures are to be implemented on a regular basis. Therefore, it is necessary to incorporate these activities into the new National Action Plan and ensure their continuity.

According to the first National Action Plan (2012-2015) the state institutions providing services to the public shall have established public councils and cooperation networks between 2012 and 2013 in order to improve cooperation with the civil society (**commitment 4.2**). However, owing to the fact the Law on Public Participation entered into force on June 1, 2014, there was delay in its implementation. In line with the Presidential decree approving the Law on Public Participation, the Cabinet of Ministers prepared and approved "The Regulations for the Election of Public Councils by the Civil Society Institutions" on May 30, 2014. The organisation of public councils is regulated by

these Regulations. In case of local executive authorities the progress is slower than that of central executive authorities. The foremost example of public council established by local executive authorities is that of Binaqadi District Executive Authority.

In the 2014 review of the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015⁴³, the State Committee for Combating Corruption noted that the number of public councils at central executive authorities remained limited. In this respect it is necessary to implement the provisions of the Law on Public Participation from 16 January 2014 and ensure functioning of public councils at the level of each state institution. Although the aforementioned activity was envisaged in the first National Action Plan, it was not implemented to its full extent. Therefore, it is important that this activity is incorporated into the new National Action Plan.

Commitments 4.5, 4.6, 4.7 and 4.8 are new and aim more on strengthening civil society control mechanisms.

5. Improvement of e-services

Commitments 5.1 require the given area of activity is to be implemented on a regular basis. Therefore, it is necessary to incorporate these activities into the new National Action Plan and ensure their continuity.

During the implementation of the first National Action Plan, although central executive authorities implemented the measure envisaged in **commitment 5.2** (raising awareness and informing the public about the available e-services), there is still room for improvement. It is proposed that the local executive authorities

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<http://antikorrupsiya.gov.az/upload/file/OGP%20monitorinq%20hesabati%202013.pdf>

along with the central executive authorities should also organise presentation events on their e-services.

Unified information exchange between state institutions and incorporation of all e-services into one portal (**commitment 5.3**) was not implemented to the full extent either. Therefore it is suggested that this goal is to be accomplished during the implementation of the next action plan.

Commitment 5.4 aimed at the improvement of e-payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues. However, this measure was undertaken on a limited scope (especially in the districts) and did not cover all the territory of Azerbaijan. It was suggested that this measure covers the entire country as part of the new action plan.

Commitment 5.5 proposes to increase the intensity of measures to make e-services available to the people in the districts and have more ASAN self-service booths installed in new areas.

Commitment 5.6 proposes to facilitate the development of websites of state institutions in a standard form and their regulation in line with the Rules for developing Internet resources of state institutions and their maintenance".⁴⁴ This would help the state institutions prepare their annual reports on standard based principles, publish and update them on the official websites. Standard principles for the Internet resources of state institutions should be developed within the framework of a respective state program and all coordinating agencies should follow these requirements.

⁴⁴ TA's Monitoring Report On the implementation of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan For 2012-2015, September 2012 – September 2013

Commitment 5.7 is a suggestion on electronic document circulation and e-services for municipalities. Although these measures are included in several laws and state programmes (the Law on Obtaining information, E-government programme, etc), the process is still delayed.

6. Reforms in the state financial governance and increase in transparency of state financial control institutions

More efforts shall be applied to ensure accountability and increasing transparency of state institutions and public companies, detailing and simplifying the state budget package, enhancing the work of state financial control institutions.

7. Increase in transparency of tax control and examination

The main focus of this bloc of recommendations is decreasing corruption risks and increasing transparency in tax administration and collection and enhancement of the operation environment in the private sector through education of businesses and adoption of the Competitive Code.

8. Increasing transparency and developing new legislation to enhance governance in extractive industries

It is necessary to continue all three activities in this area on a regular basis. Transparency in local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, publication of annual EITI reports, and disclosure of cumulative revenues of the government form the very essence of Open Government notion. In particular, it is important to continue these activities and also ensure the smooth performance of the role of civil society in the process in order to restore the compliant status of Azerbaijan in EITI.

Two new commitments in this area suggest developing and adopting laws on EITI and the activities of the State Oil Fund. These proposed laws are aimed at developing relevant legislative

framework to increase accountability and transparency and enhance public governance in extractive industries.

9. Awareness raising and cooperation as part of Open Government Initiative

It is necessary to continue the activities envisaged in this area on a regular basis. These activities are supporting implementation of commitments of the Open Government Initiative National Action Plan. The expert group decided to cut out **commitment 9.3** of the first National Action Plan (Continuation of measures within the framework of implementation of commitments as part of the membership of Azerbaijan in the Open Government Partnership), because it was too broadly formulated and it was impossible to determine any indicators to measure implementation. This commitment also overlaps with other commitments in the given area.

Table 3. Measures that should be implemented between years 2016-2018 to strengthen the implementation of Open Government principles in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Direction		1. Facilitation of access to information		
Purpose		Ensuring public access to information		
No.	Measures	Responsible authorities	Time frame	Assessment indicators
1.1	Expanding competence of public officials responsible for freedom of information in state institutions, developing and adopting a standard template of internal regulations on freedom of information, incorporating annual reports of public officials responsible for freedom of information into annual reports of state institutions as separate	Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities	2016-2017	Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers adopting a standard template for internal rules on freedom of information, number of central and local executive authorities approving separate staff positions for officials responsible for freedom of information, number of state institutions incorporating reports of officials responsible for freedom of information

	sections.			into their annual reports as separate sections.
1.2	Organising centralised professional development trainings for public officials responsible for freedom of information at least once per quarter.	Cabinet of Ministers, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights, Council on State Support to NGOs	2016-2017	Number of trainings, number of training participants.
1.3	Approving responsibilities, structure and staff positions of the Department of Information Provision in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights for to ensure its control over implementation of the Law on Access to Information.	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights	2016	Establishment of the Department of Information Provision and a well-functioning Department of Information Provision in the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights.
1.4	Increasing administrative	Cabinet of	2016	Development and approval of

	liability for officials for failure to comply with the provisions of the Law on Access to Information (unjustified refusal to respond to information requests and to disclose available information not restricted by the law, etc).	Ministers, Parliament, Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights		respective amendments to the Code of Administrative Offences of the Republic of Azerbaijan
1.5	Incorporating comprehensive information into the state budget on all projects to be funded by the state investment programs and disclosing to general public.	Ministry of Finances, state institutions preparing projects	Regularly	Incorporation of relevant information into the state budget package submitted to the Parliament.
1.6	Publishing quarterly information on the external state debt with a detailed breakdown of sectors, state institutions, donors, currencies and maturity periods.	Ministry of Finance, state institutions receiving loans under state	Regularly	Publication of respective quarterly report on the website of the Ministry of Finances.

		guarantee		
		2. Regular provision of information to the public about activities of state institutions		
		Increasing transparency and accountability in the work of state institutions		
2.1	<p>Publishing and updating information on activities of state institutions on their respective websites.</p> <p>Developing and maintaining mobile apps for IOS and Android operating systems.</p>	<p>Central and local executive authorities</p> <p>Ministry of Communication and High Technologies</p>	<p>Regularly</p> <p>2016</p>	<p>Number of central and local executive authorities with websites and mobile apps functioning 24/7, exact timestamps on information updates, number of central and local executive authorities publishing and updating information on their activities on their respective websites, comprehensiveness and regular update of information.</p>
2.2	Preparing annual activity reports of state institutions and publishing them on respective	Central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Number of central and local executive authorities preparing annual activity reports and

	official websites.			publishing them regularly.
2.3	<p>Holding press conferences and other direct public communication events on performance of state institutions.</p> <p>Provision of information to the public via official social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, etc) of state institutions.</p>	Central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Number of state institutions holding press conferences and other direct public communication events on their activities, and managing official social media accounts.
2.4	Preparing guiding principles and reader-friendly versions of the legislation regulating activities of state institution and distributing them to the general public.	Central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Number of central and local executive authorities preparing and distributing guiding principles and reader-friendly versions of the legislation regulating their activities, number of guiding principles.

2.5	Developing and maintaining Internet portals on all areas covered by state programmes.	Central and local executive authorities responsible for implementation of state programmes	Regularly	Number, comprehensiveness and maintenance status of Internet portals and websites on all areas covered by state programmes.
2.6	Developing a common template and minimum criteria to be met by websites of state institutions (the Parliament, central and local executive authorities, courts, municipalities, other institutions established by legislative acts) in accordance with modern standards, ensuring information security.	Cabinet of Ministers, Special State Security Service, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies	Regularly	The decree of the Cabinet of Ministers approving the common template and minimum criteria to be met by websites of state institutions (the Parliament, central and local executive authorities, courts, municipalities, other institutions established by legislative acts) in accordance with modern standards.
2.7	Incorporating information on measures taken to promote	Cabinet of Ministers	Regularly (annually)	Separate chapter on Open Government in annual reports

	Open Government into annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers to the Parliament.			of the Cabinet of Ministers to the Parliament.
		3. Improvement of the State Register of Legislative Acts		
		Increasing transparency in state institutions and promoting Open Government, increasing public control by civil society, media and citizens, raising public awareness		
3.1	Publishing international conventions, treaties and other agreements, which Azerbaijan is a party to, on e-qanun.az	Ministry of Justice	2016	Number of documents published on e-qanun.az website.
3.1.1	Publishing Azerbaijani translation of legal documents in foreign languages on e-qanun.az	Ministry of Justice		
3.1.2	Publishing legal texts of all central executive authorities on centralised Internet portals (www.e-qanun.az and	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Communication	2016	Number of legal texts published on websites, number of state institutions publishing legal texts on their websites,

	www.huquqiaktlar.gov.az) and respective institutional websites.	and High Technologies, local executive authorities		relevancy and coverage of published legal texts to the competence of respective state institutions.
3.1.3	Publishing legal texts of all local executive authorities of all instances on centralised Internet portals (www.e-qanun.az and www.huquqiaktlar.gov.az) and respective institutional websites.	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, local executive authorities	2016	Number of legal texts published on websites, number of local institutions publishing legal texts on their websites.
		4. Increasing public participation in the activities of state institutions		
		Increasing public participation in governance, strengthening cooperation with civil society institutions, holding public consultations on draft legislative acts, removing barriers between state institutions and citizens		
4.1	Involving civil society representatives in elaboration	Central executive	Regularly	Number of legislative acts of public interest elaborated with

	of legislative acts of public interest, holding public hearings.	authorities		involvement of civil society representatives.
4.2	Establishing public councils and cooperation networks to improve interaction with civil society by state institutions delivering public services.	Central and local executive authorities	2016-2017	Number of public councils and cooperation networks established by state institutions providing services to the population.
4.3	Using websites to involve the general public in decision making process on matters of public interest (seeking feedback and proposals from citizens, organising public discussions, maintaining interactive Q&A, etc.).	Central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Number of central and local executive authorities using their websites to increase public participation in decision making process. Number of citizens/organizations involved on monthly basis in decision making processes via different means (public discussions, Q&A, etc).
4.4	Holding "Open door" citizen	Central and	Regularly	Number of "Open door"

	forums by state institutions.	local executive authorities		citizen forums held by state institutions.
4.5	Involving civil society institutions in monitoring and assessment of state programmes and other projects funded from the public funds.	Central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Number of projects monitored and assessed with involvement of civil society institutions.
4.6	Incorporating provisions to ensure public participation into legislative acts regulating the work of fiscal institutions.	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Justice, Council on State Support to NGOs	2016-2017	Number of legislative acts regulating fiscal institutions which contain provisions on public participation.
4.7	Involving civil society representatives in budget discussions in the parliamentary committees and	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances,	Regularly	Number of parliamentary meetings on the state budget which involves civil society representatives.

	plenary sessions.	Ministry of Justice, Council on State Support to NGOs		
4.8	Ensuring civil society representation in the Supervisory Board of the State Oil Fund.	Cabinet of Ministers State Oil Fund, Council on State Support to NGOs	Regularly	Number of Supervisory Board meetings with participants from civil society, number of civil society representatives participating in meetings.
		5. Improvement of e-services		
		Assessing and improving e-services provided by central and local executive authorities		
5.1	Assessing provision of e-services and disclosing assessment results to the general public.	Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations	Regularly	Assessment and publication of assessment results of all e-services.
5.2	Holding public presentation	Central and local	Regularly	Number of central and

	events on e-services provided by state institutions within their competence at least once a year.	executive authorities		local executive authorities holding public presentation events on their e-services at least once a year.
5.3	Ensuring participation of all state institutions in the unified information exchange system established to provide the electronic information exchange between the state institutions, incorporating all e-services into the system.	State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, Special State Protection Service	2016-2017	Number of state institutions and their e-services incorporated into the unified information exchange system.
5.4	Ensuring the coverage of electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues across the entire country.	Central executive authorities, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations	2016-2017	Number of payment points organised to facilitate electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other

				administrative dues.
5.5	Taking necessary measures in the districts to improve opportunities for population to use e-services, installing ASAN self-service booths in more areas.	Central executive authorities, State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies	2016-2018	Measures taken in the districts to improve opportunities for population to use e-services. Number of ASAN self-service booths installed; Number of areas covered with e-services accessible for all.
5.6	Developing and implementing standard rules on information to be published on official websites of central and local executive authorities and publication procedures for this information.	State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies, central and local executive authorities	2016-2017	Normative rules for official websites of central and local executive authorities, number of central and local executive authorities

				implementing these normative rules.
5.7	Ensuring transition of local government institutions (municipalities) to electronic governance system (e-accounting of revenues and expenditures of local budgets, e-information exchange with central executive authorities, etc), improving provision of e-services by municipalities.	Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Taxes, Ministry of Finances, Ministry of Communication and High Technologies and municipalities	2016-2018	Number of legislative acts on municipal transition into e-governance system, number of municipalities using e-governance and respective software.
		6. Reforms in the state financial governance and increase in transparency of state financial control institutions		
		Increasing transparency and accountability in activities of state financial control institutions through developing advanced state financial control mechanisms		
6.1	Developing the Programme of reforms in state financial	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances,	2016-2018	Development, approval and implementation of

	governance system and necessary legislative basis for its implementation.	Chamber of Accounts		the reform programme, amendments to respective legislation on the implementation thereof.
6.2	Improving audit control of the Chamber of Accounts in the use of public funds, assessing efficiency and effectiveness in expenditure of public funds.	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts	2016-2017	Improvement of audit control and development of a system for assessing efficiency and effectiveness in expenditure of public funds.
6.3	Conducting annual audits in all state institutions and state-owned companies by the Chamber of Accounts, disclosing findings and reports of the Chamber of Accounts to the general public.	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances, Chamber of Accounts	Regularly	Annual audits at all state institutions and state-owned companies and disclosure of findings and audit reports to the general public.

6.4	Submitting quarterly reports of the Ministry of Finances on the execution of state budget, as well as the reports of the Chamber of Accounts to the Parliament and disclosing them to the general public.	Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finances	Regularly	Submission of quarterly reports on the execution of state budget and respective reports of the Chamber of Accounts to the Parliament and their public disclosure.
6.5	Incorporating clear and comprehensive information on special budgetary programmes into the approved state budget package.	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances	Regularly	Incorporation of clear and comprehensive information on special budgetary programmes into the approved state budget package.
6.6	Deliberating and approving the State Investment Programme in the Parliament, disclosing the list of state investment projects, their summaries and budgets to the general public.	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances	Regularly	Deliberation and approval of the State Investment Programme in the Parliament, public disclosure of the list of state investment projects, their

				summaries and budgets.
6.7	Ensuring transparent and competitive procedures for public procurements and disclose of information on public procurement by budget funded organizations	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Finances, State Agency for Public Procurements	2016-2018	Facts demonstrating transparency and public participation in public procurements (from publication of tender announcements to public disclosure of proposal packages), improvement of mechanisms for appeals against tender results.
6.8	Expand participation of the civil society in discussion of the State Budget	Parliament, State Council of Support to NGOs	2016-2018	Number of discussions organized and their participants from the civil society; of proposals adopted
6.9	Apply information technologies in the process of the state financial control	Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Communication and	2016-2018	New business standards introduced

		High Technologies and municipalities		
		7. Increase in transparency of tax control and examination		
		Decreasing corruption risks and increasing transparency in tax administration and collection		
7.1	Educate businesses to enhance ethics and accountability standards to increase transparency and prevent corruption in the private sector	Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Taxes	2016-2018	
7.2	Develop and adopt the law on Competitive Code	Parliament	2017	The law adopted
		8. Increasing transparency and developing new legislation to enhance governance in extractive industries		
		Ensuring transparency and accountability of the government, and foreign and local companies in extractive industries, strengthening implementation of EITI commitments in Azerbaijan, increasing efficiency of Multi-stakeholder Group, improvement of legal regulation		

8.1	Continuing the cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and both local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, as well as civil society institutions, in order to ensure continuous implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.	State Oil Fund	Regularly	Respective measures indicating the continuation of cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan and both local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, as well as civil society institutions, in order to ensure continuous implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.
8.2	Continuing public disclosure of information on cumulative	State Oil Fund	Regularly	Public disclosure of information on

	income of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from extractive industries.			cumulative income of the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from extractive industries.
8.3	Publishing annual reports on implementation of EITI in Azerbaijan.	State Oil Fund	Regularly	Publication of annual reports on implementation of EITI in Azerbaijan.
8.4	Preparing and adopting the Law on the State Oil Fund.	Cabinet of Ministers, State Oil Fund	2016-2018	Preparation and adoption of the respective law.
8.5	Preparing and adopting the Law on EITI regulation.	Cabinet of Ministers, State Oil Fund	2016-2018	Preparation and adoption of the respective law.
		9. Awareness raising and cooperation in the Open Government Initiative		
		Increasing public awareness on Open Government, determining implementation status of Open Government commitments, coordinating state institutions responsible for		

		implementation, providing financial support to public control mechanisms		
9.1	Assessing the implementation of the National Action Plan every year and disclosing the assessment results to the public.	Commission on Combating Corruption	Regularly	Preparation of annual assessment reports on the implementation of Open Government commitments, their publication and disclosure to the general public.
9.2	Publishing and distributing educational materials on Open Government initiative.	Commission on Combating Corruption, Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities	Regularly	Facts of publishing educational materials and their distribution among the population.
9.3	Financial support to civil society organisations for implementation of measures outlined in the National Action Plan.	Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities, Council on State Support to NGOs,	Regularly	Number of civil society institutions funded, amount of financial support and content of work carried out by

		Commission on Combating Corruption		civil society institutions within the implementation of the National Action Plan.
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Attachment 1 A - Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2012-2015

Endorsed by the Presidential Decree of the 5th September 2012

Enhancement of transparency of state institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan, provision of accountability, enlargement of public participation and application of new technologies are key principles of this Initiative. In order to improve activity of the state institutions in line with modern standards, National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption for 2007-2011 has been implemented. This Strategy contained important measures in the area of Open Government. The Republic of Azerbaijan also joined all international initiatives in the sphere of Good Governance.

The Republic of Azerbaijan has also joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2012 with a view to improve its activities aimed at increasing transparency and promoting Open Government; to exchange the international experience; and to contribute to the international efforts in this area.

The following measures were implemented to implant the principles of transparency and open government in the activity of state institutions:

Freedom of information

Law on Access to Information was enacted in 2005. The Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) was commissioned with the task of overseeing implementation of the law. Practical measures facilitating the acquisition of information were enforced within the framework of the National Strategy for Increasing Transparency and Combating Corruption. The Strategy also defined measures ensuring proactive submission of information to public by state institutions.

E-services

In 2010, the Second Electronic Azerbaijan State Program was adopted. The President signed the Decree on the Measures in Organizing E-Services on the May 23, 2011. According to this Decree, state institutions are bound to organize e-services within the area of their activity. The www.e-gov.az portal was launched in order to ensure one stop shop principle application in rendering e-services.

One stop shop

The state incorporation of the entrepreneurial activity is carried out according to the One-Stop Shop principle since 2008. As a result, the number of procedures for incorporation of the commercial legal persons dropped from thirteen to three, the term shortened from fifty three days to just three and the number of the documents to be provided was cut by five times. Azerbaijan was named a ‘reformer state’ in the World Bank survey of Doing Business 2009, due to reforms in the field of launching business. The registration of individual entrepreneurial activity started as on the 1st June 2011 and the incorporation of the legal person, as of February 2012. Furthermore, One Stop Shop facilities were created in the areas of border-checking of transported goods and vehicles as of 2008, immigration procedures as of 2009 and registration of imported vehicles as of 2011.

The State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan was established on July 2012 along with the ASAN service centres in order to ensure that all services are rendered to citizens from single source, with higher quality and in more convenient manner.

Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative

The Republic of Azerbaijan has joined the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in 2003 and established the State Commission charged with the implementation of this initiative. The implementation mechanism for the Initiative was defined by the State Commission, local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, NGOs acting in the field of increasing transparency in the extractive industries, subsequently leading to signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on Implementation of the Initiative in 2004. Azerbaijan was granted a status of the candidate in 2007 and was designated as EITI compliant in 2009. The State Oil Fund was rewarded with the UN Public Service Award for its achievements in the area of Raising Transparency, Accountability and Responsibility in 2007. In 2009, the EITI award was also conferred on Azerbaijan.

Cooperation with the civil society and ensuring public participation

NGOs’ participation was ensured through their active involvement with the work of the working groups under Commission on Combating Corruption of the Republic of Azerbaijan. The Information Network of Anti-Corruption NGOs was set up in 2005. The Commission on Combating Corruption joined the Network as a party. The Network has held public hearings on each of the draft legislation on increasing transparency and combating corruption. The Multi-stakeholder Coalition for Increasing Transparency in the Extractive Industries was set up in 2004, for the purpose of implementing the initiative.

The following measures are planned in the area of raising transparency and open government:

1. Facilitation of access to information

Actions and indicators of implementation:

1.1. Designation of the employees in charge of the access to information, adoption of the internal rules on freedom of information and awareness raising by public institutions.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2014.

1.2. Comprehensive training for responsible civil servants in order to ensure freedom of information.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2014.

1.3. Improvement of the structure of the Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with its role of overseeing the implementation of the Law on the Right to Obtain Information specialized training of the relevant employees.

Implementation: Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) in 2013-2014.

2. On-going visibility of the state institutions activity

Actions and indicators of implementation:

2.1. Up-loading and updating of information on their activity at their respective websites

Implementation: central and local executive authorities on on-going basis.

2.2. Composition of the annual reports and their uploading to the websites.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2015.

2.3. Holding of press conferences and other direct public communication events about their performance by state institutions.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2015.

2.4. Dissemination of reader-friendly versions of the legislation regulating the activity of the state institution, developed guiding principles.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities on on-going basis.

2.5. Development of the internet resources dedicated to the areas covered by the state programs.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2015.

2.6. Identification of a common template and minimum criteria to be met by the websites of the state authorities in accordance with modern standards.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Special State Protection Service, Ministry of Communication and Information Technologies, Commission on Combating Corruption in 2013.

2.7. Inclusion of the information on measures taken in order to promote open government and combating corruption in the reports of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers in 2012-2015.

3.1. Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database

Actions and indicators of implementation:

3.1. Regular updating and ensuring operating state of the State Register for Legislation of the Republic of Azerbaijan, as the official legal citation source.

Implementation: Ministry of Justice on on-going basis.

4. Increasing public's participation in the activity of the state institutions

Actions and indicators of implementation:

4.1. Involvement of the civil society representatives in the elaboration of draft legislation of public interest, organization of public hearings by state institutions.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities on on-going basis.

4.2. Establishment of the appropriate councils or cooperation networks with a view to improve interaction with the civil society by state institutions rendering public services.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2012-2013.

4.3. Usage of websites as means of involving the public in decision-making process on matters of public concern (reception of comments and proposals of citizens, organization of discussions, development of the questions-answers sections, etc.).

Implementation: central and local executive authorities on on-going basis.

4.4. Organization of the Open-Door forums by state institutions.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities on on-going basis.

5. Improvement of e-services

Actions and indicators of implementation:

5.1. Evaluation of the e-services and public disclosure of its results.

Implementation: Ministry of Communications and IT, Citizen Services and Social Innovations State Agency with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan on on-going basis.

5.2. Public presentation on e-services rendered by state institutions within their area of activity, at least once a year.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities in 2013-2015.

5.3. Establishment of the unified system in order to ensure electronic information exchange between state institutions.

Implementation: Citizen Services and Social Innovations State Agency with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Communications and IT, Special State Security Service in 2013-2014.

5.4. Improvement of electronic payment of fees, taxes, administrative fines, utility costs and other administrative dues.

Implementation: Citizen Services and Social Innovations State Agency with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2013-2014.

5.5. Implementation of measures facilitating access to e-services in the regions.

Implementation: central and local executive authorities, Citizen Services and Social Innovations State Agency with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Communications and IT, Special State Security Service in 2013-2014.

6. Increase of transparency in state financial control (SFC) institutions

Actions and indicators of implementation:

6.1. Delineation of powers of the SFC institutions and development of draft legislation providing for improved legal basis for the state financial control.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Tax Ministry in 2013-2014.

6.2. Enhancement of accountability of SFC institutions and disclosure of the results of the financial examinations, analyses and statistical data to the public.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Tax Ministry in 2013-2015.

6.3. Application of the IT in the SFC area and elaboration of the E-Control system.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Tax Ministry in 2013-2014.

6.4. Organization of the mutual activity between SFC institutions, establishment of the SFC Central Database, development of the electronic data-exchange.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts, Ministry of Finance and Tax Ministry in 2013-2014.

6.5. Improvement of the mechanism of control over the publication of the financial reports, drawn by the state institutions in accordance with the International Standards of Financial Reporting or National Accounting Standards, along with the auditor's report.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, Chamber of Accounts and Tax Ministry in 2013-2014.

6.6. Development of proposals on the mechanism and procedure of oversight over the drafting and execution of local budget, including correspondence of the expenditures to the approved budget indicators, as well as the local municipality financial reports.

Implementation: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance and Chamber of Accounts in 2013.

6.7. Publication of the reports on the implementation of state budget and the relevant legislation drafts prior to referral to the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers and Ministry of Finance in 2013-2015.

7. Increase in transparency of tax control and examination

Actions and indicators of implementation:

7.1. Provision of necessary information to and awareness raising of tax-payers.

Implementation: Tax Ministry in 2012-2014.

7.2. Execution of measures in order to align the activity of the Tax institutions with the IMF Code of Best Practice on Tax Transparency.

Implementation: Tax Ministry in 2012-2013.

7.3. Execution of measures in order to improve electronic payment of taxes and other mandatory payments.

Implementation: Tax Ministry in 2012-2013.

8. Increase of transparency in extractive industries

Actions and indicators of implementation:

8.1. Continuation of cooperation by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan with the local and foreign companies engaged in extractive industries, civil society institutions in order to ensure continuing implementation and development of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.

Implementation: State Oil Fund in 2012-2015.

8.2. Continuation of the disclosure to public of the information on cumulative incomes obtained by the Government of the Republic of Azerbaijan from the extractive industries.

Implementation: State Oil Fund in 2012-2015.

8.3. Disclosure of the annual reports of the implementation of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in Azerbaijan.

Implementation: State Oil Fund in 2012-2015.

9. Awareness-raising and cooperation in the field of OGI

Actions and indicators of implementation:

9.1. Evaluation of implementation of the Action Plan and disclosure to the public of its results on annual basis.

Implementation: Commission on Combating Corruption in 2012-2015.

9.2. Publication and dissemination among the public of the educational material on Open Government Initiative.

Implementation: Commission on Combating Corruption, Cabinet of Ministers and central and local executive authorities on ongoing basis.

9.3. Continuation of measures within the framework of implementation of commitments before Open Government Partnership.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities and Commission on Combating Corruption in 2012-2015.

9.4. Provision of the financial support to the civil society institutions for the implementation of the measures foreseen in the Action Plan.

Implementation: Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive authorities, Council for the State Support of the NGOs with the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan and Commission on Combating Corruption in 2012-2015.

Attachment 1 B - Open Government Initiative National Action Plan for 2016-2018

(Adopted with Presidential Decree of 27th April 2016)

№	Name of measure	Evaluation indicator	Implementing agencies	Deadline
1. Improvement of electronic services				
1.1.	Improving “List of the types of electronic services” approved with the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan №191, ensuring the provision of the services enlisted in the list but which have not been fully provided and integration of new services to Electronic Government portal	Improvements in the list of types of electronic services, number of electronic services those provisions are ensured and newly integrated to the portal	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, central and local executive bodies, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2016-2018
1.2.	Improving payment methods, mobile interface and mobile application of portal for purpose of facilitation of the access to the Electronic	Implemented measures on the improvement of the mobile interface	Implementer: Ministry of Communications	2016

	Government portal	and application of the Electronic Government portal	and High Technologies	
1.3.	Implementing public awareness raising events and presentations among citizens on the capabilities and use of the Electronic Government portal	Implemented awareness raising events and presentations	Implementers: Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
1.4.	Ensuring the reduction of the number of official documents and certificates required by the public institutions in regard with the application of electronic services	Information on simplified procedures and carried out measures	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, central and local executive bodies	2016-2017

1.5.	Establishing the information system of higher education institutions, ensuring the issuance of certificates and transcripts in electronic form and processing payment of tuition fees in electronic form	Created and functioning electronic systems and their capabilities	Implementers: Higher education institutions, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2017-2018
1.6.	Creating electronic service on admission of children to preschool education institutions	Creation of electronic resource and its use capabilities	Implementers: Baku City Executive Body, local executive bodies, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies	2016-2017
1.7.	Expanding the scope of the electronic admission of documents to the first grade of secondary schools, lyceums and gymnasiums	Measures on the inclusion the regions into the scope of the	Implementers: Ministry of Education,	2017

	and ensuring regional coverage	system of electronic admission of documents	Ministry of Communications and High Technologies	
1.8.	Ensuring the payment of local (municipal) taxes and duties through Centralized Information System on Mass Payments of Central Bank of Azerbaijan and electronic terminals	Possibility of the payment of local taxes and duties through electronic terminals and information systems	Recommended to : Municipalities Implementers: Central Bank, Ministry of Communications and High Technologies, State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2016-2017
2. Ensuring the acquisition of information				
2.1.	Implementing measures for strengthening oversight capacities of the Human Rights Commissioner (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan over the exercising of	Information on provided resources and implemented measures	Recommended to: Human Rights Commissioner	2016-2017

	obligations arising from the requirements of the Law On Access to Information			
2.2.	Creating legal assistance mechanisms on access to information, conduction of specialised trainings and awareness-raising activities	Established legal assistance mechanisms, number of conducted trainings and awareness-raising events	Recommended to: Human Rights Commissioner	2016-2018
2.3.	Creating unified information base of prescriptive documents regarding flats of multi-story apartments which are under-construction or constructed or accepted for exploitation, in this regard implementing measures on improving pre-registration mechanisms of real estate	Creation of unified information base and new mechanism	Implementers: State Committee on Property Issues, Ministry of Justice	2016-2017
2.4.	Developing the mobile versions of the websites of public institutions, opening of accounts in social networks or ensuring their active operation	Information about the mobile versions and implemented activities	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
2.5.	Improving the functioning of the “161-hotline” of Anti-Corruption Directorate near	Report on carried out measures and	Recommended to: General Prosecutor	2016-2017

	General Prosecutor of the Republic of Azerbaijan, publication of statistical and analytical information	publication of information	Office	
3. Improving the functioning of the unified electronic base of normative legal acts				
3.1.	Ensuring the regular update and sustainable operation of the unified electronic legislative data base (www.e-qanun.az) and electronic version of the State Registry of Legal Acts (www.huquqiahtlar.gov.az)	Regular operation and update of the website	Implementers: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance	2016-2018
3.2.	Improving the mobile interface of the integrated electronic base of normative legal acts (www.e-qanun.az)	Improved mobile version	Implementers: Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Finance	2017
4. In the field of expansion of the activities of civil society members and increasing the public participation				
4.1. Supporting the activities of the civil society members				
4.1.1.	Determining the support to the projects and initiatives of non-governmental organizations as the priority field which aimed at the promotion of open government principles and prevention of corruption	The form for the identification of the priority and the number of the supported projects	Implementers: Council of State Support to NGOs near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, central	2016-2018

			and local executive bodies	
4.1.2.	Preparing proposals on development of enabling environment for the activity of non-governmental organizations	Prepared package of proposals	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Justice, Council of State Support to NGOs near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2016
4.1.3. "	Establishing civil society platform on “Open Government Partnership” and supporting its activities	Measures on establishment of Platform and ensuring its activities	Implementers: Council of State Support to NGOs near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, central and local executive bodies Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission	2016

4.2. Expansion of public participation				
4.2.1.	Organizing, strengthening the activity of public councils and ensuring their sustainability	Information about the newly established public councils and their activity	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
4.2.2.	Creating separate sections in the official internet resources on the composition and activities of public councils and regularly updating the information	The activity of the electron sections placed on internet resources and number of the posted information	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
4.2.3.	Developing public control mechanisms for purpose of protecting rights of consumers, improving the operation of hotline number for this purpose and implementing awareness-raising measures in this regard	Application of public control mechanisms, number of requests accepted by hotline number and implemented awareness-raising events	Implementers: Ministry of Economics, Council of State Support to NGOs near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2016-2018
5. Ensuring financial transparency				
5.1.	Applying information technologies in implementation of the state financial oversight and improving electronic control	Implemented electronic control system, measures on improvement of	Implementers: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Taxes, Chambers	2016-2018

		financial monitoring	of Accounts	
5.2.	Expanding participation of civil society institutions in the discussions of the state budget in the National Parliament, increasing the number of the public discussions	The number of the discussions held in regard of the draft state budget	Recommended to: National Parliament	2016-2018
5.3.	Public disclosure of the annual report on execution of the state budget and the respective review of the Chamber of Accounts	Public disclosure of respective report on execution of the state budget and review	Implementers: Ministry of Finance Recommended to: Chambers of Account	2016-2018
5.4.	Publishing quarterly reports on execution of state budget on the website	Publication of reports in the website	Implementer: Ministry of Finance	2016-2018
5.5.	Improving legislation on publication of information on annual financial operations, including use of funds or property allocated from state budget, by budgetary organizations and state-owned legal persons in the internet pages, strengthening supervision over publication of these reports	Information on prepared draft of normative legal acts and publication of information on annual financial operations	Implementers: Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Justice, respective state bodies	2016-2018
5.6.	Publishing information on state procurements by budgetary organizations in the internet pages of them	Disclosure of information on procurements	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies,	2016-2018

			Ministry of Economics, respective budgetary organizations	
5.7.	Public awareness of financial control measures implemented in financial control objects of Chambers of Accounts	Disclosure of information on financial control measures and their number in the internet page of it.	Recommended to: Chambers of Accounts	2016-2018
6. In the field of the activities of the local self-governance institutions				
6.1. Ensuring transparency in admission to the municipality service				
6.1.1.	Publishing information on the rules for the admission to the municipality service, composition of the interview commissions, existing vacancies, results of the admission and other type of information related to the admission to the municipality service on the websites of municipalities, implementing measures on creation of the centralised integrated electronic resource	Creation of the website, publishing information and number of the posted pieces of information	Recommended to : Municipalities, National Associations of Municipalities Implementer: Ministry of Justice	2016-2017
6.1.2.	Developing specific methodological means	Prepared	Recommended to :	2016-

	and guidelines for the candidates wishing to apply for the admission to the municipality service and publishing them on internet resources	methodological materials, guidelines and links of them in the internet pages	Municipalities, National Associations of Municipalities Implementer: Ministry of Justice	2018
6.2. Awareness raising of the municipality servants about the ethic rules of conduct and increasing their professionalism				
6.2.1.	Conducting trainings on increasing the knowledge of the municipality servants on the rules of ethical conduct, legal knowledge and professional skills, preparation and publication of explanatory information and guidelines in internet resources	Number of conducted trainings and persons involved	Recommended to : Municipalities, National Associations of Municipalities Implementer: Ministry of Justice	2016-2018
6.2.2.	Public awareness on the rules of ethical conduct of municipality servants	Number and scope of public awareness events	Recommended to : Municipalities, National Associations of Municipalities Implementer:	2016-2018

			Ministry of Justice	
6.2.3.	Preparing and adopting rules of ethic conduct of municipal members	Adopted normative-legal act	Recommended to : Municipalities, National Associations of Municipalities	2016- 2017
7. Increasing transparency in Extractive Industries				
7.1.	Supporting the activities of the Multi-Stakeholder Group on implementation of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Azerbaijan, continuing cooperation and conducting trainings	Report on the number of the conducted activities and trainings	Implementer: State Oil Fund	2016- 2018
8. Measures in the field of prevention of corruption and improvement of legislation				
8.1.	Preparing mechanisms and relevant legal acts for the prevention of the conflict of interests in the activity of the civil servants and officials	Implemented measures, prepared legislative acts and mechanisms	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Justice Recommended to:	2016- 2018

			Anti-Corruption Commission, General Prosecutor	
8.2.	Implementing measures on submission of financial declarations by public officials	Implemented measures	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry of Justice Recommended: Parliament, Anti-Corruption Commission	2017-2018
8.3.	Preparing proposals on the application of criminal-legal measures to legal persons and institution of plea bargaining in relation to corruption offences within preliminary investigation	Preparation of package of proposals	Implementers: Cabinet of Minister, Ministry of Justice Recommended to: General Prosecutor	2016-2018
8.4.	Preparing proposals on increasing the efficiency of operative-investigation activities in the field of fight against corruption	Prepared proposals	Recommended to: General Prosecutor	2016-2017
8.5.	Preparing and adopting ethics rules of Members of the Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Adopted respective normative legal act	Recommended to: National Parliament	2016-2017

8.6.	Implementing measures on the application of governing principles applied in “ASAN service” centres and transparency standards in state bodies	Implemented measures	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies, State Agency for Public Services and Social Innovations near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	2016-2018
8.7.	Improving review process of entrepreneurs’ requests for purpose of solving problems faced by them and implementing respective measures	Improvements in the review process of requests	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies, Ministry of Economics, Appellation Council near the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Appellation councils near central and local executive bodies	2016-2018

8.8.	Preparing Action Plan (activities plan) on implementation of international requirements in field of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorist financing	Prepared or adopted action plan	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, Financial Market Supervision Chamber	2016
8.9.	Ensuring the public awareness of economic reforms, their purpose and essence	Implemented public awareness programs	Implementers: Ministry of Economics, central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
8.10.	Preparing proposals on delivery of public utilities services through one space based customer satisfaction and transparency principles	Prepared proposals	Implementers: “Azerlight” Open Joint Stock Company , “Azerwater” Open Joint Stock Company, “Azerigas” Production Unit of the State Oil Company	2016-2017
9. Increasing transparency and responsibility in private sector				

9.1.	Preparing proposals on anti-corruption, transparency, ethics and accountability standards for the purpose of ensuring transparency and prevention of corruption in private sector	Prepared proposals	Implementers: Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Taxes Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission	2016-2017
9.2.	Conducting workshops and trainings on anti-corruption, ethics and compliance mechanisms for the purpose of ensuring transparency in private sector	Conducted workshops and trainings	Implementer: Ministry of Economics Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission	2016-2018
9.3.	Preparing awareness-raising materials in order to prevent corruption in private sector and organizing the dissemination of prepared materials	Number of prepared materials and methods of dissemination	Implementers: Ministry of Economics, Ministry of Taxes	2016-2018
9.4.	Accelerating development process and adopting draft law on Competition Code	Adopted law	Recommended to: National Parliament	2016-2017
9.5.	Implementing legislative and other measures on mitigation and de-criminalization of criminal responsibility in the fields of	Prepared normative-legal acts and implemented measures	Implementers: Cabinet of Ministers, Ministry	2016-2017

	economics		of Justice, Ministry of Economics Recommended to: National Parliament, General Prosecutor	
10. Awareness and cooperation				
10.1.	Improving cooperation relations with specialised international organizations in the field of anti-corruption and open government and relevant public institutions of foreign countries, carrying out measures on implementation of recommendations and requirements	Implemented joint events and level of cooperation	Recommended to: General Prosecutor, Anti-Corruption Commission Implementers: Ministry of Justice and respective central executive bodies	2016-2018
10.2.	Developing educational-curriculum programs on anti-corruption and ethics for specific target groups including civil servants, conducting workshops and trainings, supporting these kinds of initiatives	Prepared educational programs, number of conducted trainings, workshops and involved persons	Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission, General Prosecutor	2016-2018

			Implementers: central executive bodies	
10.3.	Including anti-corruption topics to the educational programs of higher and middle educational institutions, conducting public lectures and seminars for students	Included topics, organized lectures and number of events	Implementers: Ministry of Education, higher educational institutions Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission General Prosecutor	2016-2018
10.4.	Publishing and disseminating social videos, booklets, handbooks and other awareness-raising materials on open government and prevention of corruption	Information on prepared and disseminated promotional materials	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies	2016-2018
11. Monitoring of implementation of action plan and organization of control				
11.1.	Taking measures for the application of informational technologies in the monitoring process of the implementation of Action Plan, appointment of the responsible persons by the state bodies for the implementation of the	Development of the online software, appointment of the responsible persons and conduct of trainings for	Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission Implementers:	2016-2018

	measures provided for in the Action Plan	them	central and local executive bodies	
11.2.	Organizing information exchange and efficient coordination between internal control units of state bodies and specialized anti-corruption agencies	Established coordination mechanism	Implementers: Central and local executive bodies Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission General Prosecutor	2016-2018
11.3.	Providing information on the implemented measures in the field of open government and prevention of corruption in the annual reports of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan before the National Parliament of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Relevant information that included to reports	Implementer: Cabinet of Ministers	2016-2018
11.4.	Evaluating the implementation of the measures provided in the Action Plan and publishing information about the results	Publishing information on implementation of the Action Plan in the website	Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission	2016-2018
11.5.	Establishing the cooperation with the civil society institutions for the implementation of the measures provided in the Action Plan and providing support to their activities	Numbers of the supported projects	Implementers: Council of State Support to NGOs near the President	2016-2018

			of the Republic of Azerbaijan, central and local executive bodies Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission	
11.6.	Conducting specialised surveys and researches to evaluate the state of implementation of the measures related to the promotion of open government and prevention of corruption and publication of their results	Information about the conducted surveys and research	Recommended to: Anti-Corruption Commission Implementers: central and local executive bodies	2016-2018

Attachment 2 - Actions and sub-actions of the National Action Plan

№	Areas of activities (commitments)	Actions	Sub-actions
1	Facilitation of access to information	3	4
2	On-going visibility of the state institutions activity	7	2
3	Improvement of the Central Legislative Electronic Database	1	2
4	Increasing public's participation in the activity of the state institutions	4	-
5	Improvement of e-services	5	2
6	Increase of transparency in state financial control (SFC) institutions	7	4
7	Increase in transparency of tax control and examination	3	
8	Increase of transparency in extractive industries	3	
9	Awareness-raising and cooperation in the field of OGI	4	2
Total:		37	16

Attachment 3 - The list of monitored central and local executive authorities

1. State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
2. State Statistics Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan
3. State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
4. State Committee for Refugees and IDPs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
5. State Committee for Property Issues of the Republic of Azerbaijan
6. State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patents of the Republic of Azerbaijan
7. State Committee for Work with Religious Organizations of the Republic of Azerbaijan
8. State Committee for Work with Diaspora of the Republic of Azerbaijan
9. State Committee for Securities of the Republic of Azerbaijan
10. State Committee for City Planning and Architecture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
11. Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan
12. Chamber of Auditors of the Republic of Azerbaijan
13. Central Election Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
14. State Commission for Student Admission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
15. State Civil Service Commission of the Republic of Azerbaijan
16. Special State Protection Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
17. State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan
18. State Agency for Public Procurements of the Republic of Azerbaijan ⁴⁵
19. Copyright Agency of the Republic of Azerbaijan

⁴⁵ Since the State Agency for Public Procurements and the Ministry of National Security were both abolished, they were not included in the monitoring for 2015.

20. State Service for Public Service and Social Innovations of the Republic of Azerbaijan
21. State Social Protection Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan
22. State Oil Fund (SOFAZ) of the Republic of Azerbaijan
23. Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan
24. Financial Monitoring Service at the Central Bank of the Republic of Azerbaijan
25. Office of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan
26. Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
27. Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan
28. Ministry of Youth and Sports of the Republic of Azerbaijan
29. Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Republic of Azerbaijan
30. Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Azerbaijan
31. Ministry of Economy and Industry of the Republic of Azerbaijan
32. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan
33. Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan
34. Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
35. Ministry of Energy of the Republic of Azerbaijan
36. Ministry of Healthcare of the Republic of Azerbaijan
37. Ministry of Communication and High Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan
38. Ministry of Transportation of the Republic of Azerbaijan
39. Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan
40. Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan
41. Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Azerbaijan
42. Ministry of National Security of the Republic of Azerbaijan

43. Ministry of Finances of the Republic of Azerbaijan
44. Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Azerbaijan
45. State Service for Mobilization and Conscription of the Republic of Azerbaijan
46. Intelligent Transport Management Centre at the Ministry of Transportation
47. Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan
48. Abşeron District Executive Authority
49. Qobustan District Executive Authority
50. Astara District Executive Authority
51. Baku City Executive Authority
52. Binəqədi District Executive Authority
53. Qaradağ District Executive Authority
54. Xəzər District Executive Authority
55. Xətai District Executive Authority
56. Nərimanov District Executive Authority
57. Nəsimi District Executive Authority
58. Nizami District Executive Authority
59. Sabunçu District Executive Authority
60. Səbail District Executive Authority
61. Suraxanı District Executive Authority
62. Yasamal District Executive Authority
63. Sumqayıt City Executive Authority
64. Naftalan City Executive Authority
65. Gəncə City Executive Authority
66. Şəmkir District Executive Authority
67. Qazax District Executive Authority
68. Daşkəsən District Executive Authority
69. Tovuz District Executive Authority
70. Şamaxı District Executive Authority
71. Qəbələ District Executive Authority
72. Şəki District Executive Authority

73. Zaqatala District Executive Authority
74. Lənkəran District Executive Authority
75. Cəlilabad District Executive Authority
76. Quba District Executive Authority
77. Siyəzən District Executive Authority
78. Qusar District Executive Authority
79. Xaçmaz District Executive Authority
80. Yevlax City Executive Authority
81. Mingəçevir City Executive Authority
82. Bərdə District Executive Authority
83. Şirvan City Executive Authority
84. Ucar District Executive Authority
85. Sabirabad District Executive Authority
86. Beyləqan District Executive Authority
87. İmişli District Executive Authority
88. Hacıqabul District Executive Authority
89. Goranboy District Executive Authority
90. Tərtər District Executive Authority
91. Füzuli District Executive Authority
92. İsmayıllı District Executive Authority

Attachment 4 - The status of Internet portals of state programmes

Program	Coordinating state body	Status of the Internet portal
Second State Program on Privatization of State-Owned Property in the Republic of Azerbaijan	State Committee on Property Issues	Not created
State Program on Improvement of the Official Statistics in the Republic of Azerbaijan in 2013-2017	State Statistical Committee	Created (as a special section on the committee's website)
State Program on Insurance-Pension System Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2015	State Social Protection Fund	Not created
State Program on the Reliable Supply of Food Products to the Population in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Development of Tourism in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2010-2014	Ministry of Culture and Tourism	Not created
State Program on Poverty Reduction and Sustainable Development in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2015	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program "Azerbaijani youth in 2011-2015"	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Implementation of the Employment Strategy of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2011-2015	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created

State Program for the Improvement of Living Standards and Generation of Employment for Refugees and IDPs	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Biometric Identification in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2007-2012	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Study of Azerbaijani Youth Abroad for 2007-2015	Education Commission under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan	Created xaricdetehsil.edu.gov.az
State Program for the placement of children living in state-owned child institutions in families (Deinstitutionalization) and alternative care in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2006-2015	Cabinet of Ministers	<u>Created</u> <u>A special division was established at the Ministry of Education to deal with the program. Division has a special section on the ministry's website:</u> http://www.edu.gov.az/view.php?lang=az

		&menu=401
State Program on Informatization of the Education System of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2012	Ministry of Education	Not created
State Program on Development of Vocational training in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2007-2012	Ministry of Education	Not created
State Program on Reforms in the Higher Education System of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Development of Fuel and Energy Complex in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2005-2015	Ministry of Industry and Energy	Not created
State Program on the Use of Alternative and Renewable Energy Sources for 2005-2013	The implementation of program was assigned to the Ministry of Industry and Energy, but on February 1, 2013, according to the Presidential Decree number 810, the State Agency on Alternative and Renewable Energy	Not created. The Agency itself does not have a website either.

	Sources was established and the program was assigned to the agency.	
State Program on Social-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013	Ministry of Economic Development	Created (as a special section of the ministry's website)
State Program on Social-Economic Development of the Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2014-2018	Ministry of Economic Development	Not created
State Program on Social-Economic Development of Baku City and Its Settlements for 2011-2013	Ministry of Economic Development	Created (as a special section of the ministry's website)
<u>Action Program on Hemophilia for 2011-2015</u>	Ministry of Health	Not created
<u>Action Program on Development of Blood and Blood Components Donation and Blood Service for 2011-2015</u>	Ministry of Health	Not created
<u>Action Program on Diabetes for 2011-2015</u>	Ministry of Health	Not created
<u>Action Program on Treatment and Prevention of Thalassemia for 2011-2015</u>	Ministry of Health	Not created

Action Program on Tuberculosis Control for 2011-2015	Ministry of Health	Not created
Action Program on Chronic Renal Failure for 2011-2015	Ministry of Health	Not created
Development Program for Medical Personnel in Health Institutions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2010-2014	Ministry of Health	Not created
The Second State Program on Development of Communication and Information Technologies in the Republic of Azerbaijan Republic for 2010-2012 (Electronic Azerbaijan)	Ministry of Communication and High Technologies	Created. e-gov.az
State Program on Establishment and Development of Space Industry	Ministry of Communication and High Technologies	Created. azerkosmos.az
State Program on Development of Library-Information Sphere in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2008-2013	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Development of the Justice in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on Development of the Railway System in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2010-2014	Cabinet of Ministers	Not created
State Program on the Implementation of the National Strategy for the Development of Sciences in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2015	National Academy of Sciences	Not created

<p>State Program on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs, Psychotropic Substances and Their Precursors and Against Drug Addiction for 2013-2018</p>	<p>State Commission for Combating Drug Addiction and Illicit Trafficking of Narcotic Drugs</p>	<p>Not created (Only the text of the program is published on the commission's website and no reports about its implementation are available)</p>
<p>State Program on the Development of Health Resorts in the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2018</p>	<p>Cabinet of Ministers</p>	<p>Not created</p>