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**CULTURAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEGRATION OF THE TURKIC WORLD:  
THE CASE OF AZERBAIJAN AND TÜRKİYE***Ismayilov Shahismayil**Azerbaijan University of Languages, Azerbaijan University**PhD in History, Associate Professor**ismayilovshahismayil@gmail.com***ORCID:** <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-7441-3575>

**Anatasion:** *This article examines the development of cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Turkey in the fields of science, education and culture. It is emphasized that the close historical, linguistic, religious and cultural ties between the two fraternal peoples contributed to the formation of a strategic partnership, especially after the restoration of Azerbaijan's independence. Particular attention is paid to joint scientific research, academic exchanges, educational programs, as well as cultural initiatives and projects aimed at preserving and promoting common spiritual and cultural values. The article also analyzes new trends in cultural cooperation in the context of digitalization and globalization. It is concluded that the development of cooperation in these areas not only strengthens bilateral relations, but also plays an important role in the consolidation of the Turkic world.*

**Keywords:** Azerbaijan, Turkey, science, education, culture, Turkic world, strategic partnership, cultural heritage, academic cooperation, digitalization.

**Açar sözlər:** Azərbaycan, Türkiyə, elm, təhsil, mədəniyyət, türk dünyası, strateji tərəfdaşlıq, mədəni irs, akademik əməkdaşlıq, rəqəmsallaşma.

**Ключевые слова:** Азербайджан, Турция, наука, образование, культура, тюркский мир, стратегическое партнёрство, культурное наследие, академическое сотрудничество, цифровизация.

### Introduction

The relations between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Türkiye have deep historical roots, and the common language, religion, culture, history, and national-spiritual values have played a crucial role in the development of these relations. The brotherly ties between our nations are not limited to the modern era; they have withstood the test of centuries and have been evident in many historical events and struggles. The friendship and brotherhood formed between the peoples of both countries have been especially strengthened and elevated to the level of strategic partnership after the major political changes at the end of the 20th century—particularly following Azerbaijan's restoration of its state independence.

One of the main directions of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is the development of mutual activity in the fields of science, education, and culture. The cultural and spiritual closeness, as well as the shared value systems of both countries, have created a favorable environment for the strengthening of this collaboration. After restoring its independence, Türkiye was the first country to recognize and support Azerbaijan's sovereignty. This fraternal support was not limited to the political arena but also manifested itself in science, education, and cultural fields. This has been particularly reflected in a number of joint programs and projects implemented since the 1990s.

Historically, Azerbaijan–Türkiye relations have developed since the Ottoman period, continuing in various forms during the early 20th century—particularly during the Azerbaijan Democratic Republic era—and later during the Soviet period. At the end of the 20th century,

these relations entered a new phase, evolving into a broader form of cooperation between two independent states. In the post-independence period, relations in the fields of science, education, and culture between the two countries entered a qualitatively new stage, enriched by joint projects, student exchanges, collaborative research among scholars, cultural events, and other activities. [7, 169]

As Fargana Huseynova noted, the development of cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the fields of science, education, and culture serves not only the interests of both states but also the integration of the Turkic world as a whole, as well as the preservation and advancement of shared values. This cooperation holds strategic importance for Azerbaijan not only in terms of gaining new knowledge and experience but also in terms of strengthening national and cultural identity, studying historical and cultural heritage, and promoting it on a global scale. [2, 12]

Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the fields of science, education, and culture is shaped not only through the efforts of state institutions and official bodies but also through the active involvement of public organizations, universities, research institutes, and cultural institutions. Within this framework, hundreds of young Azerbaijanis have received higher education in Türkiye, numerous scientists and experts have participated in joint projects, and many co-authored scientific articles, monographs, and research studies have been produced. This has contributed significantly to the strengthening of knowledge and experience exchange between the two countries.

In addition, significant progress has been made in the field of culture, creating opportunities for the peoples of both nations to become more closely acquainted through national holidays, cultural days, exhibitions, folklore festivals, and other events. As Israfil Ismayilov emphasizes, this cooperation is of great importance for preserving cultural diversity, promoting shared values, and passing them on to future generations. [3, 23]

As can be seen, cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the fields of science, education, and culture is not only a reflection of the current state of relations but also a fundamental component of their future development strategy. Strengthening these ties serves the national interests of both countries while also playing a crucial role in the advancement of pan-Turkic unity.

The Development of Scientific Cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Scientific cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is mainly reflected in joint research conducted in fields such as history, linguistics, literature, cultural heritage, and others. Fargana Huseynova emphasizes that after Azerbaijan regained its independence—particularly since the early 1990s—scientific relations entered a new phase. During this period, cooperation protocols were signed between the Azerbaijan National Academy of Sciences (ANAS) and various scientific research centers and universities in Türkiye, leading to the implementation of joint projects. [2, 56]

One of the most important directions of this scientific collaboration is research focused on shared history and cultural heritage. Altay Goyushov notes that joint studies on topics such as Ottoman–Azerbaijani relations, Türkiye’s influence in the Caucasus region, and parallels in Azerbaijani and Ottoman literature are of particular significance. These studies have yielded results not only of academic value but also of interest to the general public. [1, 45]

At the same time, in the modern era, Azerbaijani and Turkish scholars are also conducting joint scientific research in areas such as information technologies, energy security, alternative energy sources, biodiversity, and environmental issues. According to Sevinj Ruintan, since the 2000s, scientific cooperation between Baku and Ankara has become more

systematic, with numerous joint monographs and scholarly articles published on various scientific topics. [5, 152]

International conferences organized jointly by Azerbaijani and Turkish universities—such as “*Science and Culture in the Turkic World*” and “*Perspectives of Azerbaijan–Türkiye Scientific Cooperation*”—contribute to the expansion of collaboration in the field of science. These events not only serve as platforms for sharing scientific ideas but also play an important role in recognizing and supporting young researchers. Israfil Ismayilov emphasizes that joint research conducted between Azerbaijan and Türkiye helps to strengthen the scientific potential of both countries and contributes to the formation of scientific unity across the Turkic world. [3, 83]

Expansion and Main Directions of Cooperation in the Field of Education. Cooperation in the field of education between Azerbaijan and Türkiye began to develop intensively, particularly from the early 1990s. As Ruintan Sevinj writes, under the framework of the “Great Student Project” announced and implemented by Türkiye in 1992, thousands of Azerbaijani students were sent to study at Turkish higher education institutions. This project played an invaluable role in the restructuring of Azerbaijan’s education system and in increasing its pool of highly qualified professionals. [5, 144]

According to Fargana Huseynova, currently, hundreds of Azerbaijani students are studying at various Turkish universities at the undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral levels. At the same time, Turkish students also have educational opportunities at universities in Azerbaijan. Student and faculty exchange has expanded through international programs such as dual diploma programs, Erasmus+, and the Mevlana Exchange Program. [2, 59]

Cooperation protocols and memorandums signed between Azerbaijani and Turkish universities—particularly between Baku State University, Azerbaijan University of Languages, Azerbaijan State University of Economics, and ADA University on one side, and Ankara University, Istanbul University, Hacettepe University, and Ege University on the other—have significantly strengthened academic and educational collaboration.

In addition, joint projects in the field of education between Azerbaijan and Türkiye have led to the implementation of training programs focused on the professional development of teachers, curriculum reform, and the application of educational technologies. Seminars and training sessions conducted with the participation of experts from both countries have also played an important role in this regard. [6, 474]

Israfil Ismayilov emphasizes that harmonizing the educational systems of Azerbaijan and Türkiye—particularly deepening cooperation in technical and vocational education—is among the priority directions for the future. At the same time, the preparation of specialists in the field of Turkish language and literature, the development of joint textbooks, and the establishment and advancement of Turkic World Research Centers are also key areas of this cooperation. [3, 85]

Main Directions and Initiatives in the Field of Culture. Cooperation in the field of culture between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is based on the historical roots, shared spiritual values, and cultural heritage of both nations. The expansion and sustainability of this cooperation is an essential component of the strategic partnership between the two countries. As Fargana Huseynova points out, Azerbaijan and Türkiye protect, enrich, and pass on their shared cultural heritage to future generations through cultural collaboration. [2, 67]

One of the main directions of cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is the joint celebration of national holidays and significant events. Organizing cultural events on important dates such as Novruz, Republic Day on May 28, and Independence Day on October 18 contributes to unity and solidarity between the two nations. At the same time, organizing

Azerbaijan Culture Days in Türkiye and Türkiye Culture Days in Azerbaijan as well as exhibitions, concerts, and theatrical performances are key indicators of this cooperation.

Israfil Ismayilov notes that cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is particularly evident in the fields of music and the arts. Mugham and Turkish folk music are performed together in joint concerts; painting exhibitions, sculpture projects, film festivals, and folklore events serve to promote shared values between the two peoples. [4, 113]

Diaspora organizations and non-governmental organizations also play an important role in strengthening cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Azerbaijani diaspora organizations, cultural centers, and student unions operating in Türkiye make significant contributions to the promotion and dissemination of Azerbaijani culture through various events. As Ruintan Sevinj notes, cultural activities are not limited to the presentation of art and folklore but also include joint projects aimed at preserving and studying historical heritage. [5, 158]

In addition, there is cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the restoration of cultural heritage monuments. Azerbaijani monuments in the city of Kars and Turkish monuments in Baku have become symbols of mutual respect and friendship.

Main Directions and Initiatives of Cooperation in the Field of Culture. To further strengthen cultural relations between Azerbaijan and Türkiye, many important protocols and documents have been signed. In particular, the “Protocol on Cooperation in the Field of Culture” signed in 2001 established the legal basis for cooperation in this area and defined the directions for joint activities. As Huseynova Fargana notes, based on this protocol, culture days have been organized in both countries, mutual visits of renowned artists have taken place, and state support has been provided for cultural projects. [2, 69]

Cooperation is not limited to the arts alone; it also covers areas such as carpet weaving, decorative arts, architecture, and the preservation of cultural heritage. For instance, Azerbaijan and Türkiye have jointly contributed to the global preservation of cultural heritage by celebrating several shared values included in UNESCO’s list of intangible cultural heritage - such as the Nowruz holiday, the art of *ebru* (paper marbling), miniature art, and classical music traditions.

Within the framework of cooperation between the Ministries of Culture of Azerbaijan and Türkiye, various joint projects, exhibitions, and conferences have been organized over the years. For example, under the 2015 “Capital of Culture of the Turkic World” program, cooperation between the city of Sheki in Azerbaijan and the city of Mersin in Türkiye was further strengthened. As part of this program, presentations of shared cultural heritage, performances by folklore groups, exhibitions of handicrafts, and master classes were organized.

One of the important aspects of cooperation is in the field of literature. Azerbaijani and Turkish literary scholars have jointly studied the works of both classical and contemporary poets and writers. In particular, academic articles, monographs, and translated works have been published on the literary legacy of great masters such as Nizami Ganjavi, Fuzuli, Muhammad Fuzuli, Yunus Emre, Ahmad Yasawi, Orhan Veli, Nazım Hikmet, and others.

Cooperation between the two countries in the field of cinema is also noteworthy. Joint films have been produced by Azerbaijani and Turkish directors, producers, and screenwriters, and documentaries have been made on topics related to shared history and culture. Films such as “*Karabakh – You Were Victorious!*” and “*Dear Azerbaijan*” have played an important role in presenting the realities of Azerbaijan to the international community [5, 160].

Cooperation in book publishing also holds a significant place in Azerbaijani–Turkish cultural relations. As a result of agreements signed between publishing houses of both

countries, samples of classical and contemporary Azerbaijani literature are published in Türkiye and made accessible to a wide readership, and Turkish literature is similarly promoted in Azerbaijan. For instance, during the “Azerbaijani Literature Days” held in Ankara in 2003, hundreds of Azerbaijani literary works were presented to Turkish readers [4, 117].

Overall, cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye not only strengthens the relationship between the two states but also contributes to the cultural integration of the entire Turkic world, the preservation of common values, and their transmission to future generations.

*New Trends and Challenges in Cultural Cooperation.* In the modern era, cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye has entered a new phase. In the context of globalization, the development of technologies, digitalization, and the widespread use of new media tools have also influenced the forms and content of cultural collaboration. Huseynova Fargana notes that cultural relations between the two countries are not limited to traditional events but also encompass new areas such as digital cultural products, electronic publications, online exhibitions, and virtual museum exhibits. [2, 83]

Azerbaijan and Türkiye implement joint cultural projects through digital platforms. For example, within the framework of the new cooperation memorandum signed in 2021 between the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan and the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of Türkiye, virtual cultural festivals and online conferences have been held. Cultural institutions, artists, and researchers from both countries actively participated in these projects, ensuring the continuity of cultural integration during the pandemic period [5, 165].

At the same time, one of the contemporary cultural challenges is the engagement of youth in cultural processes. Cooperation between higher education institutions, cultural centers, and youth organizations of Azerbaijan and Türkiye serves to unite young people around common values. Initiatives such as the “Turkic World Youth Forum,” the “Azerbaijan-Türkiye Youth Initiatives” project, student exchange programs, and cultural summer schools are important steps in this direction.

However, there are also some challenges in cultural cooperation. Economic constraints, global crises such as the pandemic, unequal distribution of financial allocations to the cultural sector, technical and organizational difficulties in project implementation, and in some cases bureaucratic obstacles affect the continuity of activities in this field.

Additionally, the joint stance of Azerbaijan and Türkiye on international cultural platforms holds particular importance. Both countries work together within UNESCO, ICESCO, TÜRKSOY, and other international organizations, contributing to the promotion of Turkic culture, common values, and cultural heritage worldwide. Azerbaijan and Türkiye have taken significant steps towards the protection and promotion of shared heritage by preparing joint nomination dossiers for several monuments and intangible cultural heritage elements included in UNESCO’s “World Heritage List”. [2, 85]

*The Impact of Azerbaijan-Türkiye Cultural Relations on the Turkic World.* Cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye is not only significant within the framework of bilateral relations but also plays a crucial role in the cultural integration of the entire Turkic world. Since this cooperation is based on shared history and values, it greatly contributes to the better mutual understanding of cultures among Turkic peoples, deepening mutual relations, and the preservation of cultural heritage. Joint projects, festivals, conferences, and exhibitions carried out within this cooperation framework have evolved into large-scale cultural events attended not only by Azerbaijan and Türkiye but also by Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and other Turkic states.

For example, the “Turkic World Capital of Culture” programs organized under TÜRKSOY have become a broad cultural platform covering a wider geography thanks to the initiatives of Azerbaijan and Türkiye. In 2019, the city of Shaki in Azerbaijan, and in 2022, the city of Bursa in Türkiye were awarded this status, becoming centers of Turkic world culture. Exhibitions, concerts, performances of folklore ensembles, joint book and article publications organized during these events have played an invaluable role in promoting Turkic cultural values.

Additionally, commemorating shared historical figures and events is also an important aspect of cultural cooperation. Anniversaries of great personalities such as Nizami Ganjavi, Yunus Emre, Fuzuli, Muhammad Fuzuli, Ahmed Yesevi, and others are celebrated jointly by Azerbaijan and Türkiye with the support of UNESCO and other international organizations. These events serve both to strengthen national consciousness and to present the richness of Turkic culture to the international community.

Perspectives and Future Plans of Cultural Cooperation. Cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye also creates an important platform for the preservation and development of Turkic languages. Through joint language congresses, literary competitions, and linguistic conferences, collaborative efforts are made to develop a common Turkic vocabulary and to harmonize language and orthographic standards.

The prospects for cultural cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye are quite broad. In the context of modern challenges, both countries aim to further develop the synthesis of technology and culture, carry out joint projects on digital platforms, and create shared cultural products using artificial intelligence and new media capabilities.

Moreover, cooperation between Azerbaijan and Türkiye in the restoration and revival of the cultural life of the Karabakh region holds special significance. Various cultural institutions and non-governmental organizations from Türkiye participate in restoring cultural centers in the territories of Azerbaijan freed from occupation, supporting the restoration of historical monuments and mosques. This contributes to strengthening the brotherly relations between the two countries.

Cooperation between the Republic of Azerbaijan and the Republic of Türkiye in the fields of science, education, and culture carries a multifaceted and strategic character in the modern era. Although the historical roots of this cooperation are based on common language, religion, culture, and history, new challenges, technological developments, and global processes in the contemporary period necessitate the deepening and enrichment of these relations.

#### Conclusion

Research shows that scientific cooperation is mainly realized through joint project implementation, conducting scientific research, reciprocal visits of scientists and researchers, exchange of scientific publications, and co-organization of scientific conferences. Collaboration protocols signed between Azerbaijani and Turkish universities, joint master's and doctoral programs, especially joint initiatives in science and technology, strongly stimulate the development of scientific potential between the two countries. This cooperation also facilitates the training of young scientists and the preparation of internationally competitive specialists.

Cooperation in the field of education has also expanded significantly and become one of the strategic priorities of both countries. Azerbaijani students studying in Türkiye, teacher and student exchange programs, joint educational projects, preparation of common educational materials, and efforts to teach the shared values of the Turkic world should be further

deepened in the future. This process serves both the sharing of intellectual potential between the two countries and the preservation of the common historical and cultural heritage.

Cultural cooperation is one of the most important pillars of the strategic partnership model between Azerbaijan and Türkiye. Organizing cultural events, literary and cultural connections, joint exhibitions, theater and cinema projects, music festivals, and art exchanges lay the foundation for strengthening brotherly and friendly relations between the peoples of the two countries. The activities carried out to promote the shared cultural heritage of Azerbaijan and Türkiye on a global scale, as well as joint initiatives within international organizations such as UNESCO and TÜRKSOY, play a special role in strengthening the cultural unity of the Turkic world.

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## **КУЛЬТУРНАЯ И НАУЧНАЯ ИНТЕГРАЦИЯ ТУРЕЦКОГО МИРА: СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО АЗЕРБАЙДЖАНА И ТУРЦИИ**

*Исмаилов Шахисмаил*

### *Резюме*

В данной статье рассматривается развитие сотрудничества между Азербайджанской Республикой и Республикой Турция в области науки, образования и культуры. Подчеркивается, что тесные исторические, языковые, религиозные и культурные связи между двумя братскими народами способствовали формированию стратегического партнёрства, особенно после восстановления независимости Азербайджана. Особое внимание уделяется совместным научным исследованиям, академическим обменам, образовательным программам, а также культурным инициативам и проектам, направленным на сохранение и продвижение общих духовных и культурных ценностей. В статье также анализируются новые тенденции в культурном сотрудничестве в условиях цифровизации и глобализации. Делается вывод, что развитие сотрудничества в этих сферах не только укрепляет двусторонние отношения, но и играет важную роль в консолидации тюркского мира.

**TÜRK DÜNYASININ MƏDƏNİ VƏ ELMİ İNTEQRASIYASI: AZƏRBAYCAN  
VƏ TÜRKİYƏ ƏMƏKDAŞLIĞI**

*İsmayilov Şahismayil  
Xülasə*

Bu məqalədə Azərbaycan Respublikası ilə Türkiyə Respublikası arasında elm, təhsil və mədəniyyət sahələrində əməkdaşlığın inkişafı araşdırılır. Xüsusilə Azərbaycan müstəqilliyini bərpa etdikdən sonra iki qardaş xalq arasında sıx tarixi, dil, dini və mədəni əlaqələrin strateji tərəfdaşlığın formalaşmasına töhfə verdiyi vurğulanır. Birgə elmi tədqiqatlara, akademik mübadilələrə, təhsil proqramlarına, həmçinin ümumi mənəvi və mədəni dəyərlərin qorunub saxlanılmasına və təbliğinə yönəlmiş mədəni təşəbbüs və layihələrə xüsusi diqqət yetirilir. Məqalədə rəqəmsallaşma və qloballaşma kontekstində mədəni əməkdaşlığın yeni tendensiyaları da təhlil edilir. Belə qənaətə gəlinir ki, bu sahələrdə əməkdaşlığın inkişafı ikitərəfli əlaqələri gücləndirməklə yanaşı, türk dünyasının konsolidasiyasında mühüm rol oynayır.

*Rəyçi: Azərbaycan Universiteti Siyasi və ictimai elmlər kafedrasının müdiri, dosent Elvin Talışinski  
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