

Cooperation Between the Azerbaijan SSR and the Socialist Countries of Eastern Europe in the Field of Science and Education

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Abstract: *After gaining independence, the countries of Eastern Europe acquired special significance in the foreign relations of the Republic of Azerbaijan. This is because, starting from the mid-20th century, the emergence of the world socialist system and the expansion of the USSR's foreign relations accelerated the integration of the Azerbaijan SSR into the foreign relations system. The administrative-command system of the USSR limited the foreign relations of the Union republics; therefore, during this period, the Azerbaijan SSR was mainly able to establish foreign relations in economic and humanitarian-cultural fields. At the same time, these relations were mostly limited to countries within the socialist system and partially to countries leaning toward the socialist mode of production. Despite all these limitations, these relations greatly influenced Azerbaijan's integration into the international relations system and its subsequent foreign relations.*

Keywords: *Azerbaijan, science, education, Europe, Romania.*

Introduction

From the second half of the 20th century, the Azerbaijan SSR cooperated in the humanitarian field with several countries worldwide, based on treaties and agreements concluded by the USSR. In particular, the relations between the Azerbaijan SSR and fraternal socialist countries played a crucial role in developing inter-country humanitarian and cultural cooperation. From the 1950s, Azerbaijan's cooperation in the humanitarian sphere expanded with socialist countries of Eastern Europe, such as Bulgaria, Hungary, Poland, Czechoslovakia, and Romania.

Azerbaijani scientists played a significant role in expanding these relations. At the same time, foreign scien-

tists visited the Azerbaijan SSR and conducted research.

During the Soviet period, a true scientific and cultural revolution took place in Azerbaijan. In the 1960s, nearly 9,000 students studied at 12 universities in Soviet Azerbaijan. Specialists who graduated from higher education institutions in Azerbaijan worked not only in the republic and other cities of the Soviet Union but also beyond the country's borders, in fraternal socialist republics such as Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, as well as in many Eastern countries¹.

The Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences (AS) played an important role in developing scientific and educational relations with foreign countries. In 1945, a decision was made by

the Presidium to draft the charter and structure of a scientific center to expand research activities in the Azerbaijan SSR. On March 7, 1945, the Council of People's Commissars of the Azerbaijan SSR adopted a resolution on the establishment of the Academy of Sciences of the Azerbaijan SSR. The structure of the AS consisted of four departments: Physical-Technical Sciences; Social Sciences; Geological-Chemical Sciences and Petroleum; Geology and Agricultural Sciences. The first president of the Azerbaijan SSR AS was Mir Asadulla Mirgasimov, one of the founding scientists of the academy, and the Presidium had 15 full members. The establishment of the Azerbaijan SSR AS served as an impetus for mutual cooperation with the Academies of Sciences of fraternal socialist countries².

Cooperation with the People's Republic of Bulgaria in the Field of Science and Education

Among the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, scientific relations between Bulgaria and the Azerbaijan SSR developed intensively from the second half of the 20th century. In 1952, an agreement was signed between the USSR and the PRB on the education of Bulgarian youth in higher education institutions of the USSR, and this agreement was also extended to higher educational institutions in the Azerbaijan SSR³.

The development of enlightenment required restructuring higher education institutions in Bulgaria. Accord-

ingly, in 1953, a delegation of teachers from the Soviet Union, including Azerbaijani scientists, was sent to the PRB. Among them were pedagogues such as Mammadaga Shiraliyev and Yusif Mammadov. A special department for training teaching staff was established at Sofia University under the PRB, and Azerbaijani scientific staff worked in this department. Azerbaijani teachers were also appointed to managerial positions; for example, Mammadaga Shiraliyev was appointed dean of the faculty of Turkish philology⁴.

In the 1960s, Bulgarian and Azerbaijani geologists collaborated closely. The prominent Bulgarian geologist Y. Karakovlev visited Baku in 1964 and continued his work on prominent perlite formations. Toward the end of the 1960s, Azerbaijani and Bulgarian scientists exchanged experiences in the field of geography. A delegation of Azerbaijani scientists participated in practical training programs at the Bulgarian Institute of Rose, Essential Oils, and Medicinal Plants⁵.

A new agreement on scientific cooperation was signed between the USSR and Bulgaria in September 1960, envisaging the expansion of education for students in higher educational institutions. Accordingly, broad opportunities were created for Bulgarian students in the Soviet Union's higher educational institutions, and Bulgarian students were also given extensive opportunities in higher educational institutions in the Azerbaijan SSR. Successful Bulgarian graduates were retained for postgraduate studies⁶.

In the 1960s, Bulgarian students studied at the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry and the Azerbaijan State Conservatory. In the second half of the 1970s, an agreement was signed on the exchange of teaching staff between Azerbaijani universities and Sofia University in Bulgaria. In the field of science and education, the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences and the Bulgarian Institute of Oriental Studies cooperated. Azerbaijani scientists participated in the 1st International Congress on Balkan Studies. In 1971, a world exhibition was held in Bulgaria, where Azerbaijani scientists K. Mammadzade, T. Ismayilov, and others participated⁷.

Student construction brigades were exchanged between higher educational institutions of the Azerbaijan SSR and the PRB. Bulgarian students spent their summer labor semesters in Baku in 1978, working alongside Azerbaijani builders. At the same time, Azerbaijani students also traveled to Bulgaria; for example, students from the Azerbaijan Pedagogical Institute named after Lenin spent their third academic semester in Bulgaria, conducting joint scientific research with Bulgarian archaeologists⁸.

Cooperation with the People's Republic of Hungary in the Field of Science and Education

Among the socialist countries of Eastern Europe, cooperation in the field of science and education between Hungary and the Azerbaijan SSR developed dynamically. During

the Soviet period, scientific and practical exchanges took place between Azerbaijani and Hungarian institutions. For example, exchanges occurred between the Miskolc Technical Institute of the PRH and the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry. The Academies of Sciences of Azerbaijan and Hungary cooperated effectively. Loránd Eötvös University in Budapest collaborated with Azerbaijan State University, and their representatives participated jointly in various scientific symposia and conferences.

Scientific cooperation was carried out in the fields of plant physiology, chemistry, cybernetics, mathematics, and other areas. In 1961, in the PRH, A. Mirzajanzade delivered a presentation titled "Summary of Hydraulic Research on Drilling and Production in the USSR"⁹. "In 1963, the 15th International Symposium on Theoretical Problems of Macromolecular Chemistry was held in Budapest. Representatives from the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Olefins in Baku also participated in this symposium. The director of the institute, M. Dalin, and the head of the laboratory, A. Bunyadzade, presented reports at the symposium. Their report topics were, "On the Mechanism of Decomposition of Polymer Substances at High Temperatures" and "Obtaining a New Type of Crack-Resistant Polyethylene"¹⁰.

The prominent Hungarian scientist Tibor Tot spent a scientific sabbatical in the Azerbaijan SSR in 1967. He conducted research on determining the origins of the Hungarian people.

While in Azerbaijan, he became acquainted with the research work of R. Gasimova, a scientific worker at the History Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences. He also reviewed her monograph titled "Anthropological Research of Skulls Found During the Mingachevir Excavations". Tibor Tot visited Shamakhi, familiarizing himself with anthropological and archaeological materials there. At the same time, he examined stone and Bronze Age artifacts in the Azerbaijan History Museum related to his research¹¹.

In 1970, an International Scientific Conference was held in Budapest, in which M. Talibi, head of a laboratory at the Physics Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences, participated. He presented a report titled "Investigation of the Physical Properties of Thin-Layer Metal-Dielectric Semiconductor Structures Based on Selenium and Tellurium"¹².

In 1976, Hungarian Science Days were held in the Azerbaijan SSR. These events played a positive role in the development of inter-country scientific cooperation. During these events, scientists gave 18 presentations. The issues discussed also included the challenges in scientific cooperation between the two countries¹³.

Cooperation with the People's Republic of Poland in the Field of Science and Education

In the second half of the 20th century, Poland was one of the socialist countries with which Azerbaijan cooperated in science and education.

From the 1950s to the 1980s, many Polish students studied in the Azerbaijan SSR. Polish postgraduate students conducted research in various institutes and universities of the Azerbaijan SSR, including Baku State University and the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry¹⁴.

Prominent Polish researchers such as Y. Yesman, A. Makolewski, and M. Abramovich actively participated in the scientific life of Azerbaijan. There was a student exchange program between Azerbaijan and Poland. At the same time, Azerbaijani scientists worked in Polish universities. For example, Doctor of Technical Sciences N. Gasimzade gave lectures at the Warsaw Polytechnic Institute. Z. Bunyadzade's activities in the scientific society of the city of Plock also serve as an example¹⁵.

In the 1960s, leading Polish scientists visited the Azerbaijan SSR and familiarized themselves with the laboratories of the Physics Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences. In 1968, Polish scholars also participated in a summer school organized by the Institute of Mathematics and Mechanics of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences. They studied research by Azerbaijani scientists on the "Theory of Group Representations." Dr. Yevgeny Nechiporovich from the University of Warsaw visited the Azerbaijan SSR and exchanged ideas with Azerbaijani colleagues¹⁶.

Scientific exchanges between Azerbaijani and Polish researchers were conducted. For instance, in the late 1970s, Sevil Jabrayilova, a staff

member of School No. 159, went to Poland for a scientific cooperation meeting and studied a number of educational initiatives, including the "Open School" project. The Azerbaijani delegation was led by A. Karalova. The delegation also visited the Polish Ministry of Education and Training and participated in excursions to Warsaw and Krakow. The main purpose of the trip was to become familiar with achievements in the field of education. Meetings were held with staff from the Institute of Teacher Training¹⁷.

In the 1970s, humanitarian cooperation between the Azerbaijan SSR and Poland expanded. In 1972, Polish university students participated in various meetings in Azerbaijan. Visiting Polish scientists became acquainted with Baku city and the Mirza Fatali Akhundov Library¹⁸.

In the 1980s, Book Days were held in the Azerbaijan SSR, where Polish books were also exhibited. At that time, the Polish-Soviet Friendship Society operated in Poland, and one issue of its journal "Przyjazn" was dedicated to the scientific and cultural life of the Azerbaijan SSR. Information about Azerbaijan was also published in books like T. Lankamer's "Sunny Transcaucasia" and A. Milosz's "The Caucasus." In 1989, the translation of "The History of Azerbaijan" into Polish made a special contribution to humanitarian cooperation between the countries. The book was published in Polish in the city of Wrocław by Bogdan Baranowski and Krzysztof Baranovs¹⁹.

Cooperation with the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic in the Field of Science and Education

Among the socialist countries with which the Azerbaijan SSR cooperated in the humanitarian field was Czechoslovakia. In accordance with the agreements concluded between the USSR and Czechoslovakia for the development of scientific and cultural relations, cooperation existed between institutions of the Azerbaijan SSR and those of Czechoslovakia. In 1963, an exhibition dedicated to science and technology of the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic (CSR) was organized in the Azerbaijan SSR. Representatives of the CSR's art community became acquainted with Azerbaijan's ancient monuments. For example, several scientific exchanges were carried out related to the study of Gobustan rock carvings²⁰.

The National Museum of Prague and the Zoological Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences collaborated in various fields of agriculture. Among these collaborations was joint work to prevent the proliferation of agricultural pests. In 1965, L. Rzayeva, a scientific worker at the Zoological Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences, visited Czechoslovakia. An article titled "The Fauna of the Greater Caucasus within the Azerbaijan SSR" was published in a collection of the National Museum of Prague.

The research plan for 1966-1967 included cooperation between Azerbaijani and Czech scientists on the problem of "Biological Characteristics of Parasites." According to this plan, Czech scientists visited the Azerbaijan SSR. Among these scientists was Z. Boucek, who toured several cities in Azerbaijan and became acquainted with the research of Azerbaijani scientists²¹.

In 1967, Azerbaijani scientists participated in the General Assembly of the International Astronomical Union held in Czechoslovakia and also in the 23rd World Congress held in August 1968. In 1970, an international symposium on issues of polyvinyl chloride production was held in Czechoslovakia. Representatives from the Physics Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences participated in this symposium. Among these scientists, Dr. Y. Mammadaliyev and M. Bagirov should be especially mentioned. During the First World Congress of Protozoologists held in Prague, Azerbaijani scientist Altay Veysov participated as well²².

In 1970, the director of the Physics Institute of Prague University, V. Proser, visited the Azerbaijan SSR. Dr. I. Kudacek also took part in this visit, during which they visited the Physics Institute of the Azerbaijan SSR Academy of Sciences. They became acquainted with research on selenium and selenium compounds being carried out there²³.

Cooperation with the People's Republic of Romania in the Field of Science and Education

During the Soviet period, humanitarian cooperation between Romania and the Azerbaijan SSR held a special place. In 1948, a treaty of friendship, cooperation, and mutual assistance was signed between the USSR and Romania. In accordance with this treaty, humanitarian cooperation between the Azerbaijan SSR and Romania developed. Above all, partnership in the scientific field was one of the main factors in expanding humanitarian relations.

In 1964, during an International Congress on Soil Science, Azerbaijani academician G. Aliyev delivered a report. During these years, scientific relations between Azerbaijan and Romania developed dynamically²⁴. The participation of numerous scientists in exchanges of experience and scientific missions positively influenced the development of cooperation. For example, in 1965, N. Tahirov engaged in pedagogical activities in Romanian higher educational institutions²⁵.

In 1968, Professor Heybat Abdullayev participated in a medical conference. Towards the end of the 1960s, Azerbaijani scientists were involved in scientific work in Romanian educational institutions. Simultaneously, Romanian student delegations visited Azerbaijan. For example, in 1968, a delegation from the University of Bucharest visited Azerbaijan. In the 1970s and 1980s, Azerbaijani institu-

tes and factories continued to cooperate with the Romanian Academy of Sciences²⁶.

Professor M. Mardanov, a specialist in technical sciences at the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry, traveled to Romania several times on scientific missions. Among these trips, his one-month scientific mission to Romania in 1969 can be noted. During his stay in Romania, Professor Mardanov familiarized himself with the research work of Romanian scientists and benefited from their experiences in studying petroleum chemistry processes. At the same time, students studying at the Bucharest Institute of Oil, Gas, and Geology completed internships at the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry²⁷.

Cooperation with the German Democratic Republic in the Field of Science and Education

Scientific relations between the Azerbaijan SSR and the German Democratic Republic (GDR) began to develop intensively from the second half of the 1950s. In the 1950s, the Soviet Union prioritized cooperation with the GDR in scientific, cultural, and other fields due to ideological closeness, and accordingly, scientific and cultural relations existed between the Azerbaijan SSR and the GDR. During these years, effective cooperation was carried out between scientific research institutes of the Azerbaijan SSR and the GDR. Azerbaijani specialists also participated in marine seismic exploration works in the

GDR. Among them were employees of the Baku branch of the All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Geophysical Exploration Methods²⁸.

One of the institutions maintaining scientific and cultural relations with the GDR in the 1950s was the Sumgait Scientific Research and Design Institute for Petroleum Chemistry Automation. At the same time, the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry also cooperated with the GDR in the humanitarian sphere, actively participating in cooperation with higher technical educational institutions.

In the 1960s, numerous scientific gatherings were organized in the GDR, with Azerbaijani scientists participating. Among these scientists were A. Abdullayev, M. Topchubashov, F. Dadashov, and others. Azerbaijani academics delivered lectures in various cities of the GDR. In 1963, a lecture was delivered in the GDR by prominent scientist A. Sumbatzade on the topic "The Flourishing of Socialist Azerbaijani Culture"²⁹.

In 1965, Walter Ulbricht, Chairman of the State Council of the GDR, visited Baku and participated in events organized by the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry. During those years, German scientists benefited from the achievements of Azerbaijani scientists in drilling electroenergetics and oil extraction.

In 1965, the 200th anniversary of the Freiberg Mining Academy in the GDR was celebrated, and academician A. Mirzajanzade participated in this jubilee³⁰. In 1967, during the All-Union Assembly of Oil Specialists

held at the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry, GDR specialists participated as well. Azerbaijani representatives S. Salayev and F. Dadashov took part in an international conference dedicated to oil and gas fields held in Magdeburg, GDR³¹.

In 1968, scientists from the GDR participated in a summer school for mathematicians held in Baku. In the same year, an agreement was signed between the Institute of Stellar Physics of the GDR Academy of Sciences in Berlin and the Shamakhi Astrophysical Observatory on the joint study of the "Stars and Nebulae" problem for the years 1968-1971³².

Cooperation with the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia in the Field of Science and Education

During the research period, one of the countries with which the Azerbaijan SSR cooperated in the humanitarian sphere was Yugoslavia. During these years, scientists from fraternal socialist countries underwent practical training at the Azerbaijan Institute of Oil and Chemistry named after M. Azizbayov. They also became acquainted with oil fields. Among those participating in such practical exchanges was engineer Maloš Jože, a representative of Yugoslavia's "INA Naftaplin" oil enterprise. While in Azerbaijan, Maloš Jože familiarized himself with innovations introduced by Azerbaijani oil workers. He undertook practical training in areas such as water injection into the reservoir, the

impact of hydrochloric acid on the near-wellbore zone, and other processes.

In the fields of astrophysics, physics, and mathematics, Yugoslav scientists participated in research conducted in Azerbaijan to become acquainted with the achievements attained there³³.

In the 1980s, the humanitarian relations of the USSR were quite extensive, and accordingly, the humanitarian relations of the Azerbaijan SSR with foreign countries developed further during these years. Between 1981 and 1985, Azerbaijani scientists cooperated with their colleagues in socialist countries in solving nearly 60 scientific problems³⁴.

In the 1980s, the humanitarian relations of the Azerbaijan SSR with socialist countries developed intensively. Azerbaijani scientists conducted research work in Poland, Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary, and the GDR and participated in international fairs and exchanges of experiences. At the same time, they actively participated in exchanges of experience in personnel training in these countries³⁵. During these years, they also participated in international exhibitions and fairs held in cities such as Plovdiv and Poznan in Poland, Berlin and Leipzig in the GDR, and Budapest in Hungary³⁶.

Conclusion

Thus, humanitarian cooperation between the Azerbaijan SSR and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe developed comprehensively. The par-

icipation of Azerbaijani scientists in symposia and conferences held in these countries, as well as the visits of representatives from these countries to Azerbaijan, played an important role in promoting Azerbaijani science on the international stage.

The humanitarian ties that existed between Azerbaijan and these coun-

tries during the Soviet period served as a foundation for the development of direct relations maintained after Azerbaijan gained independence. During the researched years, rich humanitarian and cultural relations existed between Azerbaijan and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe.

Notes

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- ² Z.Ə. Hacıyeva, N.A. Əliyarlı, "Azərbaycan Elmlər Akademiyasının yaranma tarixi", *AMEA*, Bakı, 2015, p. 114.
- ³ H.N. Məmmədov, *Azərbaycan-Şərqi Avropa: mədəniyyətlərarası əməkdaşlığın tarixi*, Mütərcim, Bakı, 2008, p. 57.
- ⁴ Z.H. Sərdarov, *Səmərəli əməkdaşlıq: Sovet İttifaqının Bolqarıstanla əməkdaşlığında Azərbaycanın iştirakı*, Bakı, 1979, p.33.
- ⁵ H.N. Məmmədov, *op. cit.*, p.58.
- ⁶ Z.H. Sərdarov, *op. cit.*, pp.34-36.
- ⁷ V.A. Öməröv, *Azərbaycan-Bolqarıstan mədəni integrasiyası (XX əsrin 70-ci illəri)*, <https://sesqazeti.az/news/mia/366336.html> istinad tarixi: 19 sentyabr 2013.
- ⁸ Z.H. Sərdarov, *op. cit.*, p. 37.
- ⁹ H.N. Məmmədov, *Azərbaycan-Macarıstan münasibətlərinin inkişaf tarixindən*, Pedaqoji Universitet xəbərləri-humanitar elmlər seriyası, nr. 2, 2015, p. 121.
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- ¹¹ H.N. Məmmədov, *op.cit.*
- ¹² V.A. Öməröv, *op.cit.*
- ¹³ M.C. Manafovanın və N.T. Əfəndiyevanın (redaktəsi ilə.), *Beynəlxalq mədəni əlaqələr: Dərslilik*, bah, Bakı, 2008, p. 558.
- ¹⁴ ¹ *Ibid.*, p. 529.
- ¹⁵ V.A. Öməröv, *op.cit.*
- ¹⁶ H.A. Hacıyev, *Sosialist ölkələri ilə elmi və mədəni əməkdaşlıq*, Bakı, 1975, p. 22.
- ¹⁷ S. Cəbrayıllova, "On gün Polşa Xalq Respublikasında. "Azərbaycan müəllimi"", nr. 11(3105), Bakı, 7 fevral 1979.
- ¹⁸ H.N. Məmmədov, *Azərbaycan-Şərqi Avropa: mədəniyyətlərarası əməkdaşlığın tarixi*, Mütərcim, Bakı, 2008, p. 54.
- ¹⁹ V.A. Öməröv, *op.cit.*
- ²⁰ M.C. Manafovanın və N.T. Əfəndiyevanın (redaktəsi ilə.), *op.cit.*, p. 550.
- ²¹ H.A. Hacıyev, *op.cit.*, p. 6.
- ²² ¹ *Ibidem*, pp. 13-14.
- ²³ ¹ *Ibidem*, p. 23
- ²⁴ M.C. Manafovanın və N.T. Əfəndiyevanın (redaktəsi ilə.), *op. cit.*, pp. 561-562.
- ²⁵ V.A. Öməröv, *Azərbaycan-Rumıniya mədəni əlaqələri (XX əsrin 70-ci illərində)*, <https://sesqazeti.az/news/mia/366909.html> istinad tarixi: 22 sentyabr 2013.
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- ²⁷ H.A. Hacıyev, *op.cit.*, p. 21.

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- ³⁰ H.A. Hacıyev, *op. cit.*, p. 12.
- ³¹ *Ibidem*, p. 13.
- ³² *Ibidem*, p. 6.
- ³³ *Ibidem*, pp. 21-22.
- ³⁴ H.A. Hacıyev, *Sosialist ölkələri ilə elmi və mədəni əməkdaşlıq*, Elm, Bakı, 1975, p. 26.
- ³⁵ N. N. Muradov, *Azərbaycanın beynəlxalq humanitar əlaqələri (1980-1991-ci illər): Tarix.elm.nam.....dis.*, Bakı, 2000, p. 27.
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