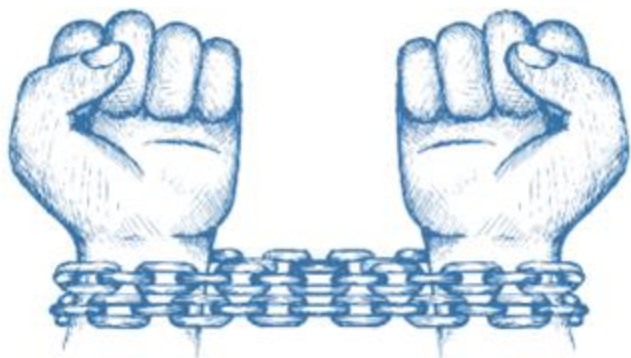




Community Sanctions and Probation Activities in Azerbaijan: A New Era, Emerging Trends

Vugar Aghayev

Director of the Probation
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Justice of the Republic of
Azerbaijan




Historical Context: Post-Soviet Penal Policy

In the early post-Soviet period, the penal system was predominantly characterized by **punitive and non-rehabilitative approaches**.

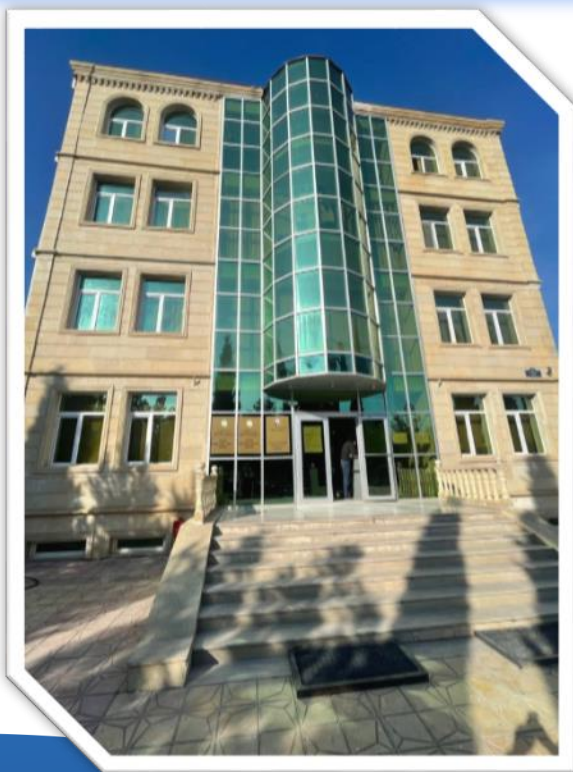
There was **limited confidence** in alternative sanctions, and their effectiveness was largely underestimated within the justice system.



The Presidential Decree of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated 10 February 2017 is regarded as the first and foundational legal instrument in this field.

	
AKTIN NÖVÜ	AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI PREZİDENTİNİN SƏRƏNCAMLARI
QƏBUL EDİLDİYİ TARİX	10.02.2017
QEYDİYYAT NÖMRƏSİ	2888
ADI	Penitensiar sahədə fəaliyyətin təkmilləşdirilməsi, o cümlədən 6 yaşadək uşaqların hüquqlarının təmin edilməsi və onların hüquqlarının təminatı ilə əlaqədar olaraq alternativ cəza və prosesual məcburiyyət tədbirlərinin tətbiqinin genişləndirilməsi barədə
RƏSMİ DƏRC EDİLDİYİ MƏNBA	Xəlif Qazeti (Dərəcə olunma tarixi: 11-02-2017, Nəşr Nömrəsi: 31), Azərbaycan Respublikasının Qanunvericilik Toplusu (Dərəcə olunma tarixi: 28-02-2017, Nəşr Nömrəsi: 02, Məddə Nömrəsi: 248)
QÜVVƏGƏ MİNMƏT TARİXİ	11.02.2017
AZƏRBAYCAN RESPUBLİKASI VAHİD HÜQUQİ TƏSNİFATİ ÜZRƏ İNDEKS KODU	380.010.000
HÜQUQLAQTIN DÖVLƏT REYESTRİNİN QEYDİYYAT NÖMRƏSİ	32201702102888
HÜQUQLAQTIN HÜQUQLAQLARIN DÖVLƏT REYESTRİNGƏ DAXİL EDİLDİYİ TARİX	13.02.2017

At the regional level, independent probation institutions currently operate in the cities of Baku, Ganja, and Sumgait, with plans to expand this model to other regions across the country.



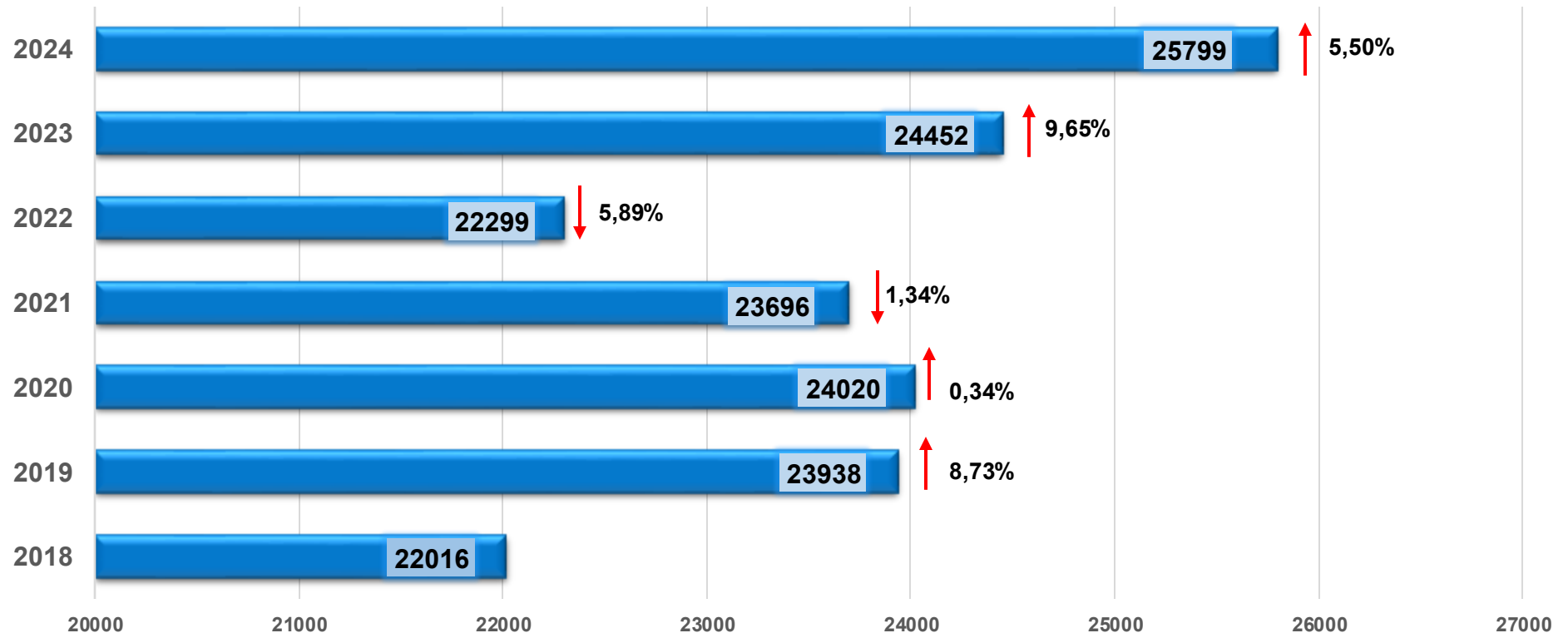
Legislative Reform and Impact on the Penal System



Key Outcomes Observed in 2018 (Compared to 2017):

- 📄 **Introduction of a New Type of Sanction restraint of freedom (Late 2017):**
- **Amendments to the legislation allowed for the inclusion of non-custodial sanctions in the sentencing framework for a significant number of criminal offenses.**
- **3% decrease** in the number of individuals sentenced to imprisonment by courts
- **2.1% increase** in the number of individuals sentenced to alternative sanctions or conditionally sentenced
- **6% decrease** in the number of individuals held in penitentiary institutions
- **24.3% increase** in the number of offenders registered with the Probation Service

Persons under the supervision of probation service in 2018-2024



In 2022, A comprehensive amnesty act was adopted by the Parliament

In the second half of 2024, a new trend emerged within the probation system — the focus on **“social adaptation and rehabilitation.”**

On October 4, 2024, a new structure of the Probation Service was approved, establishing the Department of Digital Monitoring, the Department of Analysis and Supervision, and, for the first time, the Department of Social Adaptation and Rehabilitation.

As a result of the individualized and rehabilitation-oriented approach, the number of offenders transferred to closed penitentiary institutions in 2024 decreased approximately fourfold compared to 2023.

In line with the Probation Service’s directives, probation officers have begun engaging directly with victims—ensuring the protection of their rights and initiating their social adaptation and rehabilitation measures.



Cooperation with Academic Institutions

The Probation Service has signed **Memoranda of Understanding and joint action plans** with universities.

Within the framework of this cooperation, **students specializing in social work and psychology** have been engaged as **volunteers** in probation activities.

This initiative has facilitated the **provision of free social and psychological services** to offenders by these volunteers, thereby contributing to their rehabilitation and social reintegration.



Since 2024, nearly 3,000 activities supporting the social adaptation and rehabilitation of offenders have been implemented—through joint efforts of local probation staff, social workers from the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, civil society representatives, and volunteers involved in probation work.

Since 2024, under a joint action plan with the Bar Association, professional lawyers have provided free legal assistance to 150 individuals under probation supervision.

The Probation Service has delivered more than 50 in-person and online trainings—focusing on social adaptation and rehabilitation, the implementation of non-custodial sanctions, challenges in their enforcement, and the broader humanization of penal policy.





To support the integration of restorative justice into the probation system, over 30 mediators were trained and certified in 2024—and starting from 2025, mediation between offenders and victims was introduced for the first time on a pilot basis.





On 18 February 2025, a Commission was established by order of the Minister of Justice to regulate issues concerning conditional early release from imprisonment for the certain term and life imprisonment. For the first time, the Probation Service was granted membership in this Commission.



Rehabilitation and human-centered transformation in Azerbaijan's probation system are driven by three key forces:

- ✓ Gradual integration into international standards in the field of probation;
- ✓ The application of a multidisciplinary approach in probation practice, encompassing social, psychological, legal, and other components;
- ✓ Regular implementation of awareness-raising activities and training in this field.



**Following its application in August 2024,
the Probation Service was granted full membership
in the Confederation of European Probation (CEP)
on 13 November 2024.**



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Mr. Vugar AGHAYEV
Director of the Probation Service
Ministry of Justice
Republic of Azerbaijan

Ref: 2024/JSK/mj/24-055

Utrecht, 20 November 2024

RE: Full membership CEP

Dear Mr. Aghayev,

I am delighted to inform you that the Board has unanimously approved the application for CEP membership of the Ministry of Justice of The Republic of Azerbaijan, as of 13 November 2024.

In accordance with the [Statute, Article III, par. 2](#), the final approval of the admission is subject to confirmation by the General Assembly which will take place on 15 October 2025. With the admission from the Board you already have the same rights and obligations as other full members. CEP's organisational documents - Statute, Internal Regulations, Statement on Probation Values and Principles, Annual Reports, Annual Plans as well as a three-year strategic plan approved by the General Assembly - can be found [here](#). We kindly recommend you to read the documents mentioned.

Full membership gives you full access to all the facilities of CEP. You will be invited to all [CEP events](#) both as participants and speakers, you can also become members of the [CEP expert groups and networks](#), and you will be kept informed about probation developments of our members. Full members have the right to fully take part in the General Assembly. We strongly recommend to follow the [CEP official website](#), social media ([LinkedIn](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#)) as well as subscribe for our [YouTube](#) channel and [bi-monthly newsletter](#) for the latest news, events and calls.

The calculation of the subscription fee is based on the decision on subscription fees of the General Assembly in its meeting of 19th October 2022. The subscription fees are fixed by the GA every three years. New members receive a 2/3rd discount on

International Cooperation and Capacity Building

Online Training Sessions (2024):

Organized with the participation of probation service representatives from:

- Türkiye
 - Netherlands
 - Croatia
 - Latvia
-

Key Topics Covered:

- Social reintegration and rehabilitation of offenders
 - Risk assessment methods
 - Application of technology in probation
 - Enhancing professional competencies
-

Study Visit to Türkiye (April 2025):

- A delegation of **13 representatives** visited **Ankara**
- Purpose: In-depth familiarization with Türkiye's probation practices

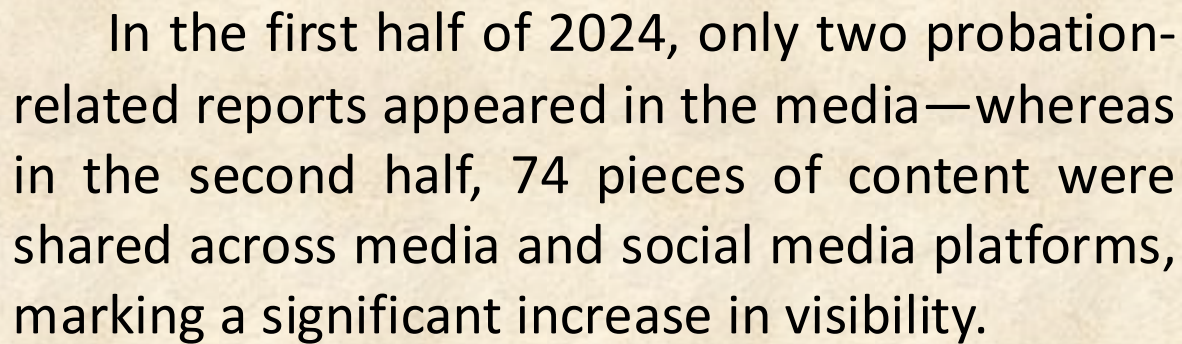


Cooperation with Civil Society and Specialized international and regional organizations

- A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in 2025 between the Probation Service of the Ministry of Justice and *Reliable Future* Youth NGO.
- Purpose: To support the social and psychological rehabilitation and reintegration of probationers through joint actions.
- Focus groups: Juveniles and women under probation supervision.
- Joint activities include:
 - Educational workshops and awareness campaigns
 - Application of modern social work and psychological support methods
 - Strengthening reintegration efforts through community-based initiatives
- In 2025, this cooperation model began expanding to include partnerships with local NGOs across various regions.


Azerbaijan has also strengthened its cooperation with international organizations. Key partnerships have been established with UNICEF, the European Union, and the Council of Europe in the field of probation.







The Digital Monitoring Department conducts surveillance sessions for individuals serving sentences of restriction of liberty or conditionally early released, and any detected violations are referred to local offices for further investigation.



PROBASİYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hüməmatova

Qeydiyyat alınmış 326

Dərkenar gözləyən 6179

İcratdadır 4817

Cəza Çəkan 4300

İnzibati Tənbəhdə 58

Aldıyyatı üzrə göndərilmiş 0

Aldıyyatı üzrə göndərilmiş 0

Probasiya Qurumunda 17842

MSY 5

Arxiv 2157

Qəbul gözləyən 0

Məlumat Axtarış Kartı 57

Bildirişlər


Bəsləmə-Birne tarixi

Sorun

Bildiriş növü

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09:48



PROBASİYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hüməmatova

Nezarət Subyekti

Məhkəmə məlumatı

Cəza məlumatı

İnzibati Tənbəh məlumatı

Qeydiyyatdan çıxarılma

İctimai işlər

İkinci tədbirlər

İkinci axtarış tədbirləri

İcra müddəti

İl göndərilmə

Elektron nəzarət

Şəxsi Məlumatlar

SSBUH

ABASLI

ZEYNAL OĞLU

KOSSEIVS

14/08/1991

İngil

Kişi

Subay

Azərbaycan

Yerli vətəni

Şəxsiyyət təsdiq edən sənəd

Şəxsiyyət vəsiqəsi

1588010

22/04/2017

Səbəyli

Şəkil

BARMAQ İZLƏRİ

FAVİLLƏRİ SEÇ

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İkinci axtarış tədbirləri

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Şəxsiyyət vəsiqəsi

1588010


22/04/2017

Səbəyli

Şəkil

BARMAQ İZLƏRİ

FAVİLLƏRİ SEÇ



PROBASİYA XİDMƏTİ

Arzu Hüməmatova

Baki Şəhər Probasiya İdarəsi

Probasiya

Qeydiyyatda

Qeydiyyat statusu

İcra məmuru

Azərbaycan Respublikasının vətəndaşı

Yaş qrupu 1 (18 - 25)

Yaş qrupu

Bəslə cəza

Cəza tipi

Kişi

Cinsi

ENV Statusu

1/Yan/24 - 1/Yan/25

PDF

XLSX

Statistik	Cəza cəzası	Müəyyən vəzifə tutma və ya müəyyən həddiyyətə məvəl etmə	İctimai işlər	İctimai işlər	İctimai işlər	Azərbaycan Respublikasının vətəndaşı	Müəyyən müddətə məvəl etmə	Ömürlük məvəl etmə	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı	Məhkəmə qərarı
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MSY	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arxiv	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cəm	36	3	15	0	24	349	44	0	18	0	0	0	0	0	0

The newly established “Information System on Convicted and Detained Persons” will strengthen electronic case management—supporting digital personal files, risk assessment, statistical reporting, and the full digital management of enforcement.



Key future goals and trends for probation in Azerbaijan include:

- adopting a dedicated Law on Probation Activities,
- drafting the 2025–2030 Probation Development Concept,
- promoting alternative sanctions,
- strengthening social adaptation and rehabilitation through volunteerism,
- introducing a victim protection framework and restorative justice tools,
- optimizing electronic monitoring,
- and applying individualized approaches to sanction enforcement.



Thank you for your kind attention!