

## KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

- Build capacity and redouble the effectiveness of local civil society organizations
- Provide tools for the development of viable community-oriented networks

## OVERVIEW

- Free services in 40 cities throughout Eurasia, nearly all hosted by local partners
- Every year 700,000 visits are logged at IATP centers and former centers
- Every year 50,000 users are trained in IT skills
- Host of 8,000 local-language websites



## IATP in Azerbaijan

IATP began operating in Azerbaijan in 1998. At present, there are four IATP centers operating throughout the country, which provides professionals and researchers with access to the Web, teaches them various computer programs, and organizes Internet-based live conferences and forums. IATP helps governmental and non-governmental organizations to improve or establish a web presence;

In May 2008, 1285 residents of Azerbaijan visited IATP centers 2651 times, and 184 people attended training courses. IATP's server in Baku hosts 628 non-commercial websites.

## IREX and ICT4D in Eurasia

Initially launched in 1995, IATP now operates in 8 countries in Western Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The program strengthens NGOs, media outlets, government institutions, political parties, universities, schools, libraries and other community stakeholders.

IATP is one of several IREX programs that use simple technologies to provide technical assistance and innovative resources to local citizen initiatives.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization which delivers cross-cutting programs to strengthen civil society, education, and media independence in more than 50 countries.

## TOOLS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

IATP provides civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders with essential tools that are otherwise either largely inaccessible or under-utilized. The resulting assistance and collaboration improves the effectiveness of local civil society initiatives, expanding their reach and allowing them access to the latest international expertise. IATP provides:

- **Internet Access** –Free computer and Internet access available at IATP centers helps bridge the digital divide and provides new sources of information and knowledge.
- **Technical Training** – A catalogue of over a dozen training modules including basic computer literacy, Web design, Internet research, blogging, and wiki creation can be tailored to meet the institutional needs of organizations and professionals attending courses.
- **Web Content Development** – CSOs and individuals create websites and resources after completing IATP courses. New Web resources increase local-language content, making the Internet more accessible and useful to local users.
- **Online Forums**– Stakeholders, experts, and decision-makers join online in virtual exchanges of ideas that bridge the technology gap between regions and capital cities, and give often isolated professionals and leaders' first-hand access to expertise located distantly.
- **Community Events** – Citizens utilize the centers as neutral meeting places to organize community initiatives and use IATP-provided technology and expertise to strengthen their projects.

## **IATP Administration**

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## **IATP Centers in Azerbaijan**

### **City: Ali-Bayramli**

Partner: Central Library of Ali-Bayramli  
Address: 12 January 20th Street  
Telephone: (994 197) 5 12 51  
Hours: Monday – Friday (9 am – 6 pm), Saturday (10 am – 6 pm)  
Contact person: Alma Babayeva at [Alma@iatp.az](mailto:Alma@iatp.az)

### **City: Baku**

Partner:  
Address: 191 Bashir Safaroghlu Street  
Telephone: (994 12) 497 35 29/111  
Hours: Monday – Friday (10 am – 6 pm)  
Contact person: Azer Kerimov at [azer@irex.az](mailto:azer@irex.az)

### **City: Imishli**

Partner: NGO Araz  
Address: 140 Heydar Aliyev Street  
Telephone: (994 154) 6 54 56  
Hours: Monday – Saturday (9 am - 6 pm)  
Contact person: Abulfat Zeynalli at [Abulfat@iatp.az](mailto:Abulfat@iatp.az)

### **City: Sumgayit**

Partner: City Children's Library #12  
Address: 6 Azerbaijan Avenue  
Telephone: (994 18) 645 66 12  
Hours: Monday – Friday (9 am – 6 pm), Saturday (12 pm – 6 pm)  
Contact person: Sona Omarova at [Sona@iatp.az](mailto:Sona@iatp.az)

## **Independent Internet Center (IIC)**

### **City: Guba**

Partner: World of Carpet Association  
Address: 26 A Qalaba Street.  
Telephone: (994 169) 5 1775  
Hours: Monday – Friday (9 am – 6 pm), Saturday (12 pm – 6 pm)  
Contact person: Aygun Aghamirzayeva at [worldofcarpet@mail.ru](mailto:worldofcarpet@mail.ru)

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## **Political parties in Azerbaijan Adopting New Technologies**

IATP is working with the National Democratic Institute (NDI) to train representatives of political parties to utilize technology to increase the viability and effectiveness of their organizations. The first group to complete IATP training created more than ten simple databases of their members and voters. Over 30 representatives of five of the main political parties in Azerbaijan created nine websites after completing Web design course conducted by IATP in Baku. The new Web resources include the official websites of political parties and youth organizations such as the website of Azerbaijan National Independent Party (<http://amipmillet.az.iatp.net>), Musavat Youth Organization (<http://musavatgt.iatp.az>), Youth Organization of the Umid party (<http://umidgencler.az.iatp.net>). The New Azerbaijan Party (<http://www.yap.org.az>) and National Front Party (<http://www.axcp.az>) gained the skills necessary to update their own parties' websites.

## **Website Aims to Improve Lives of Disabled Children**

As a result of IATP training courses on Web design, Fuad Kazimov, a disabled activist from Baku, completed a website for a virtual network for children with special needs (<http://Kidsandneeds.info>), a project implemented by Lotos, Azeri Center for People with Disabilities Lotos' programmer began to create the website in 2006, however left his position and did not complete the site. Two years later, Yelena Taranova, Lotos' chairperson, suggested that Kazimov attend IATP Web design workshops and continue website development. By the end of May, Kazimov added both Azeri and Russian content to the website and began to add an English version, as well as updated information such as news, contacts, useful links, and upgraded flash animation. The online resource informs Internet visitors about the project, organizations participating in the network, services provided for the disabled, and information about foreign contacts of the Center.

## **ICT Training in Azerbaijan Helps the Unemployed Find Jobs**

IATP aims to support people in their efforts to improve their lives through personal and professional development. Formerly unemployed Rafail Zahidov was hired by a local administration in Qaravalli, a village in Imishli region, soon after his completion of IATP training in office applications software in March 2008. Having proved his skills as he offered voluntarily assistance to the administration staff, Zahidov then received a proposal to take an official position of an accountant. Sevinj Bahmanli, a user of IATP center in Sumgayit since 2006, recently has been promoted to the position of an office manager at the Culture and Tourism Governmental Department of the local administration. Bahmanli is an active IATP user who completed IATP training in computer and Internet, Web design, and administrative skills. Her skills allow her coordinate the activities of the Department and create the website of the Sumgayit Culture and Tourism Governmental Department (<http://sum-dct.az.iatp.net>).