

# CENTER FOR POLICY STUDIES

## INTERNATIONAL POLICY FELLOWSHIPS

NADOR UTCA 11, H-1051 BUDAPEST, HUNGARY (36 1) 327 3863, FAX (36 1) 327 3809

---

### MENTOR CRITIQUE FORM

Your thoughtful and honest appraisal will be most helpful. We appreciate your input and will try to implement as many of your ideas as possible. Continue comments on the back if necessary. The IPF program pairs each Fellow with one or two mentors who are Soros foundations network-affiliated (usually Open Society Institute and Central European University), as well as one 'external' mentor who is an expert in the field working outside the Soros foundations network. Mentors should: 1) Work with Fellows to devise a brief policy paper in their field(s) of expertise based on a lengthy research paper written over the course of the fellowship year, 2) Maintain contact with Fellows at least once every six weeks or so by telephone, fax or e-mail to discuss the development of projects, 3) If feasible, meet with Fellows at least once during the fellowship year to discuss the project, 4) Facilitate Fellows' contact with other relevant experts and participation in appropriate meetings (IPF has discretionary funds to support Fellow attendance at relevant events), 5) Complete brief mid-term and final critique forms supplied by IPF to provide the program with feedback regarding the Fellow's progress.

**Your name, position:** Namik Jafarov, Department Chair on Youth Affairs

**Name of Fellow you have assisted:** Ibrahim Ismayilov, IPF Research Fellow 2002/2003

#### **1. What, in your opinion, have you and your Fellow/program/project gained from your cooperation thus far?**

As I was indicating in my interim mentor critique for Mr. Ismayilov, the research project '*The impact of non-formal education on youth participation in civil society*' is a relatively new research initiative in Azerbaijan and even in a wider CEE/fSU region. Certainly there are exist number of projects related to the issues of youth education, not much has been said yet with regard to non-formal education or as others put it non-formal learning. Ibrahim's project was aimed to tackle this gap in youth research field with feasible policy implications. The cooperation with Fellow ultimately helped me to reevaluate the concept of non-formal education and its potential implications for the work done by the Ministry. Having Ibrahim as a resource person also helped me to contribute to the development of law proposal on youth policies, which has been ratified by the parliament in April of 2002 and has major items with regard to youth NGO sector.

On the other hand I was helpful to Ibrahim advising on potential resources for his research data collection as well as facilitated the meetings with other officials involved in youth work and was making easy his efforts in getting the primary data the Ministry archives possessed.

**2. Do certain areas of this Fellow's work need improvement? Which areas?**

Based on my work experience with the fellow during his fellowship period, I have found him to be an expert in the field of non-formal education and youth participation with particular focus on European context. On the other hand it would be useful for me to get more in depth primary data collection done in Azerbaijan with regard to situation in distant regions, where the civil sector organizations are particularly weak. I understand that it was outside the limits of this fellowship project, but hopefully IPF could support Ibrahim in carrying out another study on that in the regions of Azerbaijan as well.

**3. In your opinion, does your Fellow's project make a significant contribution to the field?**

YES. The project constitutes a significant contribution to the field of youth research, and it's already attracting live interest of relevant policy-makers and NGO representatives.

**4. Would the project be important to other countries in the CEE/fSU region?**

I believe – YES. Youth policies, civic education, non-formal education and life-long learning concept are on agenda now in almost all CEE/fSU countries, whether it is emphasized by EU accession or by the development of youth laws and democratic institutions. From this perspective the research could have a comparative application in other CEE/fSU countries as well.

**5. Could the proposed policy research make an impact on the policy environment in specific countries or regions? (Policy makers, experts and policy research community)**

YES, but the cultural specificity of each region and perceptiveness of political institutions should be taken into consideration. There is major potential for promoting findings of policy research on a wider European level, but the advocacy program needs continuous support. Ibrahim was nominated to be part of working group on non-formal education under auspices of the European Youth Forum and initiating by the European Commission. IPF continues support could make this opportunity for Ibrahim and excellent policy advocacy work.

**6. Is the timetable for the project realistic?**

YES, although the advocacy work will definitely require more timing.

**7. Could the project benefit a large number of people?**

YES, since the research has a clearly defined target group – young people. In Azerbaijan under this category falls more than 30% of entire population according to State Statistics Committee (2000).

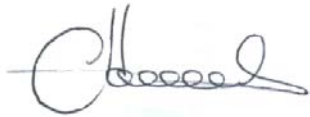
**8. Does the Fellow show evidence that he/she can think strategically about the relevant project and/or field?**

YES

**9. If the Fellow were to re-apply for continued OSI funding for follow-up work associated with the project, would you support continued funding?**

YES, indeed!

I believe that IPF/OSI program has made a vital contribution in supporting this innovative project. Mr. Ismayilov is an outstanding fellow with significant expertise in the area of youth work and I am willing to continue supporting him further and to provide my best assistance in his advocacy work he chooses to pursue.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Namik Jafarov', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Namik Jafarov  
Department Chair on Youth Affairs  
Ministry of Youth, Sport and Tourism of Azerbaijan Republic