Education Minister, Misir Mardanov, in its speaking has noted that this project is carrying out within the framework of “Deinstitutionalization and Alternative Care State programme in the Azerbaijan Republic”. The main goal of the agreement is to build co-operation between the Ministry and Hilfswerk Austria based on duties undertaken by parties, the Minister said. He stressed that this project has been passed by the European Commission. Its total cost is 640 770 euros to be financed by Hilfswerk and the European Commission. The purpose of the project is to build the mechanism for creation of Family Foster Care System in Azerbaijan as an alternative trusteeship, the minister said.

There has been noted that the three-year project includes preparation of criteria of choice of foster families and children, as well as mechanisms of financing. During the fulfilment of the project will be chosen 50 families from the list of candidates for the foster family, and will be organised training courses. According to the project there will be set up small family homes for children, who cannot be done to the foster family. 25 social workers will be trained for monitoring the project course. They have been planned chosen from the contingency of teacher working for state children establishments in the Azizbeyov district’s area.

In conclusion, the minister has thanked everyone, who has worked for this project and expressed believed for realizing it successfully.

Franz Ceska, the president of the international organisation of Hilfswerk Austria, Jean Louis Lavrov, deputy director of the European Commission’s office, Mark Hereward, representative of the UNICEF in Azerbaijan, and Brigitte Stoeppler, coordinator of the Hilfswerk Austria for Central Asia and Caucasus, made speeches. They have noted that this project is to be basic for cooperation, and UNICEF has supported all projects in this field. Speakers have emphasized the importance of the creation of the Foster Care Alternative System in the filed of children protection. They gave information about the project and expressed hope to achieve expected results.

Further, the Education Ministry and Hilfswerk Austria have signed the grant agreement within the framework of joint cooperation for the realization of project “Development of the model of the Foster Care Co-operative and family type’s services between local authorities and nongovernmental organizations.” The agreement has been signed by the Education Minister, Misir Mardanov, and the president of Hilfswerk Austria, Franz Ceska.

At the end there have been answered following questions of journalists.