

1.2.3 Location

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations. We create friendly knowledge and understanding between the people of the UK and other countries. We do this by making a positive contribution to the UK and the countries we work with – changing lives by creating opportunities, building connections and engendering trust. We work with over 100 countries across the world in the fields of arts and culture, English language, education, civil society, social enterprise, gender and youth. We work with young people to improve their educational opportunities and broadening their horizons.

Our longstanding presence in the three Eastern Partnership countries and in Ukraine has given us a unique understanding of local contexts of the South Caucasus as well as in Moldova and Belarus. We use the knowledge gained from daily interaction with people and institutions at all levels of society to adapt our approaches in line with local needs and opportunities, in order to achieve positive and lasting change. Our excellent relationships with civil society organisations, government ministries and public institutions in the Eastern Partnership countries enable us to respond effectively and efficiently to national and UK policy goals.

Armenia

The British Council was opened in Armenia **in 2001**. The total number of core staff is **10 people**. The key highlights of British Council Armenia's operations include:

- Through CSSF funding, nine English clubs have been established in the past two years, more than 540 teachers have been trained, and around 1,800 students have been provided with the opportunity to develop their English and core skills.
- Each year more than 2,000 teachers in Armenia develop their skills and knowledge through participating in our online and face-to-face activities.
- We work with the Armenian government to contribute to the revision of the national teachers' continuous professional development scheme.
- Nearly 2,000 candidates take UK qualifications with us each year.
- Each year, around 950,000 people use our free online English training resources and experience our TV and radio English language learning programmes.
- Around 13,000 people have engaged directly in our arts programme annually, particularly through the performing arts and film events. Over 200,000 people have been exposed to UK art through publications and arts broadcast programmes.

Azerbaijan

The British Council has been operating in Azerbaijan **since 1993**. The total number of core staff is **20 people**. The key highlights of British Council Azerbaijan operation include:

- Through CSSF funding, eight English clubs have been established in the past two years, 620 teachers have been trained, and around 1,360 students have been provided with the opportunity to develop their English and core skills.
- 3,500 English teachers receive British Council professional and skills development each year under our long-term partnership with the Ministry of Education.
- The Ministry of Education has engaged the British Council to teach English to the SABAH programme (state-sponsored fast-stream undergraduate training) for 800 of the country's most promising undergraduates.
- Under a BP corporate social responsibility project, the British Council is providing direct teaching and teacher training for the first time in hard-to-reach communities.
- More than 150,000 Azerbaijanis use our free online English training resources each year; more than 2,500,000 experience our TV and radio English language learning programmes.
- 9,000 individual UK examinations will be held this year.
- This year the TOPS programme, a UK legacy programme from the London 2012 Olympics for sports and leadership in schools, will be rolled out to 150,000 students in all of Baku's 300 schools.
- Around 10,000 people will engage face-to-face with UK arts - particularly in music, film and the best of contemporary theatre - over the next year.
- Over 50,000 people attended our fairs and exhibitions in the last three years.

Georgia

The British Council was opened in Georgia **in 1993**. The total number of core staff is **11 people** with around 60 teachers engaged through our teaching Centre. The key highlights of the British Council in Georgia include:

- Through CSSF funding, nine English clubs have been established in the past two years, 775 teachers have been trained, and around 1,034 students have been provided with the opportunity to develop their English and core skills.
- We engage over 3,000 English teachers through our projects annually.
- We reach over 840,000 Georgians through our digital channels each year and give them access to our free on-line resources.
- We teach English to over 3,000 students each year at our courses, responding to individual and corporate demand, while more than 800,000 people are provided with the opportunity to improve their English through our TV and Radio products.
- More than 31,000 people experience arts from the UK each year, while more than 350,000 people listen to our weekly contemporary British music radio programme The Selector.
- We administer up to 4,000 examinations and tests from the UK across Georgia each year.
- Our Festivals Development Support Programme addresses the challenges in the festivals sector and contributes to the institutional development of all festivals in the Ajara region.

Moldova and Belarus

- While we do not have offices in Belarus and Moldova, we do extended work in these geographies, primarily managed from Ukraine. In Belarus and Moldova, we delivered the EU-funded Culture and Creativity Phase 2 Programme from 2015 to 2018, managed from Ukraine, working through our partner Soros Moldova. We also deliver IELTS for UKVI in Belarus from the Baltics. Our Country Director in Ukraine manages the relationships with these. In Belarus we can operate under the aegis of a 1990s cultural cooperation treaty.
- Through the CSSF Fund we have extended our work further in Belarus and Moldova. In the past two years, we have opened 10 English clubs in each country. In partnership with the Moldova English Teachers' Association and Minsk State Linguistic University, we have delivered various teacher development opportunities to around 400 teachers annually across both countries.

Regional coordination / management

- Our offices in the South Caucasus and Ukraine each have formal local legal status and operate in compliance with local legislation. In Moldova and Belarus, we manage relationships through the British Council Ukraine and deliver through local partners, in compliance with local legislation.
- We have strong experience of working regionally on programmes where this can bring efficiencies or increased impact. We are currently delivering the British Council's Creative Spark (enterprise support), Unlimited (disability arts) programmes across the region. We have worked as a cluster to deliver the CSSF-funded programmes over the past two years, as well as on various EU-funded programmes, such as the 2015-2018 Culture and Creativity Programme Phase 2.
- Our internal working provides additional efficiency as we share HR, finance and other resources across countries rather than investing in heavy structures in each country. We also draw in professional support from the region and the UK in relation to financial management, procurement, audit, marketing and promotion, gender, and other areas.