



International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science

e-ISSN: 2544-9435

Scholarly Publisher
RS Global Sp. z O.O.
ISNI: 0000 0004 8495 2390

Dolna 17, Warsaw,
Poland 00-773
+48 226 0 227 03
editorial_office@rsglobal.pl

ARTICLE TITLE

ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR: REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR
NAKHCHIVAN'S ECONOMY

ARTICLE INFO

Shahin Aliyev. (2024) Zangezur Corridor: Realities and Perspectives for
Nakhchivan's Economy. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in
Social Science*. 4(44). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.4(44).2024.3137

DOI

[https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.4\(44\).2024.3137](https://doi.org/10.31435/ijitss.4(44).2024.3137)

RECEIVED

29 October 2024

ACCEPTED

22 December 2024

PUBLISHED

30 December 2024

LICENSE



The article is licensed under a **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0
International License**.

© The author(s) 2024.

This article is published as open access under the Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0), allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

ZANGEZUR CORRIDOR: REALITIES AND PERSPECTIVES FOR NAKHCHIVAN'S ECONOMY

Shahin Aliyev

Lecturer, Department of Economics and Marketing, Head of the Department of Education, Nakhchivan State University

ORCID ID: 0009-0002-5686-1179

ABSTRACT

The article examines the factors that will affect the economy of Nakhchivan with the opening and operation of the Zangezur corridor. Research has revealed that with the implementation of the Zangezur corridor, Nakhchivan will first and foremost emerge from the blockade, gain direct connection with mainland, Azerbaijan, and see an increase in its economic potential. Secondly, with the launch of this corridor, Armenia will also establish its relations with Turkey and Europe through this railway. It can be seen from the studies that were conducted that the Zangezur corridor is of great economic and political importance. One of the issues that increase the political and economic importance of the road is that it is located in one of the main centers connecting East and West. Second, the realization of the Zangezur corridor will create an alternative passage with the main territory of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is of great importance within the framework of the regional political configuration, which will reduce the impact of the "Nakhchivan transit" issue, which is one of Iran's most important levers on Azerbaijan. In general, this road will be quite important in the field of both cargo and passenger transportation, which is one of the issues that justify the relevance of the topic. The purpose of the topic is to analyze Zangezur Corridor's potential for economic impact and development directions, as well as development perspectives. One of the tasks set to achieve the stated goal is to examine the perspectives of activity regulation and sustainable development, the sustainability and development of the additional energy sector.

KEYWORDS

Nakhchivan, Zangezur Corridor, Economy, Development, Transport, Freight

CITATION

Shahin Aliyev. (2024) Zangezur Corridor: Realities and Perspectives for Nakhchivan's Economy. *International Journal of Innovative Technologies in Social Science*. 4(44). doi: 10.31435/ijitss.4(44).2024.3137

COPYRIGHT

© **The author(s) 2024**. This article is published as open access under the **Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International License (CC BY 4.0)**, allowing the author to retain copyright. The CC BY 4.0 License permits the content to be copied, adapted, displayed, distributed, republished, or reused for any purpose, including adaptation and commercial use, as long as proper attribution is provided.

Introduction.

After the occupation of the South Caucasus by Russia in the first half of XIX century, a new administrative territorial division was established. After the partition, new governorates were created, as a result of which Zangezur province was subordinated to Ganja governorate. Sisiyan, Gafan, Mehri, Zangilan, Gubadli and Lachin entered here. The territory of Zangilan covered the area from the Hekari river to the Mehri mountain range in the east. After the Bolshevik invasion on April 28, 1920, the Armenians, who established their state at the expense of ancient Turkish lands with their help, occupied Zangezur province. Then, at the insistence of Bolshevik Russia, Zangezur was taken from Azerbaijan and joined to Soviet Armenia. As a result, the upper part of Zangezur province remained in Armenia, and the territories of Lachin, Gubadli, and Zangilan remained in Azerbaijan. At the same time, Nakhchivan was separated from the motherland.

On September 26, 2020, the state of Azerbaijan released our historical lands, which were occupied by Armenia for a period of nearly 30 years, in a short period of time within the framework of the measures to force the enemy to peace, initiated in response to the next armed provocations of Armenia. In doing so, new realities emerged for the South Caucasus region. The President of Azerbaijan confirmed that he is also a great diplomat by adding the clause about the Zangezur Corridor to the November 10 declaration signed between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Russia as a continuation of our trench victories. After the victory, a very favorable

opportunity arose to expand Azerbaijan's transport, communication and logistics capabilities. Zangezur corridor is a clear example of this.

Analysis of recent publications on the problem: Some researchers have conducted studies on the issue; however, many have approached the Zangezur corridor primarily from historical and tourism perspectives. Researchers such as A.Asadov, A.Babayev, and L.Guliyeva have approached the issue from an economic context; however, the economic aspects related to Nakhchivan have not been addressed. In our article, we have extensively discussed the impact of the Zangezur corridor on the economy of Nakhchivan.

Allocation of previously unsolved parts of the general problem. The establishment of the Zangezur corridor, in addition to its economic advantages, can contribute to regional stability and cooperation. By promoting economic integration and shared prosperity, the corridor can help resolve political differences among the peoples of the South Caucasus and foster mutual understanding.

We can evaluate the importance of the Zangezur corridor from three aspects:

1. Local significance of the corridor
2. Regional significance of the corridor
3. Intercontinental importance of the corridor.

Formulation of research objectives (problem statement). The article examines the factors that will affect the economy of Nakhchivan with the opening and operation of the Zangezur corridor.

Materials and methods. Data collection, qualitative and quantitative method, literature review, comparative analysis, theoretical approach methods were used in the study. Studied scientific articles, books, reports and studies that address this issue. Various data sources such as statistical reports, surveys, interviews or observations are used to obtain information on the extent and characteristics of the informal economy in the region.

An outline of the main results and their justification. First of all, let's note that Azerbaijan has become one of the leading countries in the world today as a result of radical reforms carried out in the field of transport. According to the 2019 report of the Davos World Economic Forum, Azerbaijan ranks 11th among 141 countries in "Efficiency of railway services", 12th in "Efficiency of airline services", 25th in "Efficiency of seaport services", "Quality of roads" ranked 27th (Yusifov Y, 2022, p. 20).

Table.1. Technological innovations observed in the transport sector

S/s	Updates Occurrence	period
1	Transportation in the pre-industrial era (pre-industrial era)	1800 years
2	Industrial revolution and transport	1800-1870-years
3	The emergence of modern transport systems	1870-1920 years
4	Transport in the Fordist period	1920-1970 years
5	The modern post-Fordist era of transport development since	1970 so for

One of the largest transnational projects implemented in the last century is the historical "Silk Road" transport corridor. This corridor, which began to operate in the field of mutually beneficial and safe transfer of goods between Europe-Caucasus-Asia countries, has already become a corridor that competes with regional transport corridors and has become one of the factors that seriously affect the development of the country's economy and the formation of surface transport infrastructure. Let's also note that one direction of the "Silk Road" will pass through the Zangezur corridor.

As we mentioned above, the opening of the Zangezur corridor was mentioned as a provision in the joint statement signed by the leaders of Azerbaijan, Russia and Armenia. The opening of the corridor will not only remove Nakhchivan, which has been under blockade for many years, from these conditions, but it will also ensure the return of our people to the ancient Zangezur, which has been a historical territory for more than 100 years. The distance that separates Zangilan from Nakhchivan is only 40 kilometers Zangezur corridor. The restoration of the corridor will create new economic prospects. Connecting Zangilan, located in the Eastern Zangezur region, with our ancient land, Western Zangezur, and then with Nakhchivan and Turkey through Ordubad, will be the next historical achievement of Azerbaijan.

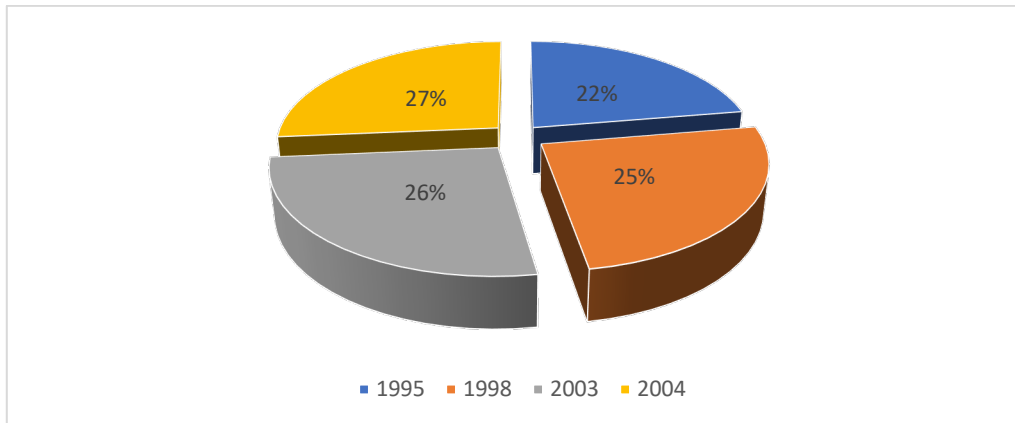


Fig.1. Information on total transported passengers by transport sector (percentage)

With the restoration of the corridor of Zangezur, the broken geographical connection of the Turkic world and historical justice will be restored. The geography of Azerbaijan's road and transport infrastructure, which has energy connections with four neighboring countries of the region, will also expand.

It is the result of Turkish unity and political will that the declaration of alliance signed in Shusha, referring to the historic Kars Treaty, contains very clear statements about the opening of the Zangezur Corridor, which is the result of the new geopolitical situation that arose after the Second Karabakh War. "Today, we are not only talking about the Zangezur corridor, which will connect Turkey and Azerbaijan by rail and road, but we are creating this corridor with practical works. It is of great significance that this issue is reflected in the signed joint Declaration on the alliance," which sounded like the confirmation of President Ilham Aliyev's words. Turkish President Rejep Tayyip Erdogan said, "Azerbaijan considers the Southern Zangezur Corridor project very important and we support it."

Land and railway connections with the Nakhchivan region of the main part of Azerbaijan, as well as with Turkey, have become a time-dependent process. With the implementation of this project, a new common corridor will be opened that everyone can use from East to West. "This is of great importance" is a confirmation of the idea of "Unity in language, deed, and thought" of the great propagator of Turkism, Ismayil Bey Gaspiral, in our modern life (Ismayilgizi Kh, 2022).

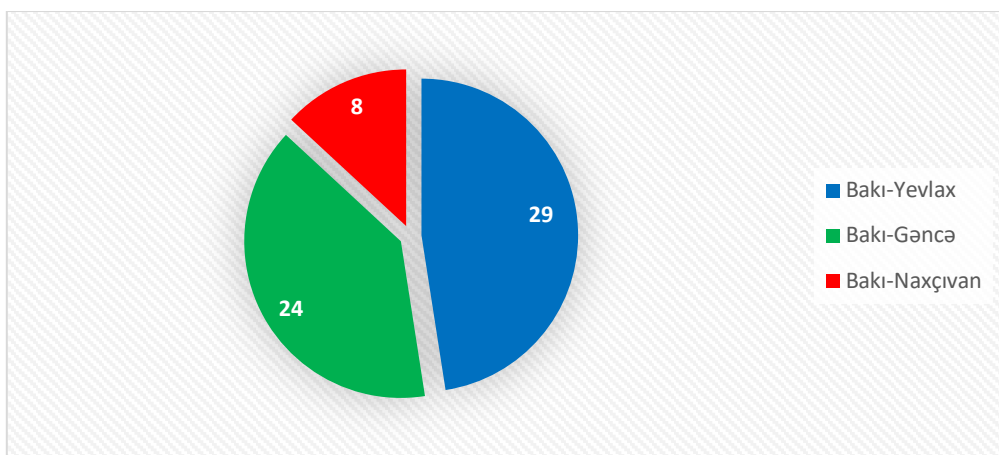


Fig. 2. Comparison of passengers transported domestically in 2000 according to the situation of total passengers transported (percentage)

Azerbaijan will get a land route to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is its integral part, through the Zangezur corridor. This means that the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic will get out of the blockade, its economic potential will strengthen, and the Turkic world in general will gain new communication and transportation opportunities. With the construction of a new line from Azerbaijan to the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic through the Zangezur corridor, and from there to Turkey and Iran, economic relations

between the states of the region will become stronger (Asadov A, 2021, p. 45). It will also play a special role for the export of energy types. Today, when looking at Azerbaijan's exports, energy resources are of particular importance. We clearly see that the Zangezur corridor will become a corridor for energy export in the speech of Mr. President Ilham Aliyev: "I said that the Zangezur corridor is not only for railway, road and air transport. At the same time, the Zangezur corridor will play its role in the export of energy types. As President Ilham Aliyev said, the Zangezur corridor, which will be a bridge of cooperation for the countries of the region, will create qualitatively new relations and surpass the role of a reliable guarantor of future cooperation. The Zangezur Corridor will play an important key role in the development of the region, mutual and deep integration of regional states, and the maintenance and continuation of peace in the Karabakh region.

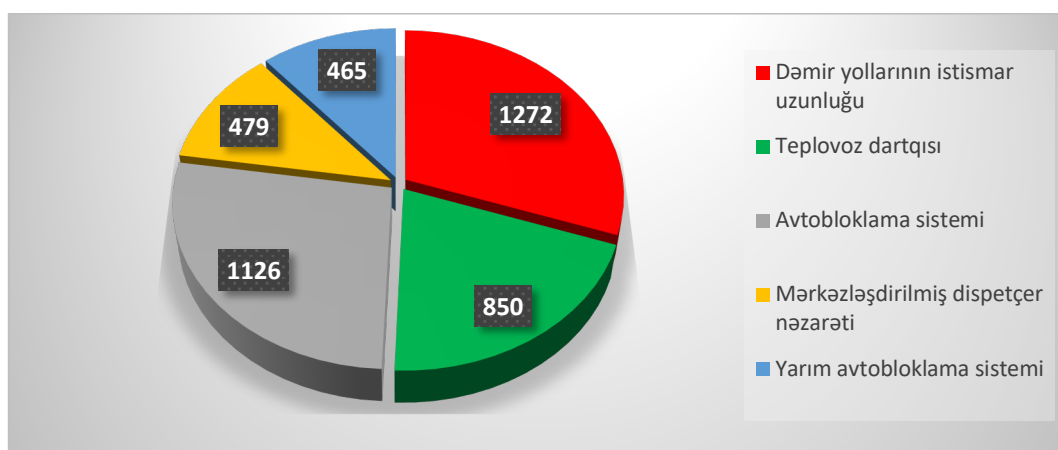


Fig.3. Information on the market structure of freight transportation by rail (km)

The opening of the Nakhchivan corridor will play an important role not only in the economic development of the autonomous republic, but also in the economic development of our country. Thus, through this corridor, the entrepreneurs of the country will have the opportunity to export their products to the markets of Turkey and Europe through Nakhchivan without incurring additional transport costs, which will enable Azerbaijan to get more income from international cargo transportation and will lead to the strengthening of the strategic position of our country in the region. In addition, one of the main benefits of the corridor is that, like all corridors, it plays an important role in transportation. Therefore, this road is quite important in the field of both cargo and passenger transportation. Transportation of these goods and materials from a short distance to Nakhchivan is important in terms of the development of infrastructure, construction and industrial sector in the autonomous republic in the future.

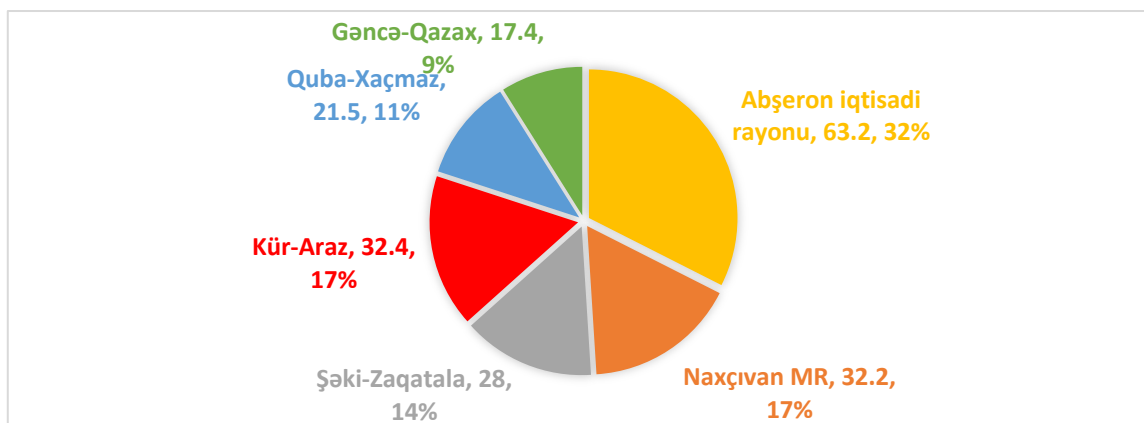


Fig.4. Information about railways per 1000 sq.km of territory in the country (2000, km)

It will also play an important role here in terms of cost reduction. In a word, the decrease in transportation costs creates opportunities for production promotion. In this regard, the Zangezur corridor will open new opportunities for expanding cooperation in the field of multimodal logistics service between our countries.

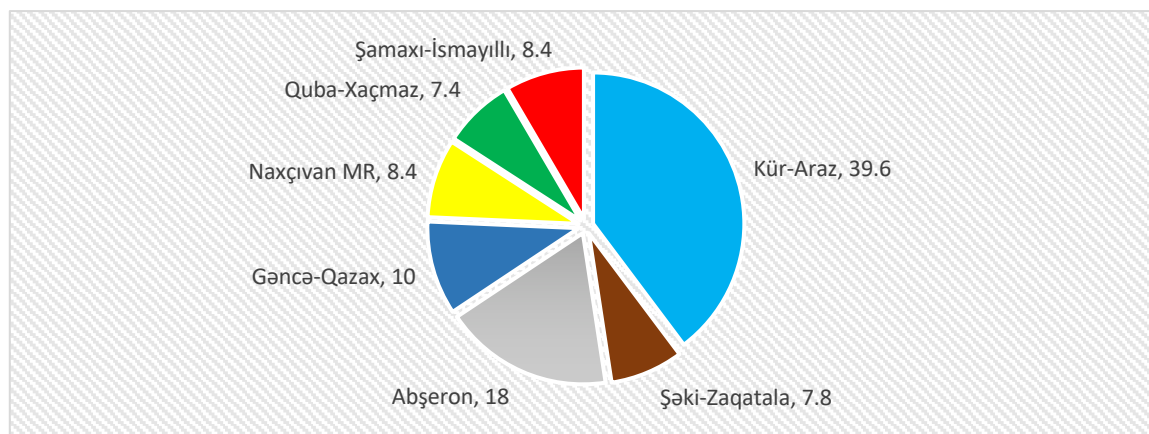


Fig.5. Distribution of the common railway of the Republic of Azerbaijan by economic regions (year 2000, in percentage)

Azerbaijan, Turkey, Russia, Armenia, and Iran will use this road. This path is of particular importance for multilateral cooperation in the future. Let's note the benefits that the opening of this corridor will bring to Armenia:

1. Armenia gets out of the blockade with the opening of this corridor.
2. Will get financial income.
3. It will establish a direct railway connection with Russia.

As noted by Professor A. Babayev, transport, communication and infrastructure projects passing through Zangezur will also open additional opportunities for Armenia, which is in a difficult socio-economic situation (Babayev A, 2022, p. 30).

The realization of the Zangezur corridor will create an alternative passage with the main territory of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, which is of great importance within the framework of the regional political configuration, which will reduce the impact of the "Nakhchivan transit" issue, which is one of the most important levers of Iran over Azerbaijan. In addition, the fact that the Zangezur corridor offers a new route between Russia and Turkey bypassing Georgia is another significant change of the corridor at the regional level (Ahmadkhanli C, 2021, p.2)

The Zangezur Corridor will also enable the Russian Federation to acquire a new road and rail route to Turkey outside of Georgia. This road will also contribute to the peace, security and stability of the region and provide trade and investment opportunities for all countries located on the "East-West" Middle Corridor routes through the Caspian Sea.

As President Ilham Aliyev pointed out with foresight, it will become an important link of the "One Pipe, One Road" megaproject, which includes the establishment of communication links and alternative trade relations, which will extend from China to Europe, and as a result will seriously increase the geopolitical and geoeconomic importance of Azerbaijan and the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic.

This corridor and many regional projects, where Azerbaijan is the driving force, will also lead to the socio-economic development of Nakhchivan, the spread of Nakhchivan culture to a wider area, the transformation of the Autonomous Republic into a tourism center, the opening of new jobs and, as a result, further improvement of the living conditions of our people, and an increase in their incomes (Guliyeva L. 2021, p.1).

It should also be noted that Nakhchivan plays a big role for the economy of our country and will play a lot more in the future. According to paragraph 9 of the agreement on the capitulation of Armenia signed on November 10, 2020, after all economic and transport relations in the region are restored, a security mechanism will be established between the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic of Azerbaijan and the western regions for the unhindered movement of citizens, vehicles and cargo in both directions. In parallel with this, works will be carried out in the direction of the restoration and modernization of the railway in the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic. In short, the year-by-year expansion of exports from Nakhchivan will become an example for Azerbaijan as a whole.

Conclusions and perspectives of further research. With the joint participation of the presidents of Azerbaijan and Turkey, the foundation of the Horadiz-Jabrayil-Zangilan-Aghband highway, which is the first step in the restoration of the Zangezur corridor, was laid. The new transport routes meet the interests of all the countries located along the route, both in relation to the geopolitical situation and as a whole. Zangilan International Airport is of strategic importance in terms of strengthening the Zangezur corridor with takeoff and landing air transport infrastructure. The speed of the works is approaching the day when this area will become an international transport and logistics center. It is already seen that this corridor will have an important effect on the deepening of the economic relations between the West and the East, on adding value to the emerging trade circle. Already in the new stage of development, increasing the profitability of the national economy, ensuring the stability of social policy, and further improving economic management are included in the strategic goals. The Zangezur corridor ultimately opens opportunities for economic diversification and reduces the country's dependence on a limited market range. The extensive scope of the Great Silk Road project spans multiple continents, including Asia, Europe, and Africa. Through the Zangazur corridor, Azerbaijan ensures access to various trading partners, further diversifying its transportation network. This diversified entry leads to the emergence of new markets and industries in Azerbaijan and its integral part, the Nakhchivan region, which can reduce the risks associated with excessive dependence on a single market or trading partner, and at the same time create conditions for the entry of new products into the country. The Zangezur corridor, by strengthening expanded trade relations between the Karabakh region and Nakhchivan, will have significant potential in promoting economic integration and stability in the South Caucasus.

REFERENCES

1. Babayev A. (2022). Features of the national economic development model of Azerbaijan / Proceedings of the republican scientific conference on the economy of Azerbaijan in the years of independence. Baku: "Economics University" publishing house, p. 27-33
2. Asadov A. (2021). The political and economic significance of the opening of the Zangezur corridor for the countries of the region / Materials of the international scientific conference "Problems of sustainable development of the economy in the information society", Sumgayit: December 16-17, , p. 43-46
3. Ahmadvanli C (2021). Importance of Zangezur Corridor on three levels <https://top-center.org/az/ekspert-reyi/3247/zengezur-dehlizinin-uc-mustevide-chemiyyeti>
4. Guliyeva L. (2021). Nakhchivan corridor, which has become an important link of the "One Pipe, One Road" project. <https://qia.az/bir-kamar-bir-yol-laihesini-muhum-halkasen-jevirilen-naxcivan-dhelizi>
5. Ismayilgizi Kh. (2022). Zangezur corridor: a symbol of unity and solidarity of the Turkish world // Iki sahil newspaper. February 26, 2022
6. Yusifov Y. (2022). From liberation to victory: socio-economic development in official statistics / Proceedings of the republican scientific conference on Azerbaijan's economy in the years of independence. Baku: "Economics University" publishing house, p. 19-27