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Education Minister Misir Mardanov welcomed the Ambassador at the Ministry. Noting Italy was one of the first countries recognized the independence of Azerbaijan, the Minister touched on relations existing between both countries in the area of education in recent years. He also talked about issues regarding promotion of these relations. Noting the cooperation has been mostly developed between universities of both countries, the Minister underlined the need for the expansion of other ties in the education area. He touched on the issue of teaching Italian language in Azerbaijan and expressed his desire to know the guest views in this regard. The Minister also underlined the study of 4 Azeri students in Italy within the State Programme for Education of Azerbaijani Students Abroad for the years of 2007-2015. He noted this figure is low and works should be done in this direction.

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Italy to Azerbaijan Mario Baldi thanked the Minister for the warm welcome. He talked about the development of relationship between the two countries and engaged with the Minister on the issue to pay a special attention to the education field. Mario Baldi gave detailed information on the education system of Italy, and talked about reforms held in pre-school, primary, secondary and vocational education fields. Noting there are number of ancient and prestigious universities in Italy, the Ambassador stressed the development of areas, such as architecture, archeology, cultural heritage, medicine, law, engineering, design, economics, etc. in his country. According to him, a majority of programs are taught in English to make the study of international students in Italy easier. Touching on the issue of teaching Italian in Azerbaijan, the guest suggested that it would be better to teach Italian at secondary schools first. Moreover, he said the attention paid to the students from Azerbaijan in Italy will be increased.

The Minister thanked the guest for the detailed information and noted the importance of teaching Italian language at some secondary schools of Baku at the beginning. According to Mr. Mardanov, he is planning to visit Italy from 2 to 9 June, where he will broadly discuss these issues.

At the meeting, the sides exchanged views on issues regarding the development of cooperation between universities of the both countries, as well as discussed implementation of relevant works in other directions.