

---

The final stage of the countrywide futsal tournament involving the teams of higher and vocational education institutions was held at Baku Sports Palace on June 6.

Participants in the opening ceremony included deputy Minister of Education Firudin Gurbanov, Vice-President of the National Olympic Committee Chingiz Huseynzade, deputy Minister of Youth and Sport Ismayil Ismayilov, representatives of Futsal Federation, and heads of higher education institutions.

The final game pitted the teams of Baku State University and Azerbaijan State Academy of Physical Culture and Sport against each other. The academy's team sealed the title of the champion with a comfortable 9-2 win. Baku State University ranked second, while Azerbaijan State Economic University finished third.

Speaking at the award ceremony, deputy Minister of Education Firudin Gurbanov said that held for the first time, the tournament aimed to promote football among students of higher and vocational education institutions and effectively organize youth's leisure time. He highlighted the measures taken by the ministry to develop sport. "The ministry is regularly holding competitions, tournaments and championships among pupils and students of general, vocational, secondary and higher education institutions." He said that by hosting the first European Games Azerbaijan made great strides in the field of sport. Firudin Gurbanov said the Formula 1 Grand Prix of Europe to be held in a couple of days would again attract the world community's attention to Azerbaijan.

Then the award giving ceremony was held. The winning team, the second and third place holders was awarded a prize money of 3000 manats, 2000 manats and 1500 manats respectively. They also received the cup and medals. The performance of main referees and participants of the tournament was evaluated in seven nominations.

A total of 800 students in nearly 40 teams competed in the countrywide tournament.

The tournament was organized by Association of Football Federations of Azerbaijan and Azerbaijan Student Football Federation in partnership with the ministries of education and youth and sport, and Azerbaijan Futsal Federation.