

TACIS Action Plan 2006 - €22 M

Support to Vocational Education Training implementation in Azerbaijan (Sept 2009 - 2011)

The main objectives of the project are: Improvement of policy making capacity, strategy and action programme for VET modernization; Development of a replicable model of partnership in delivering competency-based vocational education and training. The project is developing a VET strategy for Azerbaijan and launching a pilot program on tourism in Ismayilli. In addition to the Technical Assistance (TA), a supply contract provided kitchen equipment in October 2010 for the Pilot school.

Support to the Ministry of Economic Development (since 2009 -2011)

The main objectives of the project are: Support the modernization of the MED human resource management system and civil service organization and improvement of MED institutional and staff capacity for economic policy making; Analyse the impact of the oil-led economic growth and prospects for economic development of non-oil sectors; Strengthen the capacity of the MED Regional Offices to develop and advance their role as regional economic policy makers and support HQ in a coordinated manner.

Support to the Investment and Export Climate (2009-2011).

The main objectives of the project are: To promote economic diversification and exports in non oil sectors, including through increasing share listing and the country private sector attractiveness for FDI; to foster the development of capital markets and promote portfolio investment.

Implementation of Twinning, TAIEX and SIGMA operations in Azerbaijan. (2009-2011)

The purposes of the Project are to increase public awareness of EU assistance in the form of Twinning, TAIEX and Sigma tools in the overall framework of the EU external assistance to Azerbaijan; to support the Azerbaijani government (the Programme Administration Office (PAO), ministries and other public bodies) in identification, preparation and implementation of Twinning projects, TAIEX and Sigma events; to support the long-term sustainability of the PAO as a central point of Azerbaijani government in identification, preparation and monitoring of implementation of Twinning projects and TAIEX and Sigma event.

5 Twinning projects are financed under A.P.2006:

- Legal Approximation and Structural Reform in the Energy Sector of Azerbaijan;
- Support to the Improvement of Legal and Technical Aspects of Food Quality and Safety Assurance and Certification Requirements of Azerbaijani Fishery Products;
- Strengthening of Standardisation, Metrology, Conformity Assessment and Accreditation in SCSMP;
- Support for the Anti-Corruption Department with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Support for the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan (legal approximation to the EU);

The first 3 of them have been completed in June-November 2010, the remaining 2 are ongoing and will end in 2011.

ENPI Action Plan 2007 - €19 M

Budget Support Programme for Energy Reforms(budget - € 14 million, including 1 million for TA). First disbursement of the 3 million Euro first was on the 01/09/2010. The project will last until 2012.

Technical Assistance to the Energy Reform Support Programme in Azerbaijan started in November 2010. The overall objective of the Project is to support the Ministry of Economic Development in its coordination role in regards to the Energy Reforms Support Programme as outlined in the Government of Azerbaijan "Mechanism of disbursement of funds transferred by the European Commission to the State Budget of the Republic of Azerbaijan for Programmes implemented under the ENP".

Twinning Facility (budget - €5 million)

The following twinning projects were launched in 2009-2011:

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- Support to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SSC) to reach European standards in national accounts, non-observed economy, business statistics and producer price index
- Enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of social protection Policy through improvement the analytical and forecasting capacities of the MLSPP of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Support to the State Labour Inspectorate (SLI) in Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) enhancement in the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Assisting the Public Financial Control Service (PFCS) in improving a system of public financial control in the Republic of Azerbaijan
- Twinning Light "Support to the enhancement of the capacity of the Ombudsman administration and to the development of awareness on Human Rights and Discrimination"

Twinning counterpart for the project "Assisting the Public Financial Control Service (PFCS) in improving a system of public financial control in the Republic of Azerbaijan" selected and project implementation should start in late 2011.

ENPI Action Plan 2008 - €22 M

Both Financing Agreements (FA) for the Sector Support for Justice Reform (€16 million) and Twinning (€6 million) are signed by the GoA in October 2009.

Budget Support for Justice Reform

Payment on the first tranche of Budget Support will take place in 2011.

Twinning Facility

Preparation for AAP2008 Twinning projects finalised, counterparts selected. The following twinning projects were launched in 2011:

- Support to the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of Computer Assisted Audit system;
- Support the State Veterinary Service Prepare for a National System for the Identification of Animals and Registration of Holdings.

The other 3 projects should start later in 2011:

- Strengthening the Initial Vocational Education in the Field of Agriculture in the Republic of Azerbaijan;
- Capacity Development for Enhancing Enforcement of Copyright and Related Rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan (CORAZ);
- Strengthening the capacity of the State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Promote and Protect the Rights of Vulnerable Families, Women and Children.

ENPI AAP 2009 - €20 M

€ 14 million have been allocated to the Sector Support for Agriculture and Rural Development programme, and the remaining €6 million is reserved for Twinning

Twinning Facility

Preparation for AAP2008 Twinning projects is ongoing and work on the following proposal is taking place:

1. Strengthening Radiation Safety Infrastructure and Development of Supporting Services
2. Support to the professional development of the staff of the State Migration Service of the Republic of Azerbaijan and its subordinated agencies, and adjustment of legislation on migration to the EU standards
3. Strengthening of the State Maritime Administration of the Republic of Azerbaijan in order to implement the EU and international legal requirements in the field of Maritime Safety
4. Improving the Sustainability of the Land Registration System in Azerbaijan especially in the field of land evaluation
5. Legal approximation and institutional development in the securities market of the Republic of Azerbaijan aligned with the EU acquis and practices
6. Strengthening the administrative capacity of the Department of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture and Tourism

ENPI AAP 2010 - €7 M

€7 million have been allocated for Twinning/Technical Assistance. Financing Agreement pending counter-signature by the Government of Azerbaijan.

Comprehensive Institutional Building (CIB)

€19 million is earmarked for the CIB for Azerbaijan in the National Indicative Programme of 2011-2013. The CIB programme foresees co-financing contributions from Azerbaijan and is also open to co-financing and contributions in kind (e.g. through secondments) from other donors. Details of joint and complementary activities will be set out in the Institutional Reform Plans to be developed with assistance of EU. Each Plan will set out objectives, measures and means as well identify sources of funding for each component.

Thematic Programmes

Funding for these activities (in the form of Action Grants) comes from two funding sources:

- EIDHR: European Initiative on Democracy and Human Rights
- NSA: Non State Actors in Development

23 grant projects financed by EU within the 2007-2009 programmes, including 11 EIDHR and 12 NSA/LA projects. Total EU contribution is €6.02 million

Ongoing EIDHR and NSA grant projects:

EIDHR project: Strengthening civil society message - meeting the needs of disabled children and their families

This project objective is that the needs and value of disabled children and their families is respected in society, as a result of increased support of vulnerable children, their families and necessary community-based services by government and society as a whole.

Duration: 30 months; Implementation started on 19 December 2008

EIDHR project: Improving Legal Environment and Organizational Capacity of Civil Society Organizations in Azerbaijan

The main objective of the project is to enhance respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms in Azerbaijan by improving legal and institutional framework for free exercise of the freedom of association, including the environment for registration and functioning of CSOs; subsequently this action will seek the overall objective of developing the CSOs of Azerbaijan through helping to minimize the existing obstacles for CSOs registration and their functioning as well as strengthening them as actors in their local communities.

Duration: 24 months; Implementation started on 16 November 2010

EIDHR (multi) project: Ethical Journalism Initiative – Azerbaijan

The EJI-A campaign overall objective is to promote, reinforce and renew commitment to the ethical values of journalism including: To Respect the Truth; To be Independent and Impartial; To Seek to do no Harm; To be Open, Transparent and Accountable to Peers; and To act in the Public Interest.

Specific objectives of the project are: to raise professional standards of media through industry debate between media professionals; Reform of media law and end to harassment and jailing of journalists; To improve safety of journalists; To improve capacity of the union to raise journalists working conditions; To improve rights and equality for women journalists.

NSA 2008 project: The Adult Training Centres as an Opportunity for Poverty Reduction, Education and Social Inclusion COPE

The project's objectives are: to support poverty reduction and promote the social integration of ethnic minorities through establishment of Adult Training Centres' (ATC) network to offer educational services; To stimulate the important role of adult education for increasing employability and social inclusion in rural areas of Azerbaijan. Specific objective: To build partnership and enhance capacity of ATC network, local authorities

and non-governmental organizations which will help create effective educational system and ensure its sustainability.

Duration: 30 months. Contract signed in December 2009.

NSA 2008 project: Creating Livelihoods for Youth Program

The specific objective of this action is "to increase livelihood opportunities for marginalised youth through involvement and strengthening the capacity of civil society organisations".

Duration: 24 months; Contract signed in December 2009.

NSA 2008 project: Capacity Building and Training CSO Leaders in Azerbaijan

Overall objectives of the project are: Increased opportunities for CSOs to develop broader and stronger relationships and raise the visibility and profile of the sector as a whole; Develop Azerbaijani CSOs' capacity and skills to design and develop appropriate capacity assessment and development plans; Increase debate, knowledge and understanding of key issues facing civil society, especially needs through dialogue between civil society and local authorities; Through a comprehensive and dynamic training programme develop and improve Azerbaijani civil society organisation actors' knowledge and skills in designing, planning and managing organisational development processes in order to promote initiatives which originate at local level.

Duration: 18 months; Contract signed in December 2009.

NSA 2008 project: Strengthening 20 village municipalities capability to provide public services (safe water supply) in the rural area of Garabakh lowlands of Central Azerbaijan

The project will improve the water-sanitation situation in 20 central Azerbaijan villages by assisting in the refurbishment of current dysfunctional water infrastructure, developing community based water supply management by village municipalities, and assisting in development of state policy on water pricing and quality control.

Duration: 36 months; Contract signed in December 2009. Implementation begins: 01/04/2010

NSA 2008 project: Early Intervention and Social Inclusion in society of children with special needs

The project will improve the quality of life of children with special needs (CWSN) by establishing a pilot Early Intervention Training Methodology Centre in a region of Azerbaijan, creating a rehabilitation system for CWSN in the current government health care system, and establish a Parent Organisation to lobby for the needs of CWSN.

Duration: 24 months; Implementation started on 07/12/2009

NSA 2008 project: Developing a model for cooperation between LA and NSA in introducing foster care and family support services

The project will develop a pilot programme of cooperation between LA and NSA on local level regarding foster care services and family-type residential care in Small Group Home programmes for youth as an alternative to residential institutions in Azizbeyov and other neighbouring neighbourhoods of Baku.

Duration: 36 months; Implementation started on 26/11/2009.

NSA 2008 project: Community approaches for a healthy environment and poverty reduction in rural Azerbaijan

This project will contribute the sustainable development and poverty reduction in 6 disadvantaged regions in Azerbaijan via innovative community outreach activities in the areas of water and sanitation and renewable energies by capacity building of local populations as well as exchange of best practices with other regions with successful projects.

Duration: 24 months; Implementation started on 26/11/2009.

Ongoing Action Grants financed from other sources:

1. PVD 2007 project: Advancing Healthy communities through Responsive Local Governance

The project will contribute to the national efforts to improve the health of the population through improvements in the provision of PHC services, with a participatory and right-based approach.

Duration: 24 months; Contract signed in December 2009.

2. MIGR 2009 project: Local Integration of Refugees and Asylum Seekers in Azerbaijan - Strategies for Improving lives in displacement

The overall objective of the project is that refugees and asylum seekers in Azerbaijan have better access to protection in accordance with international principles and best practices. The specific objective is that refugees and asylum-seekers in Azerbaijan have improved access to local integration during displacement.

Duration: 24 months; Implementation starts 12/01/2010

3. HUM 2009 project: Return and Resettlement - Children's participation in decision making

The overall objective of the action is to empower internally displaced children in Azerbaijan to make their concerns, opinions and desires in matters related to resettlement and return included in planning and implementation of the return and resettlement programmes of the Government of Azerbaijan.

Duration 24 months; Implementation started 14/10/2010

4. DCI-ENV: Promoting Development of Sustainable Energy in Azerbaijan

The overall objective of the action is to promote to the development of sustainable energy in Azerbaijan.

Duration: 30 months; Implementation started in January 2011