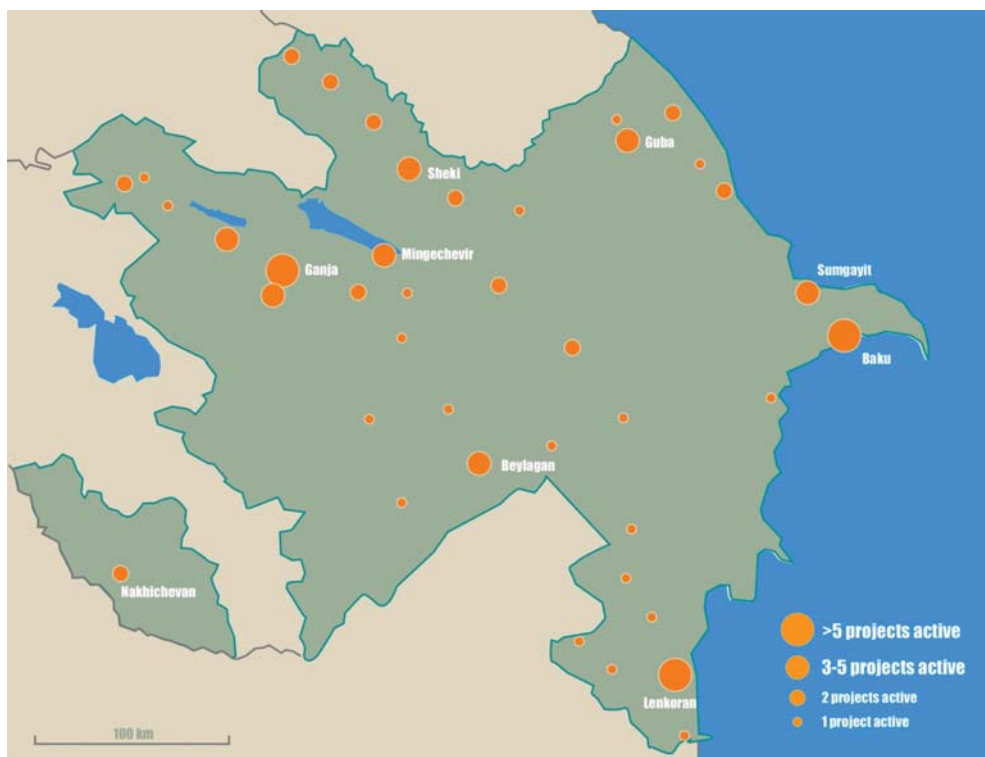


EuropeAid

European Union Funding
to Civil Society in Azerbaijan
2012



EUROPEAN
COMMISSION



Geographic Distribution of project activities funded by the European Union through the 2010 EIDHR and NSA Instruments (valid 2012-2014)

Salam,

It is my great pleasure to present the 17 new EU-supported civil society projects starting in Azerbaijan in 2012. They cover a wide range of areas, from creating opportunities for disabled children or the blind, to providing independent media coverage, supporting the activities of civil rights campaigners, or raising awareness on the need to protect the environment. The combined EU contribution to these projects is €2.6 million.

This is in addition to the over €4.7 million that the EU has already provided in Azerbaijan since 2007. This makes the EU the largest foreign donor to civil society in Azerbaijan, something that we are proud of.

Most immediately, this funding is about providing assistance. An active and engaged civil society is the most effective vector to address and resolve key issues in innovative, practical and effective ways.

In a longer term perspective, however, our funding is about partnership. True, effective systemic change is only achieved via close cooperation between government and a legitimate, independent and vivid civil society, which raises key issues, proposes ideas and actively monitors and reports on progress. The long term vision of EU support to civil society is to promoting civil society as exactly such a partner.

The belief of this partnership is clearly reflected in EU relations with the Government of Azerbaijan, where cooperation with civil society forms a basis of all the cooperation frameworks that the Government of Azerbaijan has committed to, from the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement signed in 1999 to the Eastern Partnership, in 2009.

Of course, EU cooperation with Azerbaijani civil society goes beyond just providing funding. Civil Society is an invaluable partner for us, either



through consultations on a regular basis at the level of the EU Delegation in Baku, but also at the regional level, at venues such as the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership.

Having said this, any financial support comes with a responsibility to ensure that EU funds are well spent, in full transparency and accountability. Interventions must have the widest possible impact in areas relevant to the Azerbaijani population.

This is a goal we have worked hard to achieve with these 17 new projects, and I invite you to look through this publication to not only find out more about the projects we are financing, but also how we selected them, what we are trying to achieve, and how you can work with us.

In 2012 we are planning to continue our support, and to expand it even further with the launch of new calls for proposals and new initiatives that will benefit even more of the Azerbaijani population.

We look forward to working with you on these current and on future efforts.

Roland Kobia

EU Ambassador to the
Republic of Azerbaijan



Information sessions for the 2010 EIDHR and NSA Calls for Proposals in Lenkoran, November 2010

Understanding EU Funding for Civil Society

How does the EU support civil society actions in Azerbaijan?

The EU provides grant funding for project proposals which will be implemented by local and European non-state actors.

The scope of EU funding is defined by EU financial instruments, which have a thematic or geographic focus, with annual themes. The two main instruments in Azerbaijan are the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (see

page 6) and the Non-State Actors in Development Instrument (see page 17). In addition, Azerbaijan is often eligible for Global Thematic Instruments (see page 26).

All the instruments use Calls for Proposals as a transparent and competitive selection procedure to ensure that the best projects are selected for funding.

How does the EU ensure that its funding is relevant and effective?

Themes for EU Calls for Proposals are consulted with local civil society and other relevant stakeholders to ensure they *respond to local needs*.

EU Calls for Proposals require that either the applicant or partner is a local organisation to ensure that *local organisations are involved in all EU funded projects*.

During selection, priority is given to proposals with activities in the regions to ensure *geographic coverage* in the country.

All projects must include training or support activities for other civil society organisations, to ensure a *wider impact*.

All projects must also aim to influence legislation and develop cooperation with the Government to have a *long term effect*.

How does a EU Call for Proposals Work?

1 Preparation

The EU develops **Guidelines**, which set out themes, available funding, eligibility criteria and the selection procedure. Guidelines are consulted with Civil Society to ensure they are relevant, and are published online (EU Delegation website, EuropeAid website). If the Call is only relevant to Azerbaijan then it is advertised locally and information sessions are organised in Baku and the regions.

2 Evaluation

Applicants have around 30 days to submit a four page **concept note** of their proposed project. These concept notes are evaluated, and the best applicants are invited to submit **full proposals**, for which they have 30 days to prepare (in some cases applicants must submit the concept note and full proposals together). Full proposals are assessed again, and the best projects selected for funding.

3 Contracting

Final eligibility checks are undertaken to confirm that the applicant can receive funding from the EU. If all is correct, **contracts are signed** with the selected applicants. After all contracts are signed, the results of the call are made public. Project activities start after contract signature.

? What is PADOR?

PADOR is an online EU database to which all civil society applicants must register to be eligible for EU funding.
www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/onlineservices/pador

? How are projects rated?

Each concept note or full application is rated by two separate evaluators (one external from the EU) according to scoring grids outlined in the **Guidelines** of the call.

An evaluation committee reviews the two scores, and if they are not consistent with each other then a third evaluator may be asked to make an additional grading of the concept note/full proposal.

Concept Notes and Full Proposals are ranked according to an average of the scores of the evaluators.

? Where can I find out more?

For information on all ongoing Calls for Proposals and details on EU procedures please visit the EuropeAid website at:
www.ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work

A Two Way Street Azerbaijani Civil Society Helping the EU

Civil Society Organisations are not only implementing partners of EU funds, but also enjoy an increasing responsibility in the programming and monitoring of EU assistance and policy making.

For example, during its political dialogue with the Government of Azerbaijan in areas such as migration, trade, economic development or human rights, the EU regularly consults with local civil society. In addition, all EU visiting high level officials meet with civil society to gain a balanced perspective on events in Azerbaijan.

Civil society also plays a key role in the Eastern Partnership, where a Civil Society Forum comprised of organisations from all six Eastern Partnership countries gives input on the implementation of the partnership. Azerbaijan is represented by 26 local organisations, which act on a rotating basis.

You can find out more about the role of civil society and the Civil Society Forum at:
www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/civil_society



Media monitoring activities as part of a 2009 EIDHR project implemented by the Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety. For 22 months specially trained experts monitored 8 TV channels and reported weekly on the amount of time allocated to various political subjects in Azerbaijan.

The European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR)

About the Instrument

One of the two main EU instruments for civil society in Azerbaijan is the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR.) Established in 2007 on the request of the European Parliament, its main purpose is to:

"contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, within the

framework of the Communities policy on development cooperation, and economic, financial and technical cooperation with third countries, and consistent with the EU's foreign policy as a whole"

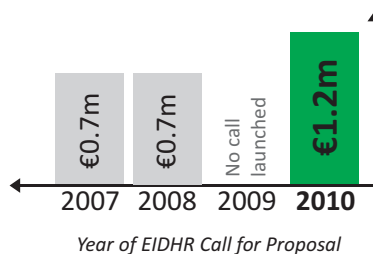
The EIDHR instrument is applied in all countries of the world outside the EU and the most industrialised countries.

The average global annual budget for the EIDHR Instrument is €160 million.

EIDHR in Azerbaijan 2007-2010

Since 2007 three in-country calls for proposals have been held in Azerbaijan with the EIDHR instrument, with over €2.6 million allocated to 18 projects.

These projects worked in areas such as: election monitoring; support to free media; assistance to vulnerable groups such as internally displaced persons, disable children and victims of trafficking in human beings; as well as empowerment of women in the regions.



EIDHR 2010 Call for Proposals

The most recent Call for Proposals was launched in November 2010. To be eligible for funding, projects proposals needed to act on one or more of the following themes:

- Supporting civil society efforts to improve national legislation and its implementation in the field of democracy and human rights**
- Supporting human rights defenders involved in the promotion of civil, political, social, economic and cultural rights**
- Supporting civil society efforts to promote environmental awareness and rights to clean environment**

Out of 79 submissions, 9 projects were selected. The last contract between the EU and a selected applicant from this Call for Proposals was agreed in December 2011. Most project activities begin in 2012.

Overview of 2010 EIDHR Selected Projects

9

/79 selected

78%

— submitted by local organisations

100%

— implemented by or with local organisations

100%

— with activities outside Baku

Selected Projects

Detailed descriptions of the 9 selected EIDHR 2010 projects along with contact details are provided on the following pages.

For more information please contact the EU Delegation directly at:
delegation-azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu

Support for Human Rights Defenders in Azerbaijan

Human Rights House Network

Project Budget €152,870	Action Duration 18 months
EU Contribution €121,870	End date July 2013

Project Summary

The project supports Human Rights Defenders in Azerbaijan by contributing to the sustainability of the Human Rights House Azerbaijan (HRHA) and all its partners, enhancing cooperation and professional capacities of Human Rights Defenders, engaging youth in human rights work, and raising awareness on the role and activities of Human Rights Defenders and human rights issues overall.

These objectives are reached through encouraging networking among Human Rights Defenders, establishing a Human Rights School for young Human Rights Defenders, providing English courses for Human Rights Defenders, and engaging in strategic litigation cases. These activities are supplemented by awareness raising initiatives such as film screenings, youth and think tank discussions, press conferences, seminars, round tables, photo exhibitions, essay competitions and quarterly bulletin on project activities and the human rights situation in Azerbaijan.

Action Locations

Baku, Ganja, Shaki, Lankaran and Khachmaz

Implementing Organisations

The Human Rights House Network (HRHN) unites 70 NGOs in 15 countries in Western Balkans, Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, East and Horn of Africa, and Western Europe. HRHN's aim is to protect, strengthen and support human rights defenders and their organisations.

Human Rights House Azerbaijan (HRH Az) is a collaborative project of non-governmental organisations that since 2009 work in partnership to promote human rights in Azerbaijan.

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<http://humanrightshouse.org/Members/Azerbaijan/index.html>

Developing civil society capacity for preventing discriminatory torture and ill-treatment

The Equal Rights Trust

Project Budget €166,666	Action Duration 18 months
EU Contribution €150,000	End date May 2013

Project Summary

The aim of the project is to strengthen the role of civil society in preventing discriminatory torture and ill-treatment in Azerbaijan.

To achieve this, the project will conduct and publish a comprehensive baseline study on the situation of discriminatory torture and ill-treatment in country, which will then be used as part of a public awareness-raising and advocacy campaign, the purpose of which will be to encourage and empower individuals to challenge violations of their own and other's human rights. In addition, the project will establish and run bi-monthly CSO Forums, and organise trainings for NGOs on using human rights and anti-discrimination law, as well as advocacy and litigation, in order to foster cooperation among CSOs and enhance their capacity in addressing violation cases related to discriminatory torture and ill-treatment.

Action Location

Azerbaijan

Implementing Organisations

The Equal Rights Trust (ERT) is registered as a charity under UK law since 2007 and acts as an advocacy organisation, resource centre and think tank whose purpose is to combat discrimination and promote equality as a fundamental human right and a basic principle of social justice.

Women's Organization Tomris is a Ganja based Azerbaijani organisations founded and registered in 1992. The mission of the organization is to promote development through human rights, education and civil society projects.

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Enhancing access to justice for internally displaced persons and strengthening civil society efforts to improve the national response in Azerbaijan

PRAXIS

Project Budget	Action Duration
€180 000	24 months
EU Contribution	End date
€144 000	December 2013

Project Summary

The project goal is to assist internally displaced persons in obtaining their basic rights and freedoms.

This is achieved by providing professional legal aid and counselling services to internally displaced persons and returnees through counselling and legal aid centres in Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja and Fizuli, and mobile visits to reach those in need of legal aid, but with no access to these centres. The project also represents IDPs' interests in civil court proceedings; pursues strategic litigation cases in courts of higher instance and the European Court of Human Rights, and organizes capacity building events for selected local NGOs on topics such as professional legal assistance and in-court representation, advocacy for IDPs, management of legal aid centres, monitoring and control over the quality of work, evaluation of IDP assistance programs; and conducting bilateral advocacy meetings with local authorities.

Action Locations

Baku, Sumgayit, Ganja Fizuli

Implementing Organisations

"PRAXIS" Support to Social Development is a local organization established in 2003 and registered in 2005. The overall aim of the organization is to promote conditions of sustainable human development in which people are able to enjoy a full range of human rights, fulfill their needs free from poverty and live in dignity.

Centre for Legal and Economic Education (CLEE) works to increase legal education and provide free legal assistance to refugees, IDPs, disabled persons, pensioners, other people who need social maintenance for other emergency circumstances

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Public Awareness Campaign on Domestic Violence

Public Union for Gender Equality and Women's Initiatives

Project Budget €120,600	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €108,000	End date November 2013

Project Summary

The project supports the recently adopted Law on Domestic Violence by raising awareness about it throughout Azerbaijan.

Activities of the project include conducting a survey on gender based violence in the country to improve understanding of the current situation; Organizing trainings for regional NGOs, lawyers and psychologists on specialized knowledge and techniques in regard to the new gender violence prevention mechanism, and encourage them to conduct similar gender and domestic violence trainings in their own regions, and provide free of charge psychological and legal counselling for women in rural areas; Establishing a national information hot-line on the details of the new law; and launching and running a country wide information campaign to both inform and encourage stakeholders to address gender violence in a more coordinated and efficient way.

Action Location

Baku and 33 other cities and towns in Azerbaijan.

Implementing Organisations

Gender Equality and Women's Initiatives Public Union (GEWI) was founded in July 2007 with the purpose of developing democracy in Azerbaijan by strengthening of the role of women in social and political life, and conducting research on and raising awareness of gender equality.

Regional Gender Center (RGC) was established in 2007 in Barda. Its mission is to develop gender culture and strengthen the process of transforming equal rights to equal opportunities in the gender sphere.

The Center of Women's Studies and Policies (CWSP) was established in June 2003 to support gender and equal opportunity issues in Bulgaria.

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CWSP - Tatyana Kmetova
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Capacity Building for Citizen Participation and Increasing Accountability of Elected Bodies

Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center

Project Budget €156,330	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €120,374	End date April 2013

Project Summary

The project strengthens citizen participation in public policy making and thereby increases the accountability of elected and executive state bodies.

Project activities include conducting and publishing a baseline survey on the level of involvement of citizens in public policy; Supporting civic groups NGOs, labor unions, local communities, youth and women organizations - in establishing Advisory Councils of Citizens on Local Governance and a National Council on Parliament-Citizen Relations to address the problems concerning relations between citizens and elected state bodies; Raising awareness by producing best practice publications, conducting discussions, civic forums, and trainings; and running a national public advocacy campaign to raise awareness among the general public.

Action Locations

Baku, Ganja, Sumgayit, Goychay, Guba, Sheki, Beylagan, Jalilabad, Mingachevir, and Nakhchivan

Implementing Organisations

“The Election Monitoring and Democracy Studies Center (EMDS) was founded in 2008 in Azerbaijan to develop civil society and democracy though assisting in the conduct of free and fair elections, supporting active citizen participation in public administration, and ensuring transparency and accountability in the activities of local and national state authorities

The School of Democratic Journalism (SDJ) was founded in 2007 to increase the pluralism and quality of national media by promoting citizen journalism in Azerbaijan.

Contact Information

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SDJ - Hajiyev Rovshan
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New Media Development and Regional Outreach

Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety

Project Budget €117,876	Action Duration 12 months
EU Contribution €103,000	End date October 2012

Project Summary

The project raises public awareness of human rights issues, as well as increases the capacity of Human Rights Defenders to use internet media to disseminate human rights information.

Project activities include: collecting and publicising views of the general public on up-to date social, economic and political issues through the "Difficult question" program; Producing and disseminating "how-to" manuals for the production and dissemination of human rights news; Training Human Rights Defenders in five regions on how to cover human rights information; Producing and broadcasting news flashes and weekly interviews with human rights defenders, and politicians; and developing and airing public service announcements on human rights issues in specific communities.

Action Location

Baku, Nakhchivan, Ganja, Kurdamir, and Lankaran.

Implementing Organisations

The Institute for Reporters' Freedom and Safety (IRFS) is a local NGO founded in 2006 supporting freedom of expression in Azerbaijan. It builds capacity of journalists and raises awareness of journalists' rights locally and internationally.

The School of Democratic Journalism (SDJ) was founded in 2007 to increase the pluralism and quality of national media by promoting citizen journalism in Azerbaijan.

The Regional Human Rights and Media Center (RHRMC) was established to protect human rights in the regions of Azerbaijan and to promote development and accessibility of mass media by providing free legal assistance and raising awareness.

Contact Information

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RHRMC
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Youth School of Liberal Values

Intelligent Citizen Enlightenment Centre

Project Budget €118,836	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €104,000	End date November 2013

Project Summary

The project empowers a group of two hundred young people with knowledge and skills to enhance their participation in political and social life by establishing and strengthening youth initiative groups.

Project activities include conducting a number of trainings on history of democracy in the world and in Azerbaijan, human rights, critical thinking, leadership, civil society and non governmental organisations. Moreover, the action promotes the role of youth in the Western part of Azerbaijan in civil society by organising youth camps and conferences. It establishes Youth Initiative groups, which are supported through trainings on NGO registration, proposal writing, NGO management and fundraising.

Action Locations

Ganja, Samukh, Goygol, Shamkir

Implementing Organisations

Intelligent Citizen Enlightenment Centre (ICEC) was established in 2004 and is based in Ganja. The mission of the organisation is

to disseminate civil society ideas and democratic values in the Western region of Azerbaijan and create initiatives to attract youth into the civil society development process.

Development in Science and Education Public Union (DSE) exists since 2007 and is also a Ganja based organisation. The organisation is aiming at strengthening civic engagement and participation among youths and building greater sense of community among them.

Intellect was established in 2002 with the goal of educating Azerbaijani youth about civil society and encouraging them to actively participate in the civil society development process

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Intellect - Nadir Ibadov
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Energizing Environmental Agenda in Azerbaijan through Empowered Media and Civil Society Efforts

Internews Azerbaijan Public Association

Project Budget €164,445	Action Duration 18 months
EU Contribution €148,000	End date July 2013

Project Summary

The project supports efforts to promote environmental awareness and ensure citizens' rights to a clean environment.

Project activities include training media and CSOs to improve their professional skills, knowledge and attitudes on environmental reporting, and creating a forum for debate where different social groups and institutions discuss socially important issues. In addition, to improve media coverage, the project will mobilize civil society efforts, youth and educational institutions to raise the attention on the solution of environmental problems enhance collaboration amongst the media, government and NGOs to raise public awareness of environmental issues. The project also provides help to provide expert recommendations of NGOs, international organizations to the government of Azerbaijan concerning reform development in the field.

Action Location

Baku, Ganja, Sumgayit, Shamkir, Gazakh and Mingachevir

Implementing Organisations

Internews Azerbaijan Public Association has been active in Azerbaijan since 1997, with the core goal of giving independent media the support they need to become professional and self-reliant. The activity field of Internews is focused on education, culture, ecology, anti-corruption, gender, youth, health and elections through media.

Intelligent Citizen Enlightenment Centre (ICEC) was established in 2004 and is based in Ganja. The mission of the organisation is to disseminate civil society ideas and democratic values in the Western region of Azerbaijan and create initiatives to attract youth into the civil society development process.

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hhuseynli@yahoo.com
www.kamilv.az

Youth Houses as a Platform to Enhance Youth Participation in the Environment

UNICEF

Project Budget €200,000	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €150,000	End date January 2014

Project Summary

This project aims at increasing awareness of young people on environmental issues enabling them to make decisions regarding environmental safety.

The project works in 5 Youth Houses (Lenkaran, Sabirabad, Yevlakh, Goygol and Goranboy) and provides them with extensive training on how to design and implement small scale environmental projects, which UNICEF will then support via their Country Programme for the next five years with the Ministry of Youth and Sport and the use of environmental incentives within its overall framework. Given that young people are instrumental in initiating changes in society, the project will establish working relations between local governments and Youth Houses that would enable young people to influence decisions related to environmental safety at the local level. To enable this, the project will 1) Establish Environmental Groups in Youth Houses 2) Provide IEC materials to districts on how to improve their environment 3) Organize a study tour for main stakeholders of the project to one of

the member states of the EU 4) Conduct small scale local environmental projects

Action Locations

Lankaran, Sabirabad, Yevlakh, Goygol and Goranboy

Implementing Organisations

United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) was chartered over 65 years ago by the United Nations and currently is the world's leading organisation protecting the rights of children and young people.

The National Assembly of Youth organizations of Republic of Azerbaijan (NAYORA) was established by 11 youth organizations and was registered in 1996. NAYORA currently has 70 member organizations.

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NAYORA - Orkhan ARABOV
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www.nayora.az



Activities for children with disabilities (CWD) and their families as part of an EU funded 2009 project implemented by Centre for Innovations in Education. The project raised awareness about CWD issues and provided training to key stakeholders to create a better environment for CWD.

Non-State Actors in Development (NSA)

About the Instrument

The second main instrument of the EU in Azerbaijan is Non-State Actors in local Development. Its main goal is:

"poverty reduction in the context of sustainable development, including pursuit of Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed targets... [through] capacity building to Non-State Actors... in

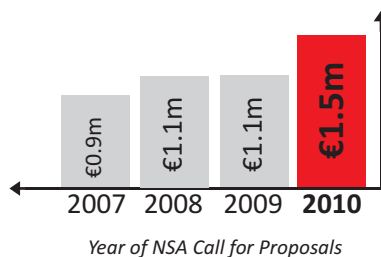
order to facilitate their involvement in policy making process and to enhance capacity to deliver basic services to the poorest peoples"

The NSA-LA instrument is implemented in all countries (including the EU), except third industrialised countries. The average annual budget is €230 million.

NSA in Azerbaijan 2007-2010

Since 2007 four in-country calls for proposals have been held in Azerbaijan with the NSA instrument, with over €4.6 million allocated to 17 projects.

Project activities touched on issues such as improving employment opportunities in the regions, tourism, civil society capacity building, empowerment of municipalities, foster care, social inclusion of children with special needs, and improving social conditions in rural areas in environmentally sustainable ways.



NSA 2010 Call for Proposals

The most recent Call for Proposals was launched in November 2010 at the same time as the 2010 EIDHR call. To be eligible for funding under the NSA instrument, project proposals needed reflect one or both of the following themes:

- Support CSO advocacy efforts towards local and national government in the formulation and implementation of sustainable development strategies**
- Strengthening the support to vulnerable and excluded groups most exposed to poverty in rural areas**

Out of 83 submissions, 7 projects were selected. The last contract between the EU and a selected applicant from this Call for Proposals was signed in December 2011.

Overview of 2010 NSA Selected Projects



Selected Projects

Detailed descriptions of the 7 selected NSA 2010 projects along with contact details are provided on the following pages.

For more information please contact the EU Delegation directly at:
delegation-azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu

Enhancing the livelihoods of IDPs in the Goranboy district through tangible agricultural advancement

Ganja Agribusiness Association

Project Budget €234,385	Action Duration 18 months
EU Contribution €208,602	End date April 2013

Project Summary

The project aims to strengthen community competence and empower economic viability of the Yeni Veyisli IDP Settlement by increasing agricultural production capacity and improving the income potential and employment opportunities for the community members.

The activities of the project include development of 30 new greenhouses, provision of agriculture and business skills trainings for 500 rural farmers, and establishing 30 farmer's groups to develop connections between neighbouring communities. The project also provides technical assistance to Farmer Group members. In addition the project provides support in marketing to facilitate access of farmers to consumers.

Action Location

Yeni Veyisli IDP Community, Goranboy

Implementing Organisations

Ganja Agribusiness Association (GABA), is a non-governmental organisation established in 1996 in Ganja to promote sustainable development of Azerbaijan's agrarian sector through human potential development, knowledge and resource transfer. GABA is the primary organization in Azerbaijan promoting organic agriculture.

"Young Leaders" Public Union was registered in 2005. The goal of the organisation is to provide assistance to people in the areas of justice, equality and moral foundations.

Contact Information

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Young Leaders - Sabina Alekperova
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Intra-community dialogue for inclusive community development

British Council

Project Budget € 256 448	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €190 781	End date January 2013

Project Summary

The project improves cooperation between local authorities and non-state actors in Zagatala, Gakh, Balakan, and Oghuz.

The project provides capacity building workshops, trainings, regional roundtables, and a newly developed recommendation package to build capacity of local authorities and non-state actors; establishes a localized Citizens Participation Strategy Framework, and introduces pilot projects to the annual activities of 20 municipalities. Recommendations for amendments to national legislation on municipalities are prepared and submitted to the National Parliament

Action Locations

Zagatala, Gakh, Balakan, Oghuz

Implementing Organisations

British Council Royal Trust is the UK's leading international organisation for educational and cultural relations, connecting people worldwide with learning opportunities and creative ideas from the

UK and building lasting relationships between the UK and other countries.

Azerbaijan Human Rights Foundation (AHRF) was founded in 1999 and provides juridical, financial and technical assistance to the regional human rights NGOs, and promotes democratic values, human rights, poverty reduction, and development in Azerbaijan.

The Economic Research Centre (ERC) is a policy-research oriented non-profit think tank facilitating sustainable economic development and good governance in Azerbaijan.

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ERC
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Enhancing the effectiveness of government by strengthening the role of think tanks in decision-making arena

Economic Research Centre

Project Budget €210,000	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €185,000	End date March 2014

Project Summary

The project aims at de-monopolising public policy decisions in Azerbaijan by building institutional and research capacity of 18 non-state think tanks and enhancing cooperation between those think tanks and relevant stakeholders including government agencies and media.

Project activities include developing the capacities of think tanks in identifying relevant policy topics, analyzing policy options, communicating results of policy research to the government and making their findings widely available to the general public. Furthermore, the action strengthens the management structure of think tanks by introducing quality control systems and developing organisational procedures

Action Location

Baku, Ganja, Sheki

Implementing Organisations

The Economic Research Centre (ERC) was established in 1999 and is a policy-research oriented non-profit think tank with the goal

of facilitating sustainable economic development and good governance in Azerbaijan.

Public Association for an Open Society (PASOS) was registered under Czech law on September 16, 2004 as a Citizens Association. PASOS supports the development and strengthens the outreach and impact of its 50 members.

Intelligent Citizen Enlightenment Centre (ICEC) was established in 2004 and is based in Ganja. The mission of the organisation is to disseminate civil society ideas and democratic values in the Western region of Azerbaijan and create initiatives to attract youth into the civil society development process.

Contact Information

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Empowering Mental Health service users in 5 regions of Azerbaijan

Global Initiative on Psychiatry

Project Budget	Action Duration
€182 621	24 months
EU Contribution	End date
€164 359	January 2014

Project Summary

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity of Mental Health service users in Azerbaijan to take an active role in improving their life situations.

Project activities include developing a resource centre for Mental Health related issues in Baku to support all organisations working on the topic in Azerbaijan; Establishing and building capacity of local Mental Health User groups that will bring together relevant stakeholders to facilitate communication and create forum for discussion; and running a national awareness raising campaign to combat stigma and raise understanding of mental health related issues.

Action Locations

Baku, Ganja, Sheki, Guba, Lankaran

Implementing Organisations

Global Initiative on Psychiatry (GIP) is an international not-for-profit organization for the promotion of humane, ethical and effective mental health care throughout the

world. It aims to facilitate the emergence of agents of long-term change in this arena who can guide their societies in introducing more enabling approaches to mental health issues.

Initiative for the Sake of Development (ISD) was registered in Azerbaijan in 2004. Its mission is to promote children and young people's rights protection including a right for education, health and comprehensive development through the means of civil initiative. Its activities are related to children, young people and families experiencing crisis circumstances and other vulnerable populations

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Sustainable development of a village: Civil Society Municipality Co-operation Model (COSMO)

Independent Consumers Union

Project Budget €219 229	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €197 306	End date December 2013

Project Summary

The project aims at establishing a new cooperation strategy between municipalities and civil society towards achieving sustainable development.

The project is in line with the State Program on Socio-Economic Development of Regions of the Republic of Azerbaijan for 2009-2013 that focuses on the improvement of social life of rural population including those living in mountainous villages of Guba district. The project works in 3 municipalities of the Guba region iestablishing Effective Civil Society Municipality Cooperation Model (COSMO) further to be applied to other villages.

Through a series of trainings, round tables and events, the project develops cooperation between the municipalities and local communities and helps them to implement their own ideas with the purpose of creating long term sustainable sources of income.

Action Location

Guba (Chichi, Elik and Sohob municipalities)

Implementing Organisations

Independent Consumer Union (ICU) was established in 1997 with the objective of protecting consumer rights.

Environmental Sustainability Public Union (EKOT) was established in 1999 to raise public awareness about environmental matters, such as climate change, water management, ecological sanitation, alternative sources of energy, gender equality and human environmental rights

Guba Regional NGOs Resource and Training Centre (GRTC), is one of 5 centres created by UNDP and the Government of Azerbaijan in 2001 in order to provide training and coordinate the work of regional NGOs in Azerbaijan.

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Special Economic Action for the Blind

Save the Children

Project Budget	Action Duration
€216 000	18 months
EU Contribution	End date
€193 744	August 2013

Project Summary

The project aims to improve the situation of sight-impaired people in Ganja and their families, by supporting the Ganja city Training and Production Enterprises #1 and #2 of the Azerbaijan Association for Blind Persons (ABP) in introducing modernized and market-oriented production techniques.

The project provides education, information and training in production, sales/marketing, financial literacy, enterprise management and leadership, and it recruits a consultant to guide the Associations on market research, to build their members' capacity in business plan developmentsecuring a loan from a microfinance institution. The business schemes, best practices and lessons learned of the targeted enterprises will be documented for replication in other similar structures.

Action Locations

Ganja

Implementing Organisations

Save the Children is the world's largest independent organization for children, making a difference to children's lives in over 120 countries. It is made up of 29 national organizations with a global staff of more than 14,000. From emergency relief to long-term development, Save the Children helps children to achieve a happy, healthy and secure childhood.

Bridge to the Future (BF) is an Azerbaijani youth NGO established in April 2000. The strategic mission of the organization is to be a 'bridge' between youth and society for promoting humanism, solidarity and co-operation in Azerbaijan.

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Social Rights Development community based strategies to include vulnerable and isolated children to pre-school education

United Aid for Azerbaijan

Project Budget €280,696	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €250,000	End date December 2013

Project Summary

This project contributes to the implementation of national policies for improving early childhood development outcomes for children who are excluded due to poverty, location and disability in Azerbaijan, in line with the Millennium Development Goals, UNCRC and UN convention on Rights of People with Disabilities.

The project works in 4 regions to create positive examples of inclusive environments for children with disabilities by providing relevant training to teachers in 1-2 kindergartens per region. It also establishes and supports Self Help Groups (primarily of parents of excluded children), which: (a) help their members better cope with children with disabilities; (b) create further examples of socially accepting spaces for children with disabilities through the organisation of inclusive activities (c) raise awareness of their communities about the issue of children with disabilities, and (d) lobby and support local and national authorities in creating and implementing relevant policies.

Finally, it acts as a bridge between policy makers and local populations to facilitate the development and implementation of relevant legislation.

Action Location

Sumgayit, Bilasuvar, Lankoran, Siyazan

Implementing Organisations

United Aid for Azerbaijan (UAFA) is registered in Azerbaijan since 1998, with a mission to 'aid long-term development of life in Azerbaijan, with a particular focus on children, health and education'.

Centre for Innovations in Education (CIE), exists since 2004 as a national association for parents, teachers, and faculty to advocate for educational reforms and promote ongoing development of education professionals.

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As part of a 2009 EU funded project implemented by the Danish Refugee Council, children are encouraged to take a more active role in their communities. Above, a child spends time with a disabled person in their village in central Azerbaijan.



Global Thematic Instruments

About the Thematic Instrument

Unlike the EIDHR and NSA instruments, which have specific financial allocations for Azerbaijan, Global Thematic Instruments focus on themes and then identify groups of countries that are affected by them. No national allocations are set during a Global Call for Proposals, but organisations from the selected countries and the EU can apply for funding.

Besides the EIDHR and NSA, Global Thematic instruments focus on the following areas:

- **Environment and sustainable management of natural resources including energy**
- **Food security**
- **Migration and asylum**
- **Investing in people**

The Global Thematic Instruments have a combined annual budget of €570 million.

Thematic Instruments in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijan is often included in Calls for Proposals under the Global Thematic instruments: Between 2007 - 2009, five projects received funding under them.

In 2010, one project was funded under the HIV priority area of the Investing in People Instrument and will begin activities in 2012.

Capacity building for non-state actors in relation to HIV-AIDS prevention, treatment and care for the European Neighbourhood and Partnership countries

Leader Women Public Union

Project Budget €306,757	Action Duration 24 months
EU Contribution €245,405	End date December 2013

Project Summary

The Action increases HIV/AIDS prevention among young women in 9 selected rural areas of Azerbaijan, through a socio-cultural education approach, awareness raising and empowerment activities.

Project activities include local civil society training on how to participate in large scale HIV/AIDS activities and awareness-raising campaigns as well as plan, design, implement and manage HIV/AIDS prevention projects and initiatives at the local level. A baseline survey is conducted to study attitudes towards HIV/AIDS among women in rural areas, followed by awareness raising campaigns. A follow-up survey will be carried to assess the impact of the campaign. Finally, information resources including a training manuals and a brochure on HIV/AIDS prevention among young women are developed and disseminated among target groups.

Action Location

Astara, Jalilabad, Hajigabul, Kurdamir, Lankaran, Masall, Shamakhi, Shamkir, Yevlakh.

Implementing Organisations

Leader Women Public Union was founded in 2011 and promotes women's leadership in Azerbaijan.

The International Center for Social Research (ICSR) deals with gender equality, building of civil society, women, family and marriage issues, women leadership, violence against women, youth and children development, socio-cultural values, rural population development and NGO sustainability.

National Assembly of Youth Organizations of Republic Azerbaijan (NAYORA) since 1996 has been raising awareness on HIV/AIDS among young people. NAYORA has 70 member organizations.

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Further information

For information related to calls for proposals:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/>

For more information on the Civil Society Forum of the Eastern Partnership:

www.eeas.europa.eu/eastern/civil_society

To register your organisation in PADOR:

<http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/online-services/pador/>

For information related to the European Union and the European Commission:

<http://europa.eu/>

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