



PRESS RELEASE

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European Union to support 16 new NGO projects

On 08 February 2012 the European Union Delegation will announce the projects selected for funding under the 2010 Call for Proposals through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) and the Non-State Actors (NSA) programmes. A combined allocation of over AZN 2.7 million will contribute to finance 16 new projects that will cover a wide range of areas, from creating better opportunities for vulnerable groups such as disabled children or blind persons, to providing independent media coverage on key issues, supporting the activities of civil rights campaigners, or promoting more awareness on the need to protect the environment.

"We are proud that the European Union (EU) is the largest foreign donor in Azerbaijan. This is also valid as far as supporting civil society in Azerbaijan is concerned. NGOs are fundamental partners for the EU assistance efforts and essential to the sustainable development of our partner countries. The implementation of those 16 new projects will benefit the whole Azerbaijani population. Our intention is to do even more this year," said Ambassador Roland Kobia, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan on the eve of the event.

Ambassador Roland Kobia, Head of the European Union Delegation to Azerbaijan will make an opening speech and sign contracts with the project implementers on behalf of the European Union.

The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) Instrument aims to contribute to the development and consolidation of democracy and the rule of law, and respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms. The EIDHR instrument is applied in all countries of the world outside the EU and the most industrialised countries.

The Non-State Actors (NSA) instrument aims to contribute to 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.

These 16 new projects are in addition to 20 projects and over 4.7 million EURO already financed by EIDHR and NSA instruments in Azerbaijan since 2007



Delegation of the European Union,
Landmark III, 90A Nizami Street, AZ1010, Baku,
Azerbaijan
Tel. 012 497 20 63
Fax: 012 497 20 69
Email: delegation-azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu
<http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan>

"The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of more than 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders".