



THE EUROPEAN UNION AND AZERBAIJAN

#StrongerTogether

The EU is the largest donor to civil society in the country. During 2019-2020, EU support benefited more than 300 local civil society and grassroots initiatives, making a difference for youth, gender equality and the most vulnerable people.



The EU and Azerbaijan relations are based on the EU-Azerbaijan Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in force since 1999. Negotiations on a new and upgraded framework agreement designed to reflect the enhanced and mutually beneficial EU-Azerbaijan cooperation in a wide range of areas, strengthen policy dialogue in key sectors and boost trade are at an advanced stage. Cooperation between the EU and Azerbaijan is also guided by the joint Partnership Priorities in place since 2018.



Azerbaijan is a key partner in the area of transport and logistics. Since 2019, the EU has established a high-level transport dialogue.

The EU is Azerbaijan's main trading partner, but also its main investor in the non-oil sector playing a key role in the diversification of its economy.



ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN

The EU supports Azerbaijan with concrete investments to help post-pandemic recovery and improve the lives of Azerbaijani citizens. In the coming years, the EU will invest in the following **five flagship projects**:



Port of Baku as a sustainable hub for movement of goods and services

Digitalisation of transport corridors in Azerbaijan



Supporting the competitiveness of 25,000 start-ups and SMEs

Access to credit for small and medium-sized farms and food business operators



Five smart and green cities with landfills, street lighting and electric trams

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INSTITUTIONS

- EU helps to promote better access to justice for citizens and businesses, via legal aid, alternative dispute resolution and fight against corruption. Since 2018, more than 6,700 vulnerable persons received free legal aid in Baku and the regions.

ECONOMY

- EU invested to support close to 17,500 SMEs, of which 47% are women-owned, to increase their competitiveness and market opportunities.



RECOVERY RESILIENCE REFORM

GREEN

- EU and Azerbaijan are working closely to advance the country's prospects for achieving its environmental and climate change related goals. Azerbaijan joined the Eastern Europe Energy Efficiency and Environment Partnership (EESP) and adopted an Energy efficiency law.

SOCIETY

- More than 4,900 students and 170 teachers in eight different cities improved their financial literacy and entrepreneurship skills.



DIGITAL

- EU and Azerbaijan are working to prepare country's public administration for digital transformation such as the use of digital signature and e-commerce frameworks.



COVID-19 RESPONSE



The EU reacted fast and responded to the urgent needs of Azerbaijan and its citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of Team Europe, the EU mobilised a tailor-made COVID-19 response package specifically for Azerbaijan worth about €31.6 million. This helped to provide targeted assistance to the Azerbaijan's public health system, including 20 hospitals and 5 primary healthcare facilities as well as provisioning essential medical supplies for patient care. EU assisted training of more than 2,900 health care workers, 98 laboratory technicians, 1,400 medical and nursing students and other health professionals, including in such areas as mental health and psychosocial support, infection prevention and public hygiene.

