

## The European Union's ENI Programme for Azerbaijan




# Using the EU Institution Building Instruments (Twinning/TAIEX/SOCIEUX/SIGMA) in Azerbaijan 2007 – 2017



This publication has been produced with  
the financial assistance of the European Union



This publication has been produced  
by the SIBA project implemented by ECORYS  
International in consortium with ARPA



The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 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.

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of the EU funded SIBA project and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

**Front cover:**

Kick off meeting of the Twinning project  
"Support to the Strengthening of the  
Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman)  
of the Republic of Azerbaijan"

## EU-Azerbaijan – 26 years of cooperation



*The European Union (EU) has been supporting Azerbaijan for 26 years in implementing reforms and bringing about the changes needed to improve the lives of citizens.*

Since the early 1990s, the EU has provided about 600 million EUR in grant funding to support the development of Azerbaijan. In the early 1990's and 2000's, the EU provided immediate assistance, primarily in the form of humanitarian aid, food

security, infrastructure and support to the transition to a free market economy.

With Azerbaijan's economic and political stabilisation, however, the EU shifted the focus of assistance to development of the economy, institutional and regulatory reforms, and the strengthening democratic institutions.

The signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) with the EU in 1996 confirmed the Government of Azerbaijan's commitment to approximate to EU standards in these areas. These goals were reaffirmed and prioritised in the 2006 EU-Azerbaijan European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan. Since 2009, the process was strengthened further with Azerbaijan's membership in the Eastern Partnership.

The key to achieving the goals set out in these documents is engagement from both sides. To this end, the EU, for the period 2007-2017 alone, has

allocated over 190 million EUR to support the Azerbaijani Government in the process of approximation.

Approximately 82 million EUR (43%) of those financial backing is given for mutually agreed priorities in the form of institution building support.

Support to institution building is offered through instruments known as Twinning, TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange), SOCIEUX (Social Protection European Union Expertise in Development Cooperation) and SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management), which are successfully assisting the Government in modernising and adopting EU standards.

These instruments differ distinctly from classical technical assistance in that they provide public, rather than private expertise. People carrying through these initiatives are mainly civil servants from public administrations of EU Member States, who interact with their counterparts in the partner country.



## European Union Institution Building Instruments in Azerbaijan

These instruments are a success:

- Azerbaijan has initiated **45<sup>th</sup> Twinning project** after 10 years of implementation in Azerbaijan;
- **TAIEX** became as a key tool for co-operation under the EU European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) in 2008. Since then, **162 TAIEX events** took place implemented on the initiative of the **35 public administrations**;
- **SIGMA** continues to expand its cooperation with its partners (in total, **15 projects** were implemented);
- The first **2 SOCIEUX projects** were approved in the first quarter of 2016.

Details on these instruments are given in this publication and on the web-sites of the PAO (Programme Administration Office) under the Ministry of Economy ([www.pao.az](http://www.pao.az)) as well the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan ([http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan/index\\_en.html](http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan/index_en.html)).



*The PAO Azerbaijan was established in 2006 under the Ministry of Economy of the Republic of Azerbaijan as the responsible body for overall coordination of implementation of the EU-*

*Azerbaijan Grant Agreements and Programmes. The main role of the PAO is to promote and ensure effective use of the EU assistance instruments.*



## TWINNING: A result oriented partnership

*Twinning assists beneficiary countries to approximate and adopt EU best practices and standards through a direct exchange of technical experience between EU member state civil servants and their beneficiary country counterparts.*

Originally created to assist candidate countries to adopt EU standards before EU membership, Twinning has since been extended to the countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy region. Azerbaijan has benefited from Twinning projects since 2008.

Twinning has the following main principles:

- The projects are grants, jointly implemented and built around jointly

agreed objectives;

- The Beneficiary Country retains the ownership of the project;
- A full time Resident Twinning Adviser, who is a full-time EU Member State expert, is seconded to the beneficiary country;
- The projects yield concrete operational results;
- The projects involve a peer-to-peer exchange of hands-on public sector expertise and experience, providing technical know-how through short-term missions of EU member state civil servants;
- The projects are a genuine partnership fostering close co-operation.

In Azerbaijan, Twinning helps the

Government Institutions to implement the agenda embedded in the following, assisting the country to develop modern and efficient administrations for the approximation to the EU legislation and best practices.

Twinning is particularly helpful for:

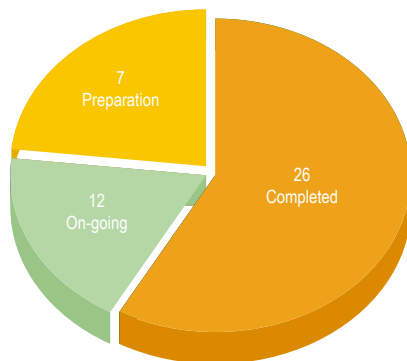
- assistance in the development and/or improvement of legislation;
- assistance in the implementation of new laws/standards/reforms;
- provision of expert assessments and consultations;
- improving organisational structure;
- organisation of trainings, workshops, conferences, study tours and internships.

### NOTE

The Twinning projects are financed by the European Union. The Beneficiary partner contributes to the project with human resources, office space, training/conference venues.

The first Twinning projects in Azerbaijan started in 2008 in the fields of Food safety, Energy and Standardisation. Twinning has been very well received by the government institutions. Since then, Azerbaijan has become the leader in the region regarding Twinning, with a total of 45 projects in various stages of implementation.

**Status of Twinning projects**  
(as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

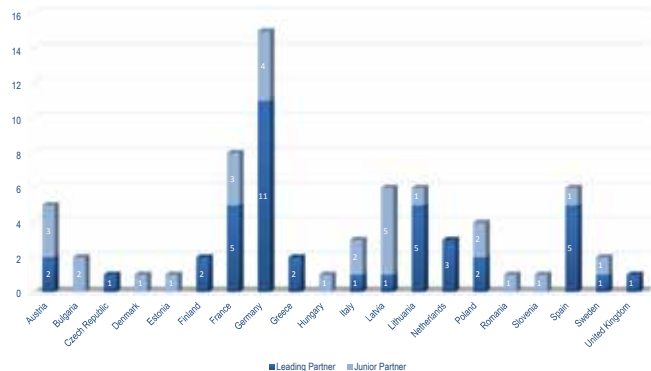


**Twinning beneficiaries** (as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)





### MS partner countries (as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)

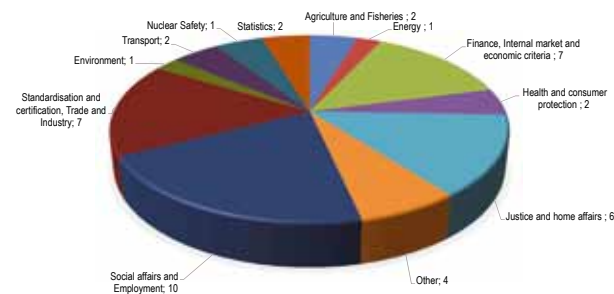


Twinning project in the field of maritime safety - family photo



Steering Committee meeting of the Twinning project in the field of Education

### Twinning projects by sectors (as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)



### *Twining success story 2014*

#### “Strengthening the capacity of the Department of Tourism in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan”

##### Background:

Improving the performance of the tourism sector, in the process of diversifying the economy of Azerbaijan, was a crucial demand at the beginning of 2012. The Ministry of Culture and Tourism requested assistance from the EU, in order to enable its Department of Tourism to exercise its political, regulatory and technical functions in line with the European Union norms, standards and best practices. In this regard, the Twinning instrument led to major achievements.



Naftalan, a rare type of oil from Azerbaijan is used for therapeutic baths to treat over 70 illnesses

**Duration:** 16.5 months    **Dates:** 14/02/2013 – 27/06/2014

**Budget:** €900,000

**EU Partner:** Federal Procurement Agency of **Austria** in consortium with the State Department of Tourism under the **Lithuanian** Ministry of Economy

##### Main achievements:

- Minimum standards for hotels and accommodation types were adopted by the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent and are in place since 14 January 2014;
- The Azerbaijan Convention Bureau was established by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to enhance Meetings, Incentives, Conventions and Exhibitions tourism capabilities in congresses and conferences;
- Two representative offices opened in Russia and Germany to promote Azerbaijan as a unique tourism destination;
- Naftalan area became a pilot model of special tourism zone for the Azerbaijani sites;
- A three year Tourism Marketing Strategy was adopted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism.





Kick-off meeting of the Twinning project in the field of Tourism



Austrian Project Leader Mr Florian Sengstschnid carrying out workshop focusing on destination marketing



**Mr Florian Sengstschnid, Austrian Project Leader (current Executive Director of the Azerbaijan Convention Bureau)**

“In the long run, it will create more interest in Azerbaijan. Moreover, a better infrastructure and standards according to international levels will lead to improved services.

Consequently, the number of tourists will expand and tourists will enjoy their time in Azerbaijan. Tourists will have access to improved services, airports and new hotels. Due to the higher number of tourists, opportunities for new employment, self-employment will grow, thus incomes of population will increase.”

## Successfully completed project in 2016

“Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MLSP) for the Development of a System for Medico-Social Rehabilitation of People with Disabilities”

### Background:

The system of medical-social expertise, inherited from the Soviet model, suffers from large gaps in its provision, particularly in rural districts. In this context, Azerbaijan already initiated reforms for people with disabilities. These reforms implied a reconfiguration of the existing services, including the rehabilitation centres. The idea was to involve non-statutory actors such as NGOs, associations for people with disabilities, disabled people's organisations, service users and family

carers to develop innovative supports, together with the statutory authorities. The realisation of this vision for further reform was encouraged by the EU Twinning Project, which promoted an active collaboration and partnership among the above-listed stakeholders.



Mr Vugar Hasanov, BA Project Leader awarding certificate to a participant of the training

**Duration:** 24 months    **Dates:** 27/01/2014 – 26/01/2016

**Budget:** €1,100,000

**EU Partner:** Ministry of Social Affairs and Health and Ministry of Labour, Employment, Vocational Training and Social Dialogue of **France in consortium** with the Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs of **Germany**



Training within the framework of the Twinning project in the field of medico-social rehabilitation of people with disabilities

#### Main achievements:

- A new draft law “On the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWD)” developed (which got a general approval from the UN Committee on the Rights of PWD);
- An individual Support Programme, developed and tested in two pilot Rehabilitation Centres (Sumgayit and Shagan);
- A Strategy Paper and a Master Plan for the development of the system of medico-social rehabilitation of PWD;
- A Communication Strategy on disability-related issues developed and approved.

“

**Mr Vugar Hasanov, Beneficiary Administration Project Leader (current Director of the Scientific Research and Training Centre on Labour and Social Issues of the MLSP)**

“The old medical approach towards the people with disabilities has been replaced by a modern European social approach. This is a successful base for the community integration of people with disabilities.”

## *Twinning in Action*

### “Support to the State Statistical Committee in modernisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards”

#### Background:

Reliable statistics are keys for effective and efficient policy making. The State Statistical Committee (SSC) is improving quality, availability and compliance of the official statistics of Azerbaijan with the European standards with the help of successive Twinning projects. Currently, the assistance of the German and Bulgarian Governments is aiming at harmonising the official statistics with the EU standards in the areas of income and living conditions, disability and invalidity, and tourism.



Mr Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan has received president of the Federal Statistical Office of Germany and president of the National Statistical Institute of Bulgaria after the kick-off meeting

**Duration:** 24 months    **Dates:** 28/10/2015 – 27/10/2017

**Budget:** €1,200,000

**EU Partners:** Federal Statistical Office of **Germany** in consortium with the National Statistical Institute of **Bulgaria**

#### Results:

- Improvement of the organisation and management of the quality of the statistical production and dissemination processes across the SSC in line with EU quality standards;
- Usage of a Geographic Information System application as a dissemination tool of spatial statistical data in line with EU practices;
- Completion of the conduction of a cross-sectional pilot of Statistics on Income and Living Conditions and preparations for the main survey with the aid of the EU Development of a Self-Assessment Programme and in line with the appropriate EU regulations;
- Modernisation of disability and invalidity statistics;
- Improvement and extension of the tourism statistics.

# **TAIEX** - Quick support from EU experts

*Technical Assistance and Information Exchange (TAIEX) is an EU instrument that helps partner countries to become acquainted with, apply and enforce EU laws and standards.*

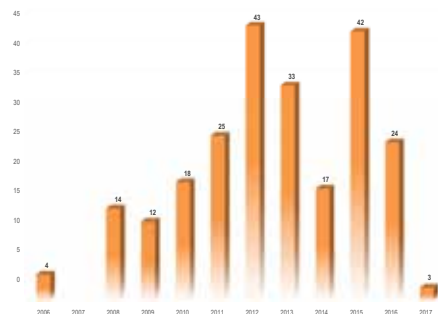
TAIEX provides short-term peer-to-peer technical assistance, advice and training in 3 forms:

**Workshops** in the beneficiary country, where an EU member state civil servant will arrive to present and explain EU acquis-related issues to a large audience;

**Expert missions** by EU Member State expert(s) to beneficiary countries, to provide in-depth practical advice on technical matters;

**Study visits** to EU countries, where up to three beneficiary country officials can travel for up to 5 days to an EU Member State, to learn how EU standards and laws are implemented.

**TAIEX events in Azerbaijan including multi-country events** (as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)



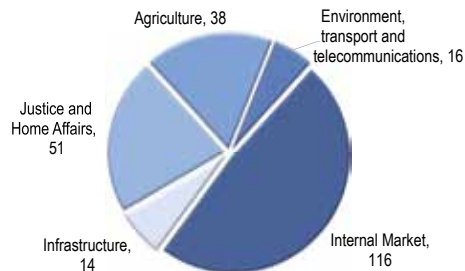
**TAIEX events by types** (as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)



**How can beneficiaries apply for TAIEX assistance?**

Applying for TAIEX is as simple as contacting the PAO and filling out a web form. Your request is then evaluated by the EU, and if there are no problems you can expect to have assistance on the ground even within 30 days! All costs related to TAIEX are funded by the EU.

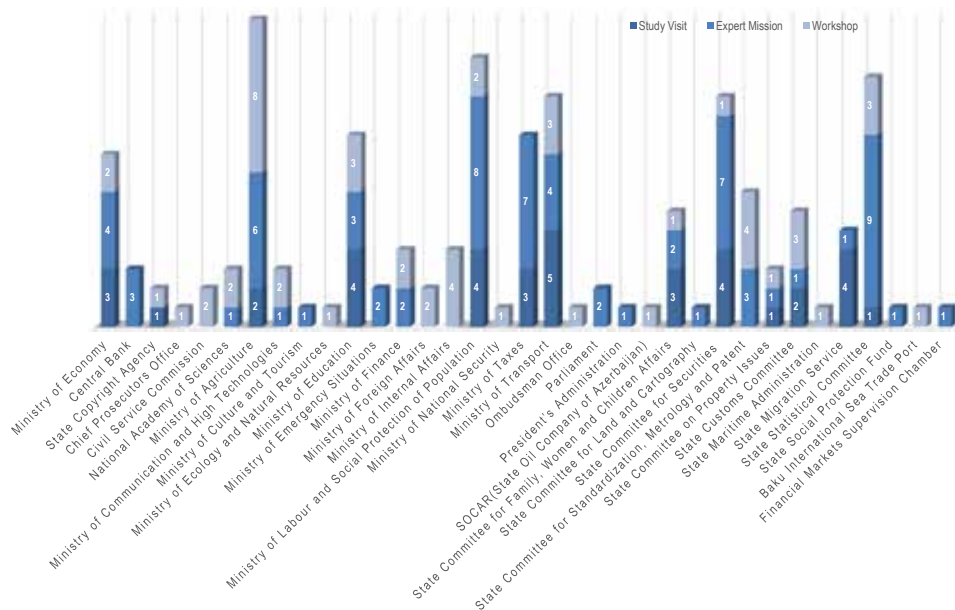
**TAIEX events by sectors**  
(as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)



### A growing interest: TAIEX in Azerbaijan

Azerbaijani beneficiary institutions first benefited from TAIEX in the form of multi-country seminars in 2006. Since then, the amount of TAIEX requests has been growing every year, and many beneficiaries are using TAIEX many times. In total, 235 events implementing in different areas (of which 73 events have more than one beneficiaries)

**TAIEX events implemented on the initiative of the Azerbaijani public institutions**  
(as of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017)





## TAIEX success story

### *Managing Flow of Passengers and Cargo during Major Sport Events*

#### **Background:**

In summer 2015 Azerbaijan hosted a multi-sport event - the First European Games, which left Baku with a legacy of improved infrastructure. Several proposals were drawn up to upgrade the transport system, provide security, optimize medical services, provide information and communication technology and design tourism and cultural programmes in Baku. During the Games preparation, the European Union provided assistance (through the TAIEX instrument) to the State Customs Committee on how to manage the flow of passengers and cargo during major sport events.



#### **TAIEX action:**

- Temporary admission and clearance process of guns;
- Goods for which special permission is required;
- Management of a big flow of passengers;
- Baggage clearance process for staff, athletes, coaches;
- Organisation of fast customs crossing of athletes during the event;
- Clearance process of cargo for the games;
- Facilitation on documents;
- Clearance process of goods in case of lack of documents (for athletes and staff);
- Security issues;
- Prohibitions and restrictions on importation during the games.



## SIGMA: Focus on Public Sector Reform

*SIGMA (Support for Improvement in Governance and Management) is a joint initiative of the European Union and the OECD focused on assisting countries in strengthening public governance systems and public administration capacities.*

SIGMA specialises in:

- Civil service and public administration organisation and functioning;
- Public finance and audit;
- Public procurement;
- Policy making;
- Strategy and reform.

SIGMA support areas include:

- Recommendations on improving laws and administrative arrangements;
- Advice on the design and implementation of reforms;
- Opportunities to share good practice from a wide range of countries;
- Policy papers and multi-country studies.

Since 2008, SIGMA has supported the public procurement, civil service, as well as financial control and external



EU experts Airi Alakivi and Salvador Parrado carrying out workshop on "Strategy for Civil Service Reform in Azerbaijan"

audit sectors in Azerbaijan.

In total, 15 projects were implemented.



## SOCIEUX: Focus on Social Sector reform

*SOCIEUX - Social Protection European Union Expertise in Development Cooperation - is a technical assistance facility which has been set up by the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation -EuropeAid- in order to support the efforts of partner countries to better design and manage social protection systems.*

### How does SOCIEUX work?

SOCIEUX works through short-term peer-to-peer inputs delivered by experts drawn primarily from the European Union Member States' public administrations and mandated bodies.

SOCIEUX is a demand-driven facility. Partner countries submit requests for assistance in designing and delivering social protection systems in a simple format.

The SOCIEUX team then fine tunes the requests in collaboration with the requesting government authorities and the local EU Delegation to ensure a high-quality, tailored, technical and result-oriented collaboration. Achievements will be carefully evaluated, best practices

shared when appropriate and results disseminated.

The facility permits rapid mobilisation of social protection experts from the European Union to easily share knowledge and experience. Practitioners from partner countries' administrations and non-governmental groups can also be mobilised as experts.

### Which areas are covered by SOCIEUX?

**SOCIEUX** offers support in all social protection areas, including:

- **social insurance:** contributory pensions, health, accident, unemployment protection;
- **social assistance:** cash transfer

programmes, income guarantee schemes, social pensions and other old age benefits, child and the disabled support grants, public works, employment **guarantee** schemes, together with the issues of targeting and conditionalities;

- **access to basic social services:** education, health and employment;
- **financing** of social protection systems;
- **monitoring and evaluations** systems, statistics and registration systems.

## What kind of activities does SOCIEUX implement?

**SOCIEUX** implements two types of activities:

- **analytical activities** aimed at addressing structural weaknesses in partner institutions, such as assist in designing legislation or policy frameworks;
- **specific activities** aimed at ad hoc transfer of know-how and expertise to strengthen existing capacities or respond to punctual needs such as support for training, awareness raising.

## Who is eligible for assistance from SOCIEUX?

**SOCIEUX** mainly targets public authorities and mandated bodies in charge of social protection at national and regional level.



## SOCIEUX Implementation in Azerbaijan

### On-going projects

**01:** Support to the Scientific Research and Training Centre on Labour and Social Problems in capacity building

**Beneficiary:** The Scientific Research and Training Centre on Labour and Social Problems under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population

**02:** To support the Government of Azerbaijan in implementation of health financing reform and introduction of mandatory health insurance based on best European practices

**Beneficiary:** State Agency for Mandatory Health Insurance under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan



# Twinning Implementation in Azerbaijan (2008-2016)

## Completed projects

**01:** Support to the improvement of legal and technical aspects of food quality and safety assurance and certification requirements of Azerbaijani fishery products

**Beneficiary:** State Service for Antimonopoly Policy and Consumer Rights Protection under the Ministry of Economy  
**EU Partner country:** Netherlands-Latvia  
**Dates:** 03/09/2008 – 03/09/2010  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,000,000

**02:** Legal approximation and structural reform in the energy sector of Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Energy  
**EU Partner country:** Germany  
**Dates:** 05/12/2008 – 05/05/2010  
**Duration:** 18 months  
**Budget:** €1,100,000

**03:** Strengthening of standardisation, metrology, conformity assessment and accreditation in SASMP – Standards Agency Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** State Committee for Standardisation, Metrology and Patent  
**EU Partner country:** Germany-Austria  
**Dates:** 22/10/2008 – 22/10/2010  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,400,000

**04:** Support for the Anti-Corruption Department with the Prosecutor General of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** Chief Prosecutor's Office  
**EU Partner country:** Lithuania  
**Dates:** 24/07/2009 – 24/09/2011  
**Duration:** 26 months  
**Budget:** €1,000,000

**05:** Support to the Milli Mejlis (Parliament) of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** Milli Mejlis (Parliament)  
**EU Partner country:** Lithuania  
**Dates:** 22/07/2009 – 27/12/2011  
**Duration:** 29 months  
**Budget:** €950,000

**06:** Support to the State Statistical Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan to reach European standards in national accounts, non-observed economy, business statistics and producer price index

**Beneficiary:** State Statistical Committee  
**EU Partner country:** Germany-Bulgaria  
**Dates:** 01/10/2009-01/03/2012  
**Duration:** 29 months  
**Budget:** €900,000

**07:** Enhancing effectiveness and efficiency of social protection through improvement of the analytical and forecasting capacities of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
**EU Partner country:** France  
**Dates:** 01/09/2010-01/03/2012  
**Duration:** 18 months  
**Budget:** €700,000

**08:** Support to the enhancement of the capacity of the Ombudsman administration and to the development of the awareness on human rights and discrimination

**Beneficiary:** Ombudsman Office  
**EU Partner country:** Germany  
**Dates:** 18/02/2011-18/08/2011

**Duration:** 6 months  
**Budget:** €250,000

**09:** Support to the Ministry of Taxes of Azerbaijan Republic in the field of computer assisted audit system

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Taxes  
**EU Partner country:** Netherlands  
**Dates:** 01/03/2011-01/06/2013  
**Duration:** 27 months  
**Budget:** €1,000,000

**10:** Support to State Labour Inspection Service in occupational and health safety enhancement in the Republic of Azerbaijan

**Beneficiary:** State Labour Inspectorate Service under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
**EU Partner country:** Germany  
**Dates:** 18/04/2011-17/12/2012  
**Duration:** 20 months  
**Budget:** €1,000,000

**11:** 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

**Beneficiary:** State Committee for Family, Women and Children Affairs  
**EU Partner country:** France  
**Dates:** 29/06/2011-09/10/2013  
**Duration:** 27 months  
**Budget:** €900,000

## 12: Strengthening the initial vocational education in the field of agriculture in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Ministry of Education  
EU Partner country: Germany  
Dates: 15/08/2011-15/05/2013  
Duration: 21 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

## 13: Support to the State Veterinary Service Prepare for a National System for the Identification of Animals and Registration of Holdings

Beneficiary: State Veterinary Service under the Ministry of Agriculture  
EU Partner country: Spain-Poland  
Dates: 17/03/2011-17/03/2013  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,000,000

## 14: Assisting the Public Financial Control Service in improving a system of public financial control in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Public Financial Control Service under the Ministry of Finance  
EU Partner country: Germany  
Dates: 01/09/2011-01/03/2013  
Duration: 18 months  
Budget: €800,000

## 15: Capacity development for enhancing enforcement of copyright and related rights in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Copyright Agency  
EU Partner country: Greece-Germany-Spain  
Dates: 22/08/2011-01/06/2013  
Duration: 21 months  
Budget: €1,100,000

## 16: Improvement of maritime safety, security and marine environment protection in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Maritime Administration  
EU Partner country: Spain  
Dates: 08/10/2012-07/09/2014  
Duration: 23 months  
Budget: €900,000

## 17: Approximation of the legal and regulatory framework for the securities market of Azerbaijan according to the European Union acquis and capacity building for the State Committee for Securities

Beneficiary: State Committee for Securities  
EU Partner country: Poland  
Dates: 01/10/2012-31/05/2014  
Duration: 20 months  
Budget: €1,000,000

## 18: Support to the State Committee for Land and Cartography of the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of establishment of the modern registration system of the state land cadastre information through improvement of rules of land evaluation and economic assessment of land in accordance to the EU evaluation standards

Beneficiary: State Committee for Land and Cartography  
EU Partner country: Sweden-Latvia  
Dates: 08/10/2012-18/04/2014  
Duration: 19 months  
Budget: €900,000

## 19: Support to the professional development of the staff of the State Migration Service of Azerbaijan Republic

Beneficiary: State Migration Service  
EU Partner country: Netherlands-Latvia-Romania

Dates: 14/01/2013-13/03/2015  
Duration: 26 months  
Budget: €1,050,000

## 20: Strengthening of radiation safety infrastructure and development of supporting services of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Agency on Nuclear and Radiological Activity Regulations of the Ministry of Emergency Situations  
EU Partner country: Lithuania  
Dates: 09/01/2013-04/02/2015  
Duration: 25 months  
Budget: €950,000

## 21: Strengthening the capacity of the Department of Tourism in the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
EU Partner country: Austria-Lithuania  
Dates: 14/02/2013-27/06/2014  
Duration: 16,5 months  
Budget: €900,000

## 22: Support to the State Social Protection Fund on the introduction of funded element within the insurance-pension system, establishment of non-state pension funds and development of legal framework for regulation their activity

Beneficiary: State Social Protection Fund  
EU Partner country: Latvia-Germany  
Dates: 07/04/2014-07/11/2015  
Duration: 18 months  
Budget: €750,000



**23: Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the development of a System for Medico-Social Rehabilitation of people with disabilities'**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
**EU Partner country:** France-Germany  
**Dates:** 27/01/2014-26/01/2016  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,100,000

**24: Support for the development of a modern standardisation system in Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** State Committee for Standardisation, Metrology and Patents  
**EU Partner country:** UK-France-Slovenia  
**Dates:** 27/01/2014-26/03/2016  
**Duration:** 26 months  
**Budget:** €1,200,000

**25: Support to the State Agency on Control over Safety in Construction of Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan Republic in the field of transition of the EU construction and standards**

**Beneficiary:** State Agency for Control of Safety in Construction under the Ministry of Emergency Situations  
**EU Partner country:** Germany  
**Dates:** 02/06/2014-30/12/2015  
**Duration:** 19 months  
**Budget:** €900,000

**26: Support to the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan in building capacity for a sustainable development of its Human Resources**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Taxes  
**EU Partner country:** Spain-France  
**Dates:** 03/09/2014-02/12/2016

**Duration:** 27 months  
**Budget:** €1,000,000

### On-going projects

**27: Development of social service provision in Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
**EU Partner country:** Austria  
**Dates:** 01/06/2015-01/06/2017  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,100,000

**28: Support to the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan for further adherence of the higher education system to the European Higher Education Area**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Education  
**EU Partner country:** Finland-Estonia  
**Dates:** 01/09/2015-01/09/2017  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,300,000

**29: Support to the State Statistical Committee in Modernisation of the National Statistics System of the Republic of Azerbaijan in line with European standards**

**Beneficiary:** State Statistical Committee  
**EU Partner country:** Germany-Bulgaria  
**Dates:** 28/10/2015-27/10/2017  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,200,000

**30: Support to the Strengthening of the Commissioner for Human rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** Ombudsman Office

**EU Partner country:** Germany-Poland  
**Dates:** 15/02/2016-15/02/2018  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,360,000

**31: Support to the State Maritime Administration to Improve Liability in Maritime Transport in the Republic of Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** State Maritime Administration  
**EU Partner country:** Spain  
**Dates:** 15/11/2015-15/11/2017  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,200,000

**32: Support to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the Republic of Azerbaijan for the modernisation of its policy and management system in the culture sector**

**Beneficiary:** Ministry of Culture and Tourism  
**EU Partner country:** Italy  
**Dates:** 08/02/2016-08/02/2018  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,200,000

**33: Strengthening the metrology system in Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** State Metrology Service under the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent  
**EU Partner country:** Czech Republic-Germany  
**Dates:** 16/01/2016-16/01/2018  
**Duration:** 24 months  
**Budget:** €1,200,000

**34: Support to the State Veterinary Control Service in strengthening of the Epidemiological Surveillance System in Azerbaijan**

**Beneficiary:** State Veterinary Control Service under the Ministry of Agriculture  
**EU Partner country:** France-Hungary  
**Dates:** 19/05/2016-19/05/2018

Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,100,000

## 35: Support to the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population in reforming pension system in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Social Protection Fund under the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
EU Partner country: France  
Dates: starting in March 2017  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

## 36: Support to the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan in optimal use of resources and quality service to taxpayers

Beneficiary: Ministry of Taxes  
EU Partner country: Spain - France  
Dates: starting in March 2017  
Duration: 27 months  
Budget: €1,300,000

## 37: Support to further reforms of the civil service system in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Examination Center  
EU Partner country: Lithuania  
Dates: 17/11/2016-17/11/2018  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

## 38: Upgrading the National Environmental Monitoring System of Azerbaijan on the base of EU best practices

Beneficiary: Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources  
EU Partner country: Finland – Austria – Latvia  
Dates: 01/11/2016-01/02/2019  
Duration: 27 months  
Budget: €1,400,000

## Projects in contracting stage

### 39: Strengthening the Institutional and Administrative Capacity of the Chamber of Accounts of the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Chamber of Accounts  
EU Partner country: Poland  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 27 months  
Budget: €1,400,000

### 40: Strengthening the institutional capacity of the Copyright Agency to manage and protect the intellectual property rights in digital networks

Beneficiary: Copyright Agency  
EU Partner country: Greece-Denmark-Italy  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,081,422

### 41: Support to the strengthening accreditation system in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Accreditation Service under the State Committee for Standardization, Metrology and Patent  
EU Partner country: Germany-Italy-Latvia  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

### 42: Support to the Ministry on Labour and Social Protection of the Population in modernising Public Employment Services in the Republic of Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of Population  
EU Partner country: Lithuania-Austria-Sweden  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

## Projects in preparation stage

### 43: Support to implementation of the mandatory health insurance system in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: State Agency on Mandatory Health Insurance  
EU Partner country: TBD  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,100,000

### 44: Support to the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan in Transfer Pricing and developing Anti-Tax Avoidance measures

Beneficiary: Ministry of Taxes  
EU Partner country: TBD  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

### 45: Support to strengthening the higher education system in Azerbaijan

Beneficiary: Ministry of Education  
EU Partner country: TBD  
Dates: TBD  
Duration: 24 months  
Budget: €1,200,000

# Developing closer political and economic cooperation is at the core of EU-Azerbaijan relations since the 1990s. With Azerbaijan's membership in the Eastern Partnership, this process is set to keep accelerating.

## A Commitment to Cooperation – the PCA and ENP AP

Since the entry into force of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement in 1999, the Government of Azerbaijan has committed itself to adopting EU standards and practices in specific areas, and the EU in supporting this process. The Government of Azerbaijan's support to this process was reconfirmed with adoption of the European Neighbourhood Policy Action Plan in 2006, which deepened ties further and prioritised the areas for approximation. From its side, the EU allocated over 190 million EUR in 2007-2017 alone for projects supporting the Government in these commitments.

## Keeping track of process – Cooperation Committee

A dedicated monitoring system is in place to monitor progress. Cooperation Committee and Council, comprised of representatives of the EU and the Government of Azerbaijan, meet annually to gauge progress made in PCA commitments, and decide on short term priorities.

## Management for the side of the Government of Azerbaijan

The Government of Azerbaijan manages this process through a variety of bodies, one of which is the State Commission on Cooperation with the European Union. The management of the EU Institution Building Instruments is overseen by the Programme Administration Office under the Ministry of Economy.

## The Eastern Partnership – going further

Introduced in 2009, the Eastern Partnership offered EU partner countries even closer political and economic cooperation with the EU. By joining in 2009, the Government of Azerbaijan re-committed to this process. To assist the Government, the EU allocated 19 million EUR to the Comprehensive Institution Building Programme (CIB). This is comprised of three Institutional Reform Plans, which lay out strategies on achieving Eastern Partnership goals.

Negotiations on a new partnership agreement between the EU and Azerbaijan have started in 2017.



Study Visit to Spain within the framework of Twinning project in the field of taxes



Kick-off meeting of the Twinning project in the field of copyrights



Participants of trainings in the field of control over safety in construction receive their certificates

Back cover:

TAIEX Workshop on Agricultural Associations



Programme Administration Office  
under the Ministry of Economy  
84, Uzeyir Hajibeyli str. 6th floor, Government House  
AZ 1000, Baku, Azerbaijan  
Tel.: (+994 12) 493 88 67 (ext. 2115)  
Fax: (+994 12) 598 07 86  
Email: [ruslan.rustamli@economy.gov.az](mailto:ruslan.rustamli@economy.gov.az)  
Website: [www.pao.az](http://www.pao.az)



EU Delegation to Azerbaijan  
90A, Nizami str., 11<sup>th</sup> floor, Landmark III  
AZ 1010, Baku, Azerbaijan  
Tel. (+994 12) 497 20 63  
Fax (+994 12) 497 20 69  
Email: [delegation-azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu](mailto:delegation-azerbaijan@eeas.europa.eu)  
Website: <http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/azerbaijan/>  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/EUDelegationtoAzerbaijan/>