

### **EUROPEAN UNION SUPPORT** TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF **AZERBAIJANI REGIONS**





**FOREWORD** 

Regional Development is one of the key sectors of cooperation between the longstanding partners - European Union and Azerbaijan.

This brochure highlights some of the recently implemented projects to support the regions of Azerbaijan. It shows how that helped the regional development and changed people's lives.

Enjoy reading their stories and learn how the EU-Azerbaijan cooperation helped to promote sustainable rural development, businesses and local communities. Get in touch with us if you would like to learn more about our work in Azerbaijan and about the Eastern Partnership in action!

#### **Kęstutis Jankauskas**

Ambassador of the European Union in the Republic of Azerbaijan





General Information	
Title of the action	The agricultural initiatives for market-driven income generation in the Telishli ecomigrant community
Location	The Telishli community is settled in the villages Telishli and Allahmadatli
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (13.11.2017-13.11.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 240 527
Contracting party	Ecological Society "Ruzgar"
	Implementing partners: Community Development Council of Telishli and Telishli Municipality
Beneficiary	Telishli community

#### **Results achieved**

- Irrigation system to increase productivity of the community pasture and for growing environmentally friendly products is improved;
- A workshop for producing Terekeme carpet is established;
- Road market for selling of crop and livestock products produced by community members is constructed;
- A farm of Halep goats is established;
- A pond farm for development of fishery is established.



# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Support to Local and Regional Development in Ganja – Gazakh Economic Region (SLRD)
Location	Ganja-Gazakh Economic Region
Duration (months) + start and end date	35 months (01.01. 2017- 01.11. 2019)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 2 000 000 (88.9% of total cost)
Contracting party	EU Delegation and German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) via GIZ
Beneficiary	Ministry of Economy;
	Ministry of Agriculture;
	State Tourism Agency;
	Different stakeholders of the Ganja-Gazakh economic region

#### **Results achieved**

- 32 Local Development Plans (LDPs) elaborated with rural municipalities;
- 11 District Development Plans (DDPs) elaborated through application of planning methodologies for regional development;
- 3746 participants (1595 females, 2151 males) benefited from 188 capacity building activities, including 141 trainings with 2571 participants (1289 females, 1282 males);
- 100 women entrepreneurs improved their leadership and networking skills;
- More than 300 specific initiatives developing agriculture and tourism derived from planning on LDP and DDP level;
- 16 pilot measures utilizing development potentials in the nexus of agriculture and tourism were implemented.



# SUPPORT TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL FAMILY BUSINESSES IN THE SHEKI-ZAQATALA ECONOMIC ZONE THROUGH ABAD REGIONAL CENTRE IN BALAKAN

Supported by EU funding, "ABAD" regional centre restores ancient carpet weaving traditions in Balakan, Azerbaijan. Mirvari Azizova, a professional tailor, applied for EU trainings to learn how to weave a carpet. After the trainings she decided to expand her business and to engage female apprentices as well.





More than 600 people have benefited from the 44 new business start-ups within the project, implemented in the Sheki-Zagatala region. One of the positive aspects of the project is that it keeps alive the forgotten art industry in new family businesses.



Keeping alive sweet family tradition: EU project creates new job opportunities for women. Aytekin Sadigova, who started her farm with 10 boxes of bees, currently has 22 boxes of bees due to the project's support.



Nigar and her friends, dealing with Ebru art in Sheki, attended the EU programme's trainings on ceramics and pottery making, and learned how to prepare gymsum, paint and cook ceramics, and received necessary tools. The project helped them to realise their dreams.







THE SEEDS PROJECT CONTINUES TO YIELD GOOD RESULTS. EACH OF THE 75 BENEFICIARIES WAS PROVIDED WITH 5 BEE FAMILIES AND THE NECESSARY EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BEEKEEPING.



In the framework of the COVCHEG project, around 50 foods have been collected in Azerbaijan. 11 of them have been included in the Ark of Taste, an international catalogue of endangered heritage foods. These entries are qaxac, grape leafs dolma, tuber, cotoneaster, pear, "Ata-baba" hazelnut, bamie, pekmez, fatir, rose petal confit, dried salty curd, rosehip syrup and acidic orchard sauce.









General Information	
Title of the action	Implementation of the Support to Rural and Regional Development (SRRD) Program in the Republic of Azerbaijan / Technical Assistance
Location	Guba-Khachmaz ER (5 districts); Dagligh-Shirvan ER (4 districts); Shaki-Zagatala ER (6 districts) and Goychay district
Duration (months) + start and end date	49 months (01.01.2017- 01.02. 2021)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 3 725 000
Contracting posts	International Development Ireland (IDI) LTD
Contracting party	Implementing partners: Government of Azerbaijan; Ministry of Economy
Beneficiary	Department of Development of Regions and State Programmes of the Ministry of Economy with its Central Office and the pilot Regional Offices

#### **Results achieved**

- Capacity of beneficiary institutions and stakeholders to prepare, implement and monitor territorial development plans enhanced;
- In total 1264 trainees (151 female and 1113 male) involved in various trainings conducted by the project. Trainees were from public (1051), private (126) and farmer (87);
- 16 Territorial Development Plans (3 for specialization and 13 on Regional Economic Development) prepared and 2 pre-feasibility studies conducted:
- 29 comprehensive Value Chain studies for selected crops conducted;
- 10 Territorial Development Plans finalized;
- 2 Pre-Feasibility Studies finalized;

- 3 cooperatives (1 for each target crops) established;
- 1 Methodological Guidelines for designing of TDPs published
- 1 glossary with 40 terms in Projects preparation and RED approach published;
- 1 VC manual, 5 flyers for 5 crops, Land suitability maps for every crop and 1 infographic for table grape and wine prepared and published.
- Effective and efficient financing schemes for implementation of the territorial development plans on specialization developed:
  - 2 reports elaborated on available financing schemes;
  - 102 project proposals prepared (Project fiches).

# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

General Information	
Title of the action	Promoting Community-based Agritourism as a Rural Regeneration Strategy
Location	Guba, Gusar, Shabran, Siyazan, Khachmaz, Salyan, Jalilabad, Lankaran
Duration (months) + start and end date	42 months (11.10.2017-11.04.2021)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 384 437 (90% of total cost)
	Contracting Party: Local Governance Assistance Public Union (LGA)
Contracting party	Implementing partners: Shafag Ecotourism Public Union, Support to the Development of Rural Green Tourism Public Union
	Small-holder farms and MSMEs
	Rural youth
Beneficiary	Unemployed adults
	<ul> <li>Representatives of municipalities and other local government institutions and non-government institutions</li> </ul>

#### **Results achieved**

- Implement public awareness program to promote agritourism and mobilize interested community members;
- Agritourism sector VC analysis and Inventory List in target regions;
- Develop Agritourism Market Readiness Matrix;
- Organize multi-stakeholder workshops on promotion of clusters, cooperatives and other forms of associations in agritourism VC;
- Identify and train local pool of Trainers within VETs to ensure continuity of business trainings;
- Design and execute awareness sessions on agritourism and entrepreneurship for youth and adults in partnership with VETs



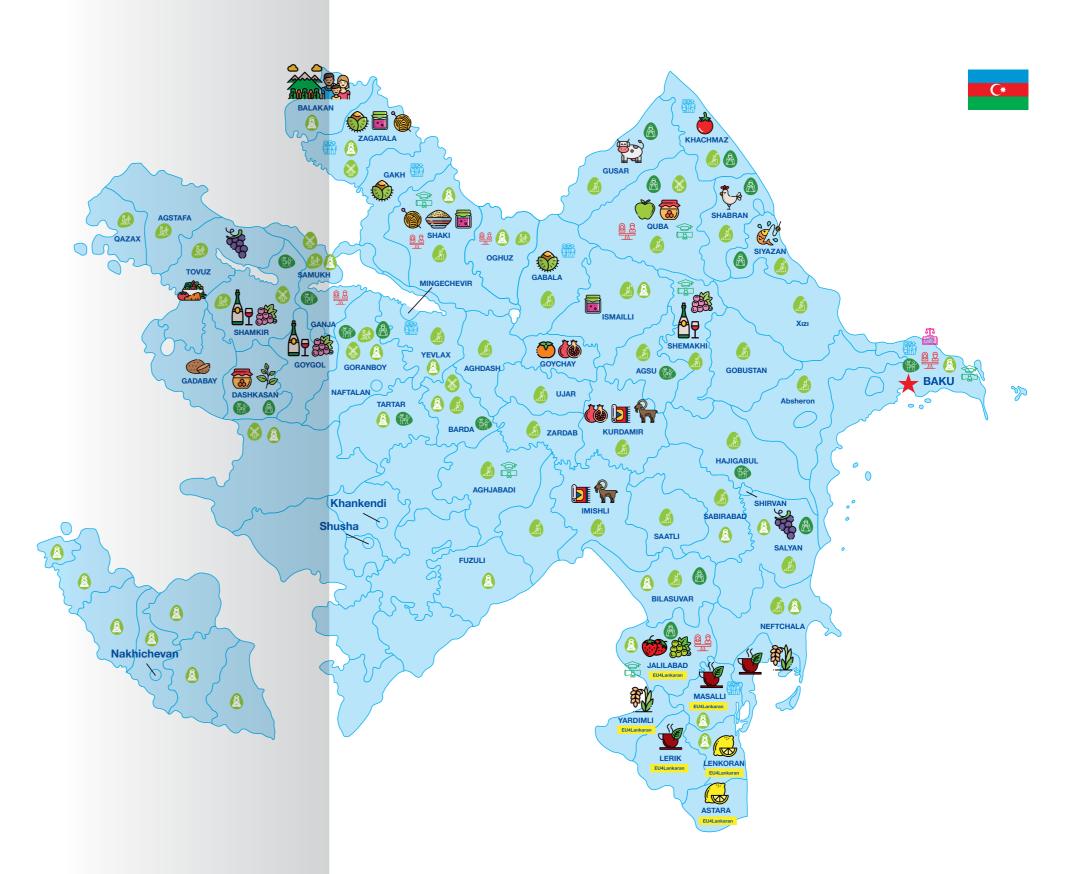


### **EU FUNDED PROJECTS IN AZERBAIJAN**



- Human rights & Civil society activities
- Support to family business
- ☼ Inclusive education
- Youth support

  Legal reform
- Note: Projects implemented by Civil Society Organizations





<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Support to the development of small family businesses in the Sheki-Zaqatala Economic Zone through ABAD regional centre in Balakan
Location	Sheki-Zaqatala Economic Zone (Balakan, Gakh, Gabala, Sheki, Oghuz, Zaqatala)
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (01.12.2017 – 01.12.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 820 000 (90% of total cost)
	UNDP
Contracting party	Implementing partners: Public Service and Social Innovations under the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan
Beneficiary	"ABAD" Public Legal Entity under the State Agency for Public Service and Social Innovations of the Republic of Azerbaijan

#### **Results achieved**

- While aiming for 30 smallholder family businesses, 44 families selected including 12 IDP families, specialised in a broad array of industries.
- Capacity building trainings have been held for the selected families, their family members and ABAD staff members.
- Small-scale equipment and production facilities necessary to manufacture products in line with market procured for all families.
- 14 trainings held on the sectors below focusing on working with provided tools and equipment:
- Cheese production
- Ice-cream production
- Pheasant breeding
- Chicken breeding
- Dry food production
- Oil production
- Oyster mushroom production

- Compote production
- Agro production
- Carpet weaving
- Bijou making
- Wood working
- Painting
- Ceramics making
- Regarding family branding, the Project managed to create the concept and branding of the following finished products:
  - Oyster mushroom
  - Hazelnut oil
- Dry nuts
- Fruit compotes
- Walnut oil
- Certain souvenirs

### Vagif Gurbanov, Zagatala, Yukhari Tala Village



A resident of Yuxari Tala village, who joined the project through "ABAD" regional centre, has taken a big step towards a small, successful business and owns more than 110 pheasants.



# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Community-based Value Chain Enhancement in the Greater Caucasus Mountains area in Azerbaijan (COVCHEG)
Location	Shamakhi, Ismaili, Gabala, Shaki, Qakh
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (01.09.2018-01.09.2021)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 813 105,50 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	Slow Food International
	Smallholder farm producers, rural food and tourism enterprises;
Beneficiary	<ul> <li>Local municipalities and national public authorities;</li> </ul>
	Citizens of rural and urban areas of Azerbaijan.

#### **Results achieved**

- Strengthened community-driven food system;
- Market-driven pilot initiatives started;
- Increased diversification of economic activities.



General Information	
Title of the action	Socio-Economic Empowerment and Development of Small-scale vulnerable rural families in Dashkasan, Goranboy and Samukh rayons of non-Absheron regions of Azerbaijan (SEEDS) / Grant
Location	Dashkasan, Goranboy, Samukh
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (01.01.2018-31.12.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 927 117,59 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	Contracting Party: SOS Children's Villages-Azerbaijan Association (SOS CV-AZE)
	Implementing partners: Ganja Agribusiness Association (GABA) and Support to Development of Rural Green Tourism (SDRGT) Public Unions
Beneficiary	400 small-scale vulnerable rural families (2000 individuals), 1000 females, 300 children;
	<ul> <li>Parliament Committees for Family, Women and Children's Affairs;</li> <li>Labor and Social Policy; Agrarian Policy;</li> </ul>
	Ministries of Agriculture, Economy, Education, Culture, Labor and Social Protection of Population; State Tourism Agency.

#### **Results achieved**

- Approximately 395 small-scale vulnerable rural families improved and diversified their income sources and welfare via promotion of advanced and sustainable agricultural and community based tourism practices;
- 30 villages were selected;
- 395 beneficiaries were involved and provided with necessary equipment and materials to support development of their family businesses:
- 5 beekeeping groups: 75 beneficiaries;
- 6 vegetable growing (greenhouse) groups: 90 beneficiaries;
- 3 strawberry growing groups: 40 beneficiaries;
- 6 livestock raising groups: 90 beneficiaries;
- 10 rural tourism groups: 100 beneficiaries.

- 30 Community Women Groups (CWGs) were established. Approximately 900 female members in the target 30 communities improved their occupational skills, social welfare and got engaged in income generating activities;
- 30 groups and around 90 individual females were provided with the necessary equipment to develop their businesses:
- 10 SMEs were selected for cooperation and technical and business development trainings have been delivered to them;
- The project has established and improved linkages with local, regional, national level stakeholders and policy makers. As result 2 legislative proposals describing needs and potential improvements on Beekeeping and Rural Tourism were developed.

### PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

General Information	
Title of the action	Accelerating development of sustainable micro-entrepreneurship in rural regions of Azerbaijan (ADSMIRRA)
Location	Ganja, Guba, Barda, Zagatala, Shamkir
Duration (months) + start and end date	30 months (01.09.2018 – 28.02.2021)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 418 324,00 (90 % of total cost)
Contracting party	Azerbaijan Micro-finance Association (AMFA)
	Microfinance Centre (MFC) Poland
	National Confederation of Entrepreneurs (Employers) Organizations of Azerbaijan Republic (ASK)
Beneficiary	Micro and small scale rural business entrepreneurs living in rural areas those who are interested to start or expand own businesses and their families

#### **Results achieved**

- 458 persons improved their level of financial literacy and enhanced finance management skills;
- 170 persons improved their business management skills;
- 48 persons provided with in-kind seed capital and benefited from mentoring advice of experienced business consultants;
- 50 persons improved know-how of running the cooperative.





# PROJECT: ACCELERATING DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE MICRO-ENTREPRENEURSHIP IN RURAL REGIONS OF AZERBAIJAN (ADSMIRRA)

### Aida Behbudova, Oghuz



Aida Behbudova, resident of Oghuz district, wants to develop her own brand "Narin". To realize her longstanding wish, she participated in trainings within the project. After the trainings, she decided to open a unique tailor shop.







<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Support to the establishment of Regional Industrial Vocational Education and Training Competence Centre in Ganja
Location	Ganja
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (13.07.2017-13.07.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 1 440 000 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	United Nations Development Programme
Beneficiary	The Ministry of Education
	State Agency on Vocational Education

#### **Results achieved**

- Baseline assessment conducted;
- Labour market assessment held and results presented to beneficiaries;
- Workshop was selected and adopted to the new standards;
- Equipment and machines on 4 selected occupations purchased and installed;
- Six curriculums developed and submitted to the State Agency on Vocational Education, namely:
- 1. Apartment-turn over specialist;
- 2.HVAC specialist;
- 3.Turner;
- 4. Plastic welder;
- 5. Fashion designer;
- 6. Mining specialist;

- 27 modules were developed;
- Study visit to Germany was organised from 27 May to 2 June, 2018;
- Conference on "Recognition of competences acquired through non-formal and informal learning" was held in JW Marriott Absheron Baku on 31 October, 2018;
- Curricula and module teachings material for shortterm courses on 10 selected occupations were developed;
- Guidelines for validation and certification of prior learning competences were developed;
- Strategical development plan for competence centre was developed;
- Official opening ceremony of the workshop held on 10 July, 2019.

# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

Consul Information	
General Information	
Title of the action	Improvement of the quality of pre-primary and primary education through community-based groups
Location	Agjabadi, Bilasuvar, Goranboy, Guba, Jalilabad, Khachmaz, Masalli, Salyan, Sabirabad, Shamkir
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 750 374
Duration (months) + start and end date	18 months (01.10.2018 – 31.03.2020)
Contracting party	Institute of Education of the Republic of Azerbaijan
	<ul> <li>Children aged 3-10 living in the 50 rural communities (~200 children per community, ~ 10,000 children)</li> </ul>
Beneficiary	• Parents (10,000 parents in 50 communities)

#### **Results achieved**

- 3-5 year old children in targeted communities have increased enrolment to the pre-primary level education;
- Curriculum relevant for the current needs/context has been developed;
- The community-based civic groups deliver services benefiting families in the selected communities;
- School-community relations are strengthened;
- Parenting resources are accessible for the families engaged in the communitybased pre-primary activities;
- Community Parents Associations (CPAs) are established;
- Increased capacity of families to engage in the quality assurance practices, and to initiate joint actions with local schools addressing the identified needs;
- Improved transparency and accountability practices at grassroots level.



VET school in Ganja – The first industrial workshop of the vocational school was opened in Ganja within the EU project. The purpose is to improve the quality of education, promote vocational education, expand the participation of students in vocational education and adapt it to the requirements of the industrial sector.



General Information	
Title of the action	Establishing dual-like VET pilots in agriculture and tourism in the Gabala, Ismayilly and Gakh districts
Location	Baku, Gabala, Gakh, Ismayilli
Duration (months) + start and end date	29 months (09.2017 – 06.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 1 980 000 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	GIZ
Beneficiary	State Agency on Vocational Education under the Ministry of Education (SAVE)

#### **Results achieved**

- Strategic Development Plans and 6 business concepts for generating extra-budgetary income for 3 pilot VET centres developed;
- "Dual-like VET Concept" incorporating in-company training calendars and updated training plans for selected (pilot) occupations were prepared jointly with private sector;
- 3 demonstration plots and a demonstration vineyard in company premises were established jointly by VET centres with partner companies for practical trainings of students and teachers;
- 3 competence-based curricula (Tourism organizer, Catering specialist in hospitality, Hotel administrator) and 16 modules covered in those curricula were developed and currently being piloted in 3 pilot VET centre;
- A bus (14+1 seats) has been procured to the Ismayilli VET Centre to ensure transportation of its students to the VET centre demonstration vineyard and in-company training. The project is repairing and equipping a wood-working workshop at Gakh Vocational Lyceum;

- Capacity building training (5-days training) in 8 agricultural topics were organized and attended by the teachers, master-trainers and private sector representatives;
- A study trip to Bosnia & Hercegovina and Serbia was organized for VET managers, teachers and representatives of partner companies in November, 2019;
- Short-term training materials (non-certified) on "Organizing business in tourism sector", "Customer Service for receptionists" and "Customer Service for waiters" have been developed by the teachers of the pilot VET centres and trainings were delivered by themselves to receptionists, waiters and business managers of SMEs.

# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Establishment of Regional Vocational Education and Training Centre of Excellence in Lankaran Economic Region
Location	Jalilabad
Duration (months) + start and end date	36 months (13.07.2017 – 13.07.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 1 299 999,60 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	European Commission
	United Nations Development Programme
Beneficiary	The Ministry of Education and State Agency on Vocational Education

#### **Results achieved**

- Baseline assessment conducted;
- Labour market assessment held and results presented to beneficiaries;
- International company was contracted to assist with International experts, namely Int. Manufacture and Industry experts;
- Reconstruction of workshop in the Jalilabad VE Centre with the total area of 240 sqm was finalised and fully equipped;
- Six curriculums developed and submitted to the State Agency on Vocational Education, namely:
- 1. Farmer;
- 2. Crop Production;
- 3. Wine and wine making specialist;
- 4. Carpenter;
- 5. Draper and Designer;
- 6. Cabinet Maker.

- 27 modules were developed and got officially printing rights (qrif);
- Several practical equipment on woodworking occupations purchased;
- PPP framework was developed and submitted for discussion during PPP roundtable organised in July 2019 at the Heydar Aliyev Centre;
- Concept of Centre of Excellence was developed and based on this document establishment of new centre was started in December 2019;
- Strategical development plan for centre was developed;
- Official opening ceremony of the workshop held on 5 November, 2019.

 $\sim$  23



General Information	
Title of the action	Ensuring teacher readiness for inclusive education
Location	Baku, Shamakhi , Shaki, Guba, Jalilabad, Aghjabedi
Duration (months) + start and end date	28 months (01.05.2018 – 01.09.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 629 770 (85% of total cost)
Contracting party	Regional Development Public Union
	Local Governance Assistance Public Union
	Research of Social Rights Public Union
Beneficiary	Ministry of Education

#### **Results achieved**

- Comprehensive package of teacher development programmes on inclusive education has been developed under the project;
- 18 trainers have been trained on inclusive education teacher training programmes;
- Totally 400 teachers have completed pre-service trainings;
- 29 in-service training sessions has been organized in 6 target regions with participation of 725 teachers;
- 250 school directors in target regions have been involved in the trainings;
- 6 Inclusive Education Centres have been established within Azerbaijan State Pedagogical University to serve as regional teacher development and awareness raising hubs;
- Educational materials suggested by the consultant have been translated and printed. Printed materials have been distributed to İnclusive Education Centers and have been made available through online portal;
- The contents of Teacher Development Programmes have been integrated into the curricula;
- An online portal www.inkluzivtehsil.az has been launched under the action;
- An essay competition entitled "The Role of Inclusive Education in the Formation and Development of an Inclusive Society" was held and the winners were awarded.

# PROJECT: ENSURING TEACHER READINESS FOR INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Samira Mammadova, primary school teacher of secondary school #8 in Jalilabad



I think it is important to foster inclusive values not only at school, but in society. This will bring continuous success to the many Stephen Hawkings existing among us.



Guler Bayramova, primary school teacher of secondary school #7 in Jalilabad



Before the project, I was feeling sorry for people with disabilities. But now I see them as peers. This project substantially changed my point of view.





# PROJECT: ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE IN LANKARAN ECONOMIC REGION

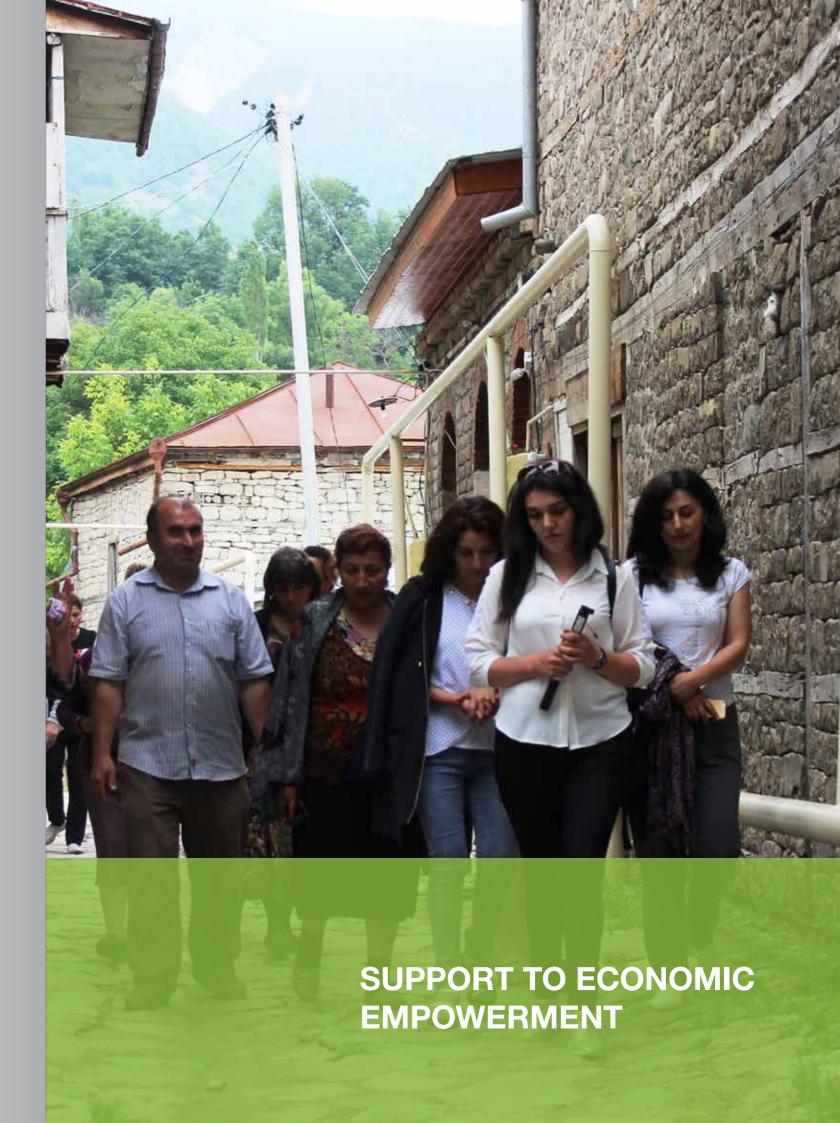
A model regional centre was established at the vocational school, and reconstruction and modernisation works were done with the financial support of the European Union. The goal is to support modernisation of the vocational education and training system in Azerbaijan, and to improve quality in line with the European standards and practices.

Rena Abbasova, tailoring master-trainer, VET, Jalilabad



Thanks to the project for the first time in the last 30 years a female group is established, and 19 girls were admitted to school this year.







# PROJECT: IMPROVEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF PRE-PRIMARY AND PRIMARY EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED GROUPS

### Elmara Suleymanova, teacher at Guba, II Nugadi



My perspective has changed a lot compared to when I started working at the community based on preschool education centre. The centre became a turning point in my life.





# PROJECT INFORMATION FACTSHEET

<b>General Information</b>	
Title of the action	Entrepreneurship for Youth
Location	Baku, Gabala, Masally, Ganja, Khachmaz, Mingachevir, Zagatala, Gakh
Duration (months) + start and end date	30 months (01.10.2018 – 31.03.2021)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 324 000 (90 % of total cost)
Contracting party	Junior Achievement Azerbaijan
Beneficiary	Ministry of Education
	Teachers and Students

#### **Results achieved**

- Working group consisting of representatives from NGOs, Business and Ministry of Education has been established;
- Teaching-learning tools (teacher guide, student book, paper and digital learning materials) on entrepreneurial education and financial literacy had been developed;
- Teaching capacity of 150 teachers from 8 regions in the related fields had been advanced;
- 42 secondary schools and 4
   VET schools had been selected
   by the Ministry of Education to
   participate in the project;
- Financial literacy training had been conducted for 42 secondary and 4 VET schools' students;
- Representatives of finance institutions have been engaged into delivery of financial literacy classes at the pilot schools.





General Information	
Title of the action	Promoting the Role of Civil Society in Gender-sensitive Implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals
Location	Baku, Barda, Ismayilli, Sheki, Zagatala, Balakan, Guba, Khachmaz, Mingachevir, Shirvan, Yevlakh, Fuzuli, Sabirabad, Neftchala, Salyan, Masally, Bilasuvar, Lankaran, Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Shahbuz, Ordubad, Julfa, Sharur, Kengerli regions and Nakhichevan city)
Duration (months) + start and end date	27 months (01.04.2018 – 30.06.2020)
EU budget (EUR)	EUR 1 000 000 (90% of total cost)
Contracting party	United Nations Development Programme
Beneficiary	Civil Society Organisations (CSO)

#### **Results achieved**

- Result 1: An Engagement Plan on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality) developed and implemented through an established network of 37 CSOs together with the government stakeholders;
- Result 2: 37 CSOs trained on SDG framework to apply gendersensitive approaches to the SDG implementation;
- Result 3: 9 NGOs received grants to implement gender-sensitive SDG initiatives addressing women entrepreneurship, decent work and economic growth, early marriage, legal aid for victims of domestic violence and genderbased discrimination, provision of clean water and sanitation, as well as promotion of sustainable cities and communities for people with disabilities.



Dilara is Azerbaijan's first female football manager to bring sport in local governance. She joined the Gender-Based Municipal Academy launched by the EU. Last December she was elected municipal councillor in Gakh region. "I have a warrior's spirit and am ready to fight!"

# PROJECT: PROMOTING THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN GENDER-SENSITIVE SDG IMPLEMENTATION

Ilyas Safarli, regional project coordinator of the NGO "Uluchay"

Arzu Mammadova, Sheki



Thanks to the project I established my own business - a tandoor house: "Əsli nənənin təndiri".

One of the biggest achievements of our project was that women, who joined the trainings, did not change only themselves, but also their family members.



#### Narinj Ahmadova, Gakh



My father strongly disapproved of me attending the EU trainings in Sheki. But today he is proud of my beauty salon, established with the help of the project.



