



Integrated Regional Development of Azerbaijan



Improved Support to Entrepreneurial Development in Rural Areas

Project Summary at 30 April 2020



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The Project Strategy

- **Overall Objective:** To contribute to business development, employment generation across all economic regions of Azerbaijan and to raise rural livelihoods and the quality of life in rural areas.
- **Purpose:** To support Ministry of Economy and its relevant structures to provide improved support for entrepreneurship and SME development in rural areas.



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The Project Interventions

- **Intervention 1 (Institutional level)**
Capacity building aiming to encourage more entrepreneurial behaviour from institutions serving rural regions.
- **Intervention 2 (Entrepreneurial level)**
Expansion of business development and entrepreneurship programmes into rural areas with an emphasis on links with educational institutions and networks.



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The Project Beneficiaries

- Small & Medium Enterprises Development Agency and its Business Incubators
- MoE Department for Entrepreneurship Development Policy
- Other departments and state agencies for rural development & entrepreneurship
- Regional, District and other local offices of Government
- Public and private sector service providers
- Rural community groups, entrepreneurs and rural SMEs
- Entrepreneurial youth and women from rural areas



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The Four Project Result Areas

- Strengthened institutional capacity of government and business incubators to formulate & implement a sustainable business incubation model
- Modern tools and services for business incubation that will allow business incubators to effectively support entrepreneurship in rural areas
- Expanded outreach of entrepreneurial learning through a dedicated e-learning platform
- A value-added chain uniting structures from the public and private sectors in support of the rural entrepreneurial ecosystem



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Result Area 1 – Institutional Capacity Building

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
1.1	Assessment for Improvement of Business Incubators	Completed	Report delivered (Amalgamated with 2.1)
1.2	Methodological Guidelines (Incubator Toolbox)	Completed	9 Manuals delivered
1.6	Study visit for Ministries and State-Agencies	In progress	Visit postponed due to Covid-19



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Result Area 2 – Development of New Incubator Programmes

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2.1	Assessment of Existing Incubator Programmes in Azerbaijan	Completed	Report delivered (amalgamated with 1.1)
2.2	Entrepreneur Training Needs Analysis	Completed	Report delivered
2.7	Development of a Training Programme for Rural Women	Completed	ToT for 22 participants carried out Training delivery supported in 9 rural locations



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Result Area 3 – Development of e-learning platform

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
3.1	Assessment of EU e-learning experience	Completed	Report delivered. Launch event postponed due to Covid-19
3.2	Preparation of information materials on e-learning	In progress	Interrupted by Covid-19. The activity is being completed remotely



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Result Area 4 – Communication/Co-operation Platform & Networks

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Status</i>	<i>Comment</i>
4.1	Effectively Engaging Multiple Stakeholders	Completed	Report submitted
4.2	Stakeholder Engagement Strategy	Completed	Strategy submitted
4.3	Development of a Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP)	Completed	Platform established
4.4	Operation of MSP and Information Campaign	In progress	Interrupted by Covid-19. The activity is being completed remotely
4.5	Advocacy capacity development in rural business organisations	In progress	Interrupted by Covid-19. Will resume when health issues permit
4.6	Capacity Development of National and Regional Business Associations	In progress	Interrupted by Covid-19. The activity is being completed remotely



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Awaiting Approval

<i>Ref.</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Start Date</i>	<i>Comment</i>
2.3	Topic-specific mentoring modules	May 2020	Materials preparation will be done remotely
2.5	Training programmes for high-growth potential SMEs	May 2020	Materials preparation will be done remotely
2.8	Youth Entrepreneurship Programme	May2020	Materials preparation will be done remotely