



Entrepreneurship Development Foundation

MICRO-ENTERPRISE SUPPORT PROJECT (MESP)

List of completed activities

(USAID Cooperative Agreement Number: AID-112-A-12-00001)

April 1, 2012 – December 24, 2020

Below is a list of the activities carried out under the "MESP" project (including the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component) in the period from April 25, 2012 to December 24, 2020). The list includes the following activities:

1. Policy papers and researches
2. Drafts new Law (and other Legislative Acts)
3. Trainings
4. Technical and financial assistance in setting up women's businesses
5. Monitoring of established businesses. Mentor's support to businesses
6. Surveys
7. Conferences
8. Round tables and seminars
9. Guides for small businesses
10. Articles in media
11. "Economic Forum" Internet TV Broadcasts
12. Entrepreneurship lessons
13. Video lessons on taxes
14. Analysis of SME support programs during Pandemic
15. Weekly and monthly Newsletters on COVID-19 Pandemic
16. Creating a special web resource for aspiring entrepreneurs
17. Creation of a special section on the Foundation's website containing information on the MESP implementation

1. POLICY PAPERS AND RESEARCHES

Within the framework of the project, research on various entrepreneurial activities was conducted. The results of researches and appropriate recommendations were presented to government agencies and the general public. The following are research topics:

- 1) Social entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan: the current situation and main directions of reform for development
- 2) Public support for small and medium enterprises in the world during the pandemic
- 3) Meat and Meat Product Manufacturing sector in Azerbaijan: problems and perspectives
- 4) Market research on "The market of transparent and colored glass containers for product packaging in Azerbaijan
- 5) Economic perspectives of the leather production sector in Azerbaijan
- 6) Fruit processing sector in Azerbaijan: assessment of problems and opportunities
- 7) Chemical cleaning, dyeing and laundry service: opportunities for creating a favorable business environment
- 8) Production of polygraphic products: opportunities for creating a favorable business environment
- 9) Economic prospects of the beekeeping sector in Azerbaijan
- 10) Protection of foreign investments
- 11) Beauty Salon business, legal requirements and challenges
- 12) Identifying administrative barriers faced by entrepreneurial entities (auto service) engaged in repairing and maintenance of vehicles owned by citizens
- 13) Increasing access to finance for small and medium enterprises in Azerbaijan
- 14) Increase of small and medium enterprises access to finance in Azerbaijan
- 15) State-Business Cooperation Opportunities in Azerbaijan
- 16) Identifying administrative barriers for street trade
- 17) Licensing: Global practices and Azerbaijan realities
- 18) Identifying administrative barriers faced by small business owners engaged in the production in greenhouses.

2. DRAFTS NEW LAW (AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTS)

- 1) Draft Constitutional Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the Commissioner for Entrepreneurship (Business Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 2) Draft Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan "On State-Business Partnership"
- 3) Draft Regulations on the State Agency for Small and Medium
- 4) Draft Law of Entrepreneurship Development of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 5) Draft Law of the Republic of Azerbaijan on Mediation.

3. TRAININGS

- 1) December 17-18, 2020. Business leadership trainings
- 2) November 14-15, 2020. Business leadership trainings
- 3) November - December 2020. Nail welding training
- 4) May 13-15, 2019. Vocational training for beekeepers
- 5) April-June, 2019. Vocational training for seamstresses
- 6) October, November, and December (2018) and February (2019) - "Start Your Own Business" Training for 400 Women Entrepreneurs
- 7) December 20, 2018. Training on "Gender equality and entrepreneurship development" for gender focal points (60 representatives of government and private companies)
- 8) April 08-09, 2017. The training for women who want to become entrepreneurs
- 9) March 15-16, 2017. Training on "Creation and development of Women's Entrepreneurship Associations" were held for business associations
- 10) October 25, 2016. Training for Business Associations on "Increasing members in associations" and "The establishment and development of relationships"
- 11) September 23, 2016. Training for Business Associations on the theme of Strategic Planning in Associations
- 12) September 16, 2016. Training for Business Associations on the theme of the "Public-Private Dialogue"
- 13) June 18, 2016. Training for young women who want to become an entrepreneur
- 14) April 24, 2016. Training for young women who want to become an entrepreneur
- 15) March 4-5, 2015. Training for women who want to become entrepreneurs
- 16) December 09-10, 2014. Training for women who want to become entrepreneurs

4. TECHNICAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN SETTING UP WOMEN'S BUSINESSES

Within the framework of the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Component of the MESP in Azerbaijan, 78 women have started entrepreneurial activities in Baku and various regions of Azerbaijan. These women's businesses are located in 43 geographical points of Azerbaijan.

5. MONITORING OF ESTABLISHED BUSINESSES

EDF conducted the monitoring of startups in Baku, Sumgayit, Goychay, Shamakhi and Guba-Khachmaz regions.

6. SURVEYS

- 1) Face-to-face survey among 213 (two hundred thirteen) 10-11th-grade school students in Baku schools in order to study entrepreneurial awareness among girls in 10-11 grades in Azerbaijan under the Women's Entrepreneurship Development Project (December 09 – 17, 2019)
- 2) Face-to-face survey conducted among 500 (five hundred) women-owned small businesses in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the framework of the "Women Entrepreneurship" Component of the Micro Enterprise Support Project (September 24 - October 15, 2018)
- 3) Survey conducted among 1000 small entrepreneurs (September 5 - October 10, 2016)
- 4) Face to face interview results held in 2 000 (two thousand) households among women in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the project "Support to the Small Enterprise Development in Azerbaijan" (March 14 – July 31, 2014)
- 5) Survey conducted among 1000 small entrepreneurs (07 March - 17 April 2013)

7. CONFERENCES

- 1) December 12, 2020. What is Beneficial Ownership (2nd program)
- 2) December 11, 2020. What is Beneficial Ownership (1st program)
- 3) May 24, 2020. Impact of the pandemic on business
- 4) April 26, 2020. E-commerce and electronic payments
- 5) December 19, 2019. Business Education in Azerbaijan: current situation and development ways"
- 6) June 25, 2019. A conference on the theme "Forbidden professions for women: isn't it time to remove the prohibitions?"
- 7) November 14, 2018. The conference on "Women's Entrepreneurship Development" within the Global Entrepreneurship Week
- 8) November 17, 2017. A conference on "Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan" within the Global Entrepreneurship Week
- 9) April 23, 2017. Young Entrepreneurs' Forum
- 10) November 18, 2016. conference on "SME Development in Azerbaijan" as part of Global Entrepreneurship Week

- 11) November 17, 2015. conference on "The Development of Women's Entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan"
- 12) May 01, 2014 - Conference "Development of entrepreneurship in Azerbaijan"
- 13) November 22, 2013 - A conference on "Development of Young Entrepreneurship" was held in Azerbaijan
- 14) November 21, 2013. a conference on "The Development of Small Businesses in Azerbaijan"
- 15) December 19, 2012 - Conference on Small Business Development in Azerbaijan

8. ROUND TABLES AND SEMINARS

- 1) November 17, 2017. Global Entrepreneurship Week: A roundtable on "Blockchain and cloud technologies"
- 2) April 18, 2017. A seminar on the development of women's entrepreneurship and women's business associations
- 3) April 12, 2017. Round table was held on the impact of the situation in the banking sector on SMEs and expectations
- 4) January 18, 2017. Roundtable discussion on "Amendments to the Tax Code"
- 5) December 27, 2016. Round Table on the theme of "Entrepreneurs of Ganja are engaged in entrepreneurial activities"
- 6) December 23, 2016. Round Table on the theme of "Ways to increase the export potential of entrepreneurial entities"
- 7) November 22, 2016. Round Table on the theme of "Milk processing sector, problems, and perspectives"
- 8) October 28, 2016. Round table on "Some of the problems that hinder the development of entrepreneurship"
- 9) October 25, 2016. Round table dedicated to the presentation of results of the face-to-face survey conducted among 1000 small businesses in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan
- 10) September 28, 2016. Round table on the theme of the economic perspectives of the beekeeping sector
- 11) September 26, 2017. "External expert support for economic reforms in Azerbaijan"
- 12) June 14, 2016. Round Table on the theme "The investment climate in the country: progress and problems"
- 13) September 17, 2015. Round Table on the theme of "Alternative Dispute Resolution: Draft Law on Mediation"
- 14) May 5, 2015. Round Table on the theme of "Identifying administrative barriers faced by entrepreneurial entities (auto service) engaged in repairing and maintenance of vehicles owned by citizens"

- 15) March 12, 2015. Round Table on the theme of "Ways to improve access to financial resources"
- 16) February 18, 2015. Round Table on the theme of "Protection of the rights of entrepreneurs in courts"
- 17) January 15, 2015. Round Table on the theme of "Role of industrial parks in the development of entrepreneurship"
- 18) November 5, 2014. Round Table on the theme of "Identifying administrative barriers faced by small business owners engaged in the production in greenhouses"
- 19) October 15, 2014. Round Table on the theme of "Competition Code: Expectations" was held
- 20) October 1, 2014. Round Table on the topic of "More efficient ways to use franchise opportunities in Azerbaijan" was held
- 21) July 11, 2014. Round table on "Improvement of import-export operations"
- 22) July 2, 2014. Round table on "Results of the survey on women's entrepreneurship"
- 23) June 24, 2014. Round table "Problems of implementation of labor contracts in Azerbaijan and ways to solve them"
- 24) July 11, 2014 - Round table on "Improvement of import-export operations"
- 25) July 2, 2014 - Round table on "Results of the survey on women's entrepreneurship"
- 26) June 24, 2014 - Round table "Problems of implementation of labor contracts in Azerbaijan and ways to solve them"
- 27) April 23, 2014 - Discussion of additional measures related to the development of entrepreneurship
- 28) April 09, 2014 - Round table on the results of the study on the improvement of the directions and the definition of administrative barriers in the bakery business envisaged by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan dated March 3, 2014
- 29) January 22, 2014 - Round table on improving the laws on entrepreneurship and state support for small business
- 30) October 30, 2013 - There are serious problems with the registration of farmers' lands in Azerbaijan - round table 30.10.2013. There are serious problems with the registration of farmers' lands in Azerbaijan
- 31) October 2, 2013 - Only 1/3 of employed people in Azerbaijan have an employment contract
- 32) September 30, 2013 - Azerbaijan's membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO): results from the experience of CIS countries
- 33) September 27, 2013 - Identification of administrative barriers to street trade
- 34) August 30, 2013 - The Center for Economic Research offers a new tax system

35) June 14, 2013 - The number of permits and licenses applied to entrepreneurs is more than 300

9. GUIDES FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

- 1) Export of products and services (guide for small businesses)
- 2) Dairy production
- 3) Apiculture business
- 4) Mini market business (guide for small business owners)
- 5) Taxi service (guide for small business owners)
- 6) Confectionery production (guide for small business owners)
- 7) Beauty salons and barbershops business (guide for small business owners)
- 8) Franchising (a guide for small businesses)
- 9) Pharmacy business (a guide for small businesses)
- 10) Land property rights (guide for small business owners)
- 11) Baking Industry (guide for small business owners)
- 12) Greenhouse business (guide for small business owners)
- 13) Tailor shop business (guide for small business owners)
- 14) Auto service business (guide for small business owners)
- 15) Membership of Azerbaijan to the World Trade Organization (guide for small business owners)
- 16) Technoparks (guide for small business owners)
- 17) Household appliances repair and technical service workshops and centers business
- 18) Warehouse business

10. ARTICLES IN MEDIA

During the project implementation, 116 articles on various economic and business issues were published in the media.

11. "ECONOMIC FORUM" INTERNET TV BROADCASTS

During the implementation of the project, more than 200 "Economic Forum" programs on various economic and entrepreneurial issues were broadcasted on YouTube. Many of the programs were also broadcasted on Public Radio.

Representatives of government, private sector and civil society participated in the Economic Forum programs.

12. ENTREPRENEURSHIP LESSONS

During the reporting period, 13 entrepreneurship lessons on various entrepreneurial issues were recorded and broadcasted on EDF YouTube channel.

13. VIDEO LESSONS ON TAXES

EDF broadcasted 11 video lessons on various taxes topics on EDF YouTube channel.

14. ANALYSIS OF SME SUPPORT PROGRAMS DURING PANDEMIC

EDF conducted the analysis of SME support programs in 11 countries businesses during pandemic. Analysis focuses on how SMEs are affected by the current COVID-19 pandemic in the world, researches world countries' responses to foster SME resilience. The analysis covers 11 countries' experience: United States, Germany, United Kingdom, France, Turkey, Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova.

15. WEEKLY AND MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS ON COVID-19 PANDEMIC

During the reporting year, 3 Monthly and 26 Weekly Newsletters were published within the framework of the project. Newsletters cover necessary information for entrepreneurs including governmental support for SMEs during pandemic.

16. CREATING A SPECIAL WEB RESOURCE FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS

As part of the project, a special web resource was created for businessmen: <http://sahibkarol.biz/>

17. CREATION OF A SPECIAL SECTION ON THE FOUNDATION'S WEBSITE CONTAINING INFORMATION ON THE MESP IMPLEMENTATION

Detailed information about the activities and projects of the EDF on the website <http://www.edf.az>. Unfortunately, most of the materials are in Azerbaijani.