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.

The EU is a key reform partner in Azerbaijan and brings best practices and experience to a wide range of sectors. Azerbaijan is one of the main beneficiaries of the Twinning instrument, profiting from peer-to-peer training and exchange with the EU Member State public administrations.

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:

**ECONOMIC & INVESTMENT PLAN**

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- **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**

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**

The EU reacted fast and responded to the urgent needs of Azerbaijan and its citizens. As part of Team Europe, the EU mobilised a tailor-made COVID-19 response package of almost €32 million to support immediate needs and socio-economic recovery. These funds 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. The EU also supported the 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. Azerbaijan receives vaccines through the COVAX Facility, supported by Team Europe with over €3 billion, and bilaterally from EU Member States.

**ECONOMY**

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

**SOCIETY**

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

**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 (E5P) and adopted an Energy efficiency law.

**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.

**RECOVERY RESILIENCE REFORM**

- 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.

**DIGITAL**

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