

# Partner Search Form



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PROJECT INFORMATION				
Discipline/Academic field		University Management		
Type of project idea		Joint Project Governance Reform		
My role in the project?		Applicant		
Which National / Regional Priority?		National Priority		
Which countries should be involved?		Local and International countries		
Duration of the project?		3 years		
Project description				
<p>During the last decade Azerbaijan Republic has demonstrated impressive achievements in macroeconomic growth, infrastructural development and institutional reforms. Key champions of such global changes must be universities, which are able to train competent, knowledgeable and skillful graduates. In Azerbaijan, despite the increasing investments and reforms introduced, achievements and effectiveness of the higher education institutions are less impressive than general economic development.</p> <p>Azerbaijan has accepted the Bologna Declaration and de jure joined the European Higher Education Area, but de facto Azerbaijani universities need serious reforms and innovations in order to be able to provide teaching, learning and training environments comparable to EU education system quality and standards. Reforms were introduced in the Azerbaijani education system after signing the Bologna Declaration, first of all related to adoption of the credit system, curricula development, evaluation system changes, framework educational environment creation, etc.</p> <p>Universities do not pay enough attention to such key issues as faculty training, teaching resources development, learning improvement, development of assessment and evaluation systems, and technological innovations that are directly related to the enhancement of the effectiveness of teaching and learning processes. Universities are continuing to use traditional teacher-centered lecturing modes of teaching; at the same time interactive teaching, collaborative learning, case analysis, IT and web-based teaching and learning, continuous assessment and evaluation have rarely been used. Moreover, most teachers have vague ideas about these tools. With increased volume and complexity of the knowledge to be delivered, and a wide spectrum of skills to be imparted, the majority of junior and experienced faculty trained in the old fashion are not able to ensure the fulfillment of</p>				

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requirements for quality and effectiveness.

There is no doubt that at the introduction stage of the reforms these issues were of high priority, but the ultimate goal of the educational reforms is to drastically improve the quality of education, teaching and learning processes, and knowledge and skills of graduates. Attainment of this goal requires:

- availability of a qualified teaching staff which is eager to apply contemporary teaching tools and technology;
- availability of the contemporary teaching tools and technology;
- opportunity to support teaching with research and professional commitment of teachers;
- opportunity to retrain faculty in order to keep pace with ongoing innovations in education system;
- opportunity to provide training and resources to make excellent teaching possible;
- information support of the faculty and students;
- development of the students' learning skills;
- a well-grounded assessment and evaluation system.

These problems should be addressed, first of all, in order to significantly improve the quality of education in Azerbaijan in general and in universities in particular. The idea of providing quality education in Azerbaijan could be realized via creation of a unified framework for promoting teaching and learning excellence in universities. Such a unit would be able to provide organizational and methodological support to all parties involved in teaching and learning processes. This entity, in cooperation with academic departments and units, will coordinate and support all activities aimed at development of teaching and learning processes and adoption of innovations in education.

Taking into account all the above mentioned, this project focuses on promotion of teaching and learning excellence in universities in Azerbaijan by building capacity, enhancing usage of technology and innovation, providing support for teaching and research, and establishing long-lasting partnerships with European Partners.

Khazar University, as a leading private university in the country as well as in the region, was the first to establish quality assurance and disseminate this experience among other universities in Azerbaijan. This was possible due to the cooperation with European Partnership under the auspices of TEMPUS. The experience Khazar gained allowed its team of educators to promote the idea of teaching and learning excellence and act as a leader to develop this process and assist other universities around the country.

The wider objective of this project is promoting teaching and learning excellence, and target groups are teachers, students, administrators. The specific objectives of the project are to build capacity for developing the teaching and learning process to meet pedagogical and technological needs of faculty at all stages of their career, and improving and providing quality teaching and learning through usage of innovative technology, promoting research, and establishing long-lasting partnerships with European universities. The project will serve identified needs by building the model of enhancing learning and teaching to guide and methodologically support the education process within identified education institutions in Azerbaijan which will further disseminate this idea and model to others. This project will contribute to the progress of teaching and learning processes, building the capacity of university teachers and enable them to use technology and innovations in their teaching, to link their teaching with research making it evidence-based, collaborate with and learn from European Partners, improve their skills, and enable the students to benefit from these changes.

It is our firm belief that the establishment of TLC will assist the Azerbaijani universities to consolidate both its vision and mission in line with the current National Strategy for Higher Education.