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# KEY HIGHLIGHTS 2022 - 2023

AZERBAIJAN





*"During our journey with colleagues through Urban Imaginaries, we have learned a lot of valuable lessons. Direct involvement of our community in close dialogue will help us build a better, brighter and collaborative future,"*

**Elman Verdiyev**

Head of Naftalan City Municipality

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*"Through the implementation of urban imaginaries, we are shaping a brighter future for Mingachevir, one that prioritizes sustainable urban development, community engagement, and economic growth,"*

**Ramiz Aliyev**

Head of Mingachevir City Municipality

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*"In the last seven months, we have had very productive work sessions with Chora Foundation. During our online meetings, we have analysed the economic situation in our city. Conducted many interviews with residents and reviewed them. It has been a great learning journey for the whole of our team. I am sure that we will have great outcome,"*

**Orkhan Musayev**

Head of Khirdalan City Municipality

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*"In our initiative, we try to give 'Second Breath' to women released from incarceration by helping them to reintegrate back into society and gain necessary skills and knowledge to support themselves in the future,"*

**Manaf Talibov**

Project Manager at Sabail Municipality

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*"For us it is crucial to involve our residents in this initiative. They will be able to grow their small and medium business and help our village to develop as a sustainable tourism destination. Our online sessions have helped us to draw the right picture and develop our initiative even further,"*

**Farkhad Ashurbeyli**

Project Manager of Urva Municipality

## Background & translated version of the intro video



## Key figures

<b>number of total members / new member</b>	47
<b>number of reconfirmed members</b>	8
<b>people reached via comms channel</b>	30,000
<b>number of events / sessions / meetings, workshops, info-sessions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 70+ events, sessions, meetings</li><li>• 3 Major Public Events</li><li>• 4 Information Sessions</li><li>• 2 Portfolio Bootcamps</li><li>• More than 40 Online Workshops for deep demonstrators</li><li>• 20+ site visits to local authorities</li></ul>
<b>number of grantees</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Portfolio Journey municipalities: Icherisheher Administration &amp; Khirdalan</li><li>• 4 Urban Imaginaries municipalities: Mingachevir, Sabail, Naftalan and Urva</li></ul>

## Background



The Mayors for Economic Growth (M4EG) Facility was launched in Azerbaijan on 14 March 2022. Since then, the Azerbaijani network has grown from 20 to 55 local authorities representing villages, districts and cities of Azerbaijan. As an outcome of Open Calls announced in May 2022, six local authorities were selected as “deep demonstrators” to go through the Portfolio Journey and Urban Imaginaries streams of the initiative.

## Portfolio approach



### Icherisheher Administration

Smart Old City Portfolio

### Khirdalan Municipality

Entrepreneurship & Young Talent Portfolio

## Urban Imaginaries



### Sabail

Rehabilitation Center for women released from correctional facilities

### Urva

Tourism Information Center and development of the brand locally produced products

### Minachevir

Transition from conventional lighting to LED lighting at household level

### Naftalan

Ceremonial house

## Key events

### M4EG Azerbaijan National Launch

Baku, 14 March 2023



**DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**  
The M4EG Facility was launched through the major event on 14 March 2022. The project team from UNDP Azerbaijan and UNDP Istanbul Region Hub (IRH), alongside the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, informed the participants about the activities under the initiative and the expected results.



## M4EG Azerbaijan Information Sessions

Baku, 31 June 2022, 1 June 2022, 2 June 2022 and 3 June 2022



### DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

UNDP Azerbaijan and IRH Project Team held Information sessions in Lankaran, Ganja, Sheki and Baku for the members of the M4EG Network in Azerbaijan to provide detailed information on the streams of the initiative, application options and funding opportunities.

## M4EG Azerbaijan Show & Tell (hybrid format)

Baku, 28 June 2022



### DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

First regional Show & Tell Event was organized in hybrid format with participants from Azerbaijan gathered at Four Seasons Hotel in Baku. Members of Azerbaijani Networks were given the opportunity to learn about the initiatives prepared by local authorities of Armenia, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine. This was followed up by the joint EU and UNDP announcement of the results of the Open Call for Portfolio Journey and Urban Imaginaries streams of the initiative in Azerbaijan. Khirdalan and Icherisheher were selected for Portfolio Journey, Naftalan, Mingachevir, Sabail and Urva were selected for Urban Imaginaries Stream. Peter Michalko, Head of the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan, presented the certificates.



## Khirdalan Portfolio Bootcamp

Baku, 09 – 16 March 2023



**DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**  
Khirdalan Municipal team, UNDP and Chora Design worked together over a week to design an Urban Transformation Portfolio for the municipality. As a result of the bootcamp, a Portfolio consisting of 5 positions and options was designed to be implemented over the next 18 months.



**2022 Annual Report Meeting of selected local authorities and UNDP Senior Management**  
Baku, 17 March 2023



**DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES**

The EU Delegation to Azerbaijan and UNDP organized an event to demonstrate the results of the M4EG initiative in Azerbaijan in 2022. Six selected local authorities were invited to the meeting and had an opportunity to present their initiatives and current progress.



## Icherisheher Portfolio Bootcamp

Icherisheher, 16 – 23 May 2023



### DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

Icherisheher Administration team, UNDP and Chora Design worked together over a week to design an Urban Transformation Portfolio for the local authority. A portfolio consisting of 13 positions and options was designed to be implemented over the next 18 months covering a wide range of activities around smart city solutions, tourism and community engagement.

## EuroVillage 2023

Lankaran, 10 June 2023



### DESCRIPTION AND OUTCOMES

The M4EG Facility, for the first time, participated at the EuroVillage organized by the EU Delegation to Azerbaijan. Head of the EU Delegation Mr. Peter Michalko and ambassadors of EU countries, Assistant to the President of Azerbaijan Republic Mr. Anar Alekberov, Head of Lankaran Executive Powers Mr. Taleh Garashov and hundreds of residents visited the M4EG stand and were informed about our activities in Azerbaijan.



## URBAN IMAGINARIES

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### Sabail

Rehabilitation Center for women released from correctional facilitiesrch 2023

In course of the project, Sabail municipality has gained support from State Employment Agency of Azerbaijan and Penetentiary Service of Ministry of Justice of Azerbaijan to implement the initiative. The research conducted by the municipality and support provided by the State Employment Agency will help the municipality to cover not only Sabail residents, but also of Baku.



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### Urva

Tourism Information Center and development of the brand locally produced products

Municipal team lead by Farkhad Ashurbeyli, has attracted support from State Tourism Agency of Azerbaijan and will expand the activities of the municipality beyond the designed framework. As part of additional support gained, municipality will be able to support up to 10 families to set up their family businesses and contribute to the product range planned under the initiative.



## Minachevir

Transition from conventional lighting to LED lighting at household level

Being an energy hub of the country has led to development of a related initiative by the municipality. With the help of local Executive Powers, University Volunteers and public, Mingachevir Municipality is strongly advocating for the transition to LED lighting at household level for a more sustainable, economical lighting source.



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## Naftalan

Ceremonial house

Case of Naftalan Municipality is a great example of close involvement of the community in the design process. Municipality started the M4EG work process with the idea of building a local bazaar, but during the social listening process and interview carried out by the team the idea shifted. Municipality listened to their residents and is now working towards a new ceremonial house which will be a cornerstone of a future, much larger placemaking initiative.



## Learning opportunities



## Urban Imaginaries Inspiration Session 1 (Azerbaijani translation)

April 2022

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U11YHdjB00U>

## Library



<https://eu4business.eu/news/eu-and-undp-launch-new-mayors-for-economic-growth-facility-in-azerbaijan/>

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