

Press release

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Women's Social Entrepreneurship Forum to meet in Baku

Female entrepreneurs from different countries are starting work on joint projects again.

This August, the "Women's Social Entrepreneurship Forum"/Forum der Sozialen Unternehmerinnen" will start again, this time in Baku. In international teams, 24 female entrepreneurs from Azerbaijan, Russia and Germany will develop ideas for joint projects in various areas of socially beneficial activities, such as society, ecology, education, media, culture and other socially significant topics. The project will also host a series of online trainings and webinars on hot topics, such as creating business plans and models, developing a financial and marketing plan, operational management, grants for non-profit projects, investments for start-ups.

Among the project participants are representatives of non-profit organizations, small businesses, producers and public figures. For example, Sarah Rajabli created her brand BUTA Art & Sweets at the age of 20, employing 20 women with disabilities to sell vegan and gluten-free baked goods. Created by Oksana Zaliznyak from the Voronezh Region, the Kipling Center became the winner of the regional competition of projects for entrepreneurs in 2021 "The best business project for the city", winning first place in the nomination "The smartest" - for his contribution to the development of education. Berlin-based producer, director and screenwriter Irina Arms creates arthouse documentaries and feature films on socially significant topics. Several of her films have won awards at international film festivals.

Joint ideas will be continued in concrete projects, their discussion will take place in October this year during a working meeting in Georgia. Presentation of projects, plans for implementation and search for funding will take place at the final two-day forum in Baku in January 2023.

The Women's Social Entrepreneurship Forum is being held for the second time, the first [forum](#) was held in 2020 in Minsk with the participation of more than 200 women from Russia, Belarus and Germany. About a third of the projects developed during this forum are currently being implemented, for example, the FemUnion online platform against domestic violence (crisiscenter.ru/femunion/) and the online academy "Third place" (nko-pfo.ru/34956).

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Project organizers: Mediaost Events und Kommunikation GmbH (Berlin), Azerbaijan Women's Entrepreneurship Association AWEDA (Baku), International Center for the Development of Women's and Social Entrepreneurship VEIA (Moscow). The project is supported by the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the Eastern Partnership and Russia program.