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**Swiss Cooperation Office**  
**South Caucasus**

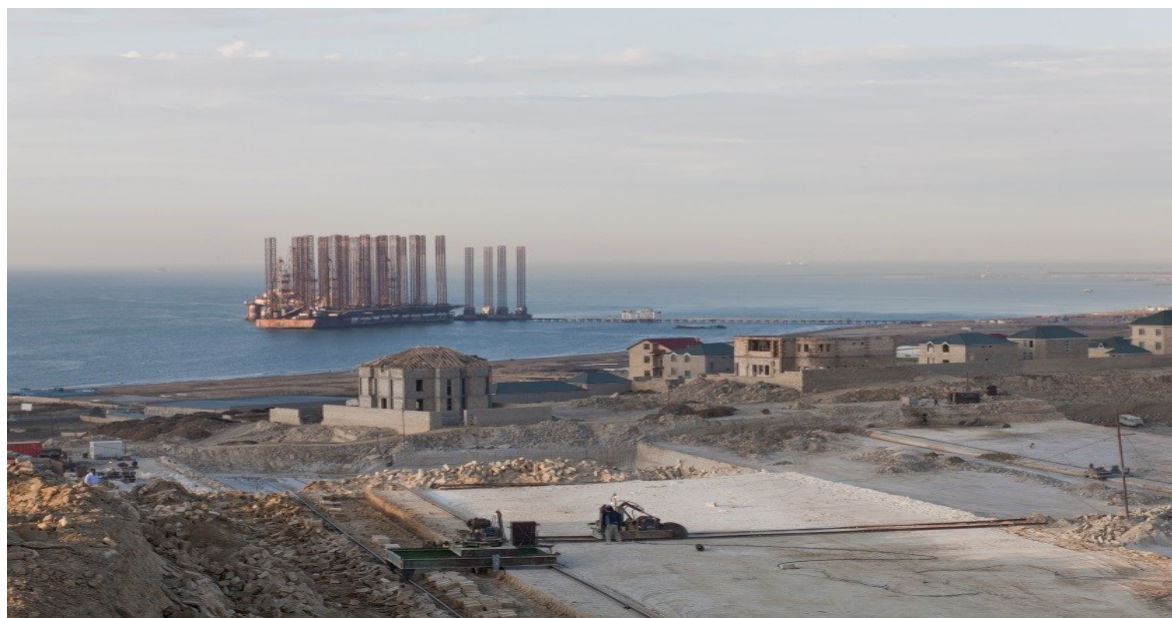
## FACTSHEET (2018)

<b>Project title</b>	<b>Eurasia Extractive Industry Knowledge Hub</b>
Project duration	2014-2018
Swiss contribution	CHF 880'000
Project partners	Khazar University
SCO strategic goal	Effective democratic institutions, human safety and security

### Background

Oil, gas and mining are the most important sources of revenue and dominate the exports of many Eurasian economies. While high commodity prices and rising production led to strong GDP growth in resource rich countries for some years, this has only partially spurred sustainable development. This is mainly due to weak governance and lack of capacities of the civil society to engage with governments to demand greater transparency and accountability regarding declaration and allocation of commodity revenues.

Some governments are compliant with the standards of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI), while others have made progress by improving public financial management (PFM) and strengthening their legal and regulatory framework. Still, it is critical that parliamentarians, government representatives, journalists and the general public better understand the extractive industries in their countries for better governance of the sector and more inclusive allocation of the revenues from this sector.



An oil field near Baku, just on the shore of the Caspian Sea.

Photo: © SCO Baku

## Project objective

The objective of the project is to contribute to turning natural resource wealth into sustainable development through capacity building of government officials, the civil society, journalists as well as members of parliament in Azerbaijan, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia. The goal is to support a transparent and accountable management of the extractive industries sector in these countries.

## Project activities and results to date

- Practical and empirical courses including “train the trainers” courses in extractive industry governance were delivered, reaching civil society actors, parliamentarians, journalists, government officials and research institutes from 14 Eurasian resource rich countries
- Khazar University in Baku built its technical and institutional capacity to an extent that it is now recognized as a regional center of technical expertise in the management of oil, gas and mining resources
- Several applied regional research papers on the country’s extractive industry and public finance management produced and published.

## Expected project results

Civil society representatives, parliamentarians, journalists and government officials from the Eurasian region will be further equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to oversee and ensure better government performance in the management of the extractive industry sector in their countries.

## Perspectives

In order to consolidate project achievements and give Khazar University a realistic chance to become a self-sustaining Knowledge Hub, SECO has approved a second phase of this project lasting from 2018 until 2020.



Swiss Ambassador Mr. Stalder (on the right) awarding certificates together with the dean of Khazar University Mr. Isaxanli  
Photo: © SCO Baku

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