

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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OUR MISSION:

To strengthen the capacity of micro-finance institutions and to promote effective collective action in advancing the interests of the micro-finance community and its clients.

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“Plan Your Future” Training in Goychay and Shamkir



Under the EU funded “Building female professionals and promoting women entrepreneurship development in rural regions of Azerbaijan” project implemented by AMFA in cooperation with MFC, training “Plan Your Future” was conducted on 24 – 25 March 2015 in Goychay region and on 4 – 5 April 2015 in Shamkir region. Rural women from both regions were trained in “Plan your Future” educational tool. The training was delivered by trainers Irada Mikayilova, Narinc Guliyeva, Nigar Huseynli, Parvana Rahimova. In total 53 women participated in the trainings.

The “Plan Your Future” module helps to change negative attitudes towards long-term financial planning and saving. It also helps training participants to acquire basic skills in the area of financial education thanks to a multitude of interactive exercises and games. After the training course, participants have identified financial goals, developed household budget and savings plan.



Gender oriented microfinance performance

High-Level Event on Women's Economic Empowerment and Sustainable Development



To highlight the importance of women and girls as central actors in moving towards sustainable development and to combine proposals for unlocking women's full economic potential in context of post-2015 framework, a high level political event is organized in Riga by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the European Commission, the Latvian government, and in close cooperation with civil society, specially women's movement and private sector.

The event is taken place in March - the thematic month dedicated to women and girls during the European Year for Development.

It would be possible to watch the live-stream from the conference at www.eu2015.lv, and at www.mfa.gov.lv. Students of the Social Sciences Faculty of the University of Latvia will provide information via social media. Using the hashtag #gender2015 on Twitter, all have an opportunity to put questions to the panel speakers.

The event was feature a press conference with participation of Latvian MFA Parliamentary State Secretary for EU Affairs Zanda Kalniņa-Lukaševica and the Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development Neven Mimica.

PASHA Bank successfully concluded its 4th business journalism programme

PASHA Bank, one of Azerbaijan's leading banks, is pleased to report that journalists taking part in its business journalism training programme have completed a one-week educational trip to the UK. This trip marks the final stage of the Bank's project to promote best practice business journalism in Azerbaijan, which it implemented with the support of the British Council and the Thomson Foundation.

During this trip, Azerbaijani journalists visited a range of global mass media organizations, including the Telegraph and the BBC, to learn how British news agencies operate and to gain one-to-one advice from their foreign counterparts. In addition, the programme participants visited the London Stock-Exchange and the Houses of Parliament.

The key aim of this project was to give Azerbaijan's leading business and economic journalists the unique opportunity to gain exposure to European media practices and to acquire new skills that they will then be able to apply in their day-to-day work. PASHA Bank places such projects at the heart of its Social Responsibility Programme.

AccessBank named Best Bank by Global Finance

Global Finance magazine named AccessBank the Best Bank in Azerbaijan in its 2015 Awards

Baku, March 18, 2015. The Global Finance magazine has named AccessBank the “Best Bank in Azerbaijan” in its 2015 Awards for “Best Emerging Markets Banks in Asia-Pacific”. The Global Finance editors - with input from industry analysts, corporate executives and banking experts - selected the best emerging market banks in 25 countries. Criteria for choosing the winners included growth in assets, strategic relationships, customer service, competitive pricing, and innovative products.

Michael Hoffmann, CEO of AccessBank welcoming the announcement commented: “The Award from such reputable institution as Global Finance reflects the success and hard work of the Bankers of AccessBank striving every day for providing highest level service and banking products to our clients.

“Banking markets around the world are changing dramatically in the face of a new regulatory landscape and changing conditions. Some global players are reducing their footprints and product lines, while some regional and local players are expanding beyond their home markets,” said Joseph D. Giarraputo, publisher and editorial director of *Global Finance*. “We honor those banks that have the deepest commitment to the markets in which they operate and understanding of the specific needs of customers based in those markets.”

This is the twenty-second year that the magazine has selected top banking performers in emerging markets. The report covers best banks in Latin America, Central & Eastern Europe, Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and Africa.

Global Finance Magazine reports on the international finance sector, covering such topics as corporate finance, joint ventures, country profiles etc. The magazine also holds several awards ceremonies throughout the year to recognize the winning financial institutions and companies. The largest of these ceremonies is held contemporary to the IMF and World Bank annual meetings.

AccessBank was founded in 2002 by BSTDB, EBRD, IFC, KfW, the German consulting company LFS Financial Systems (LFS) and Access Holding. AccessBank provides loans to micro and small businesses and has a wide network of branches in Azerbaijan employing more than 2000 people. Fitch Ratings assessed AccessBank as BBB-, the highest credit rating among all banks in Azerbaijan.

AMFA TRAINING CALENDAR

in the frame “Building female professionals and promoting women entrepreneurship development in rural regions of Azerbaijan” project funded by European Union

Training on Financial Education:

(For female borrowers)

27-28 April, 2015– Goychay

7-8 May, 2015– Zagatala

14-15 May, 2015– Bilasuvar

26-27 May, 2015– Shamkir

Any organizations and representatives who are willing to participate in the mentioned trainings, please contact with Sevinj Rustamova, AMFA Project Manager, via srustamova@mail.ru

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