

ERASMUS+ Partner Identification

A. PARTNER ORGANISATION	
PIC number	E10357125
Full legal name of the institution (National Language)	Torpaqşünaslıq və Aqrokimya İnstitutu
Full legal name of the institution (Latin characters)	Institute of Soil Science & Agrochemistry
Acronym	TAI
Official Legal Status	Higher Education and Research Organizations
Postal address	Baku, Mammad Rahim street 5
Country	Azerbaijan
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B. PROFILE	
Type of organisation	Higher Education and Research Organizations
Is the partner organisation a public body?	yes
Is the partner organisation a non-profit?	no
C. BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE	
<p>Please briefly present the partner organisation.</p>	<p>The Institute of Soil Science & Agrochemistry of Azerbaijan, established in 1945, originated from the Soil Science Department of the Azerbaijan branch of the former USSR Academy of Sciences. Since its inception, the institute has been dedicated to the study, classification, and mapping of Azerbaijani territories; soil, fertilizer, water, and plant analyses; determination of irrigation suitability, as well as addressing salinity, alkalinity, and reclamation issues. The institute conducts research on soil fertility preservation and optimal utilization. The institute comprises 17 specialized laboratories in various branches of Soil Science and Agrochemistry, with a total of 266 researchers, including 6 professors and 65 associate professors. The laboratories focus on different aspects of soil science, contributing to the overall research efforts. Currently operating under the Ministry of Education and Science of Azerbaijan, the institute also engages in postgraduate education activities. Presently, there are 34 Ph.D. students enrolled in the institute. The Institute of Soil Science & Agrochemistry has played a pioneering role in several initiatives, notably producing the first-ever "Soil Map of Azerbaijan" and the "Ecological Atlas of the Republic of Azerbaijan," both published in three languages. The institute's extensive expertise</p>

	and commitment to advancing soil science contribute significantly to agricultural research and sustainable land management in Azerbaijan.
What are the activities and experience of the organisation in the areas relevant for this application?	The Institute of Soil Science & Agrochemistry of Azerbaijan is actively engaged in a range of activities relevant to this project, focusing on field, greenhouse, and laboratory studies, as well as soil and plant analyses. Their expertise lies in determining the most economical types and quantities of fertilizers to ensure optimal crop yield. This involves studying the specific conditions that fertilizers may create in the soil, examining the micro and macro element status of the soil, and investigating how different crops respond to various fertilizers. The institute is committed to renewing and establishing data related to the general characteristics of Azerbaijani soils. Key areas of research and application include the development of agricultural soil, plant, and fertilizer analysis methods, creating and maintaining a soil database, conducting soil studies and mapping, and providing consultancy for institute projects and commissions. The institute also focuses on researching the viability of soil organisms in agricultural fields, contributing to the understanding of their benefits. They actively participate in addressing issues such as soil pollution and the sustainability of soil fertility. However, it's essential to note that the methods employed within the institute are still based on techniques from the USSR era. The processes for evaluating new laboratory analysis methods have not been completed. Consequently, there is a significant lack of information regarding fertilizers and fertilizer activities used to increase crop yields per unit area in Azerbaijan. This knowledge gap contributes to the underdevelopment of the domestic fertilizer production sector and the uncontrolled use of chemical fertilizers from abroad, leading to environmental pollution. As part of the project, the institute aims to address this knowledge gap by learning the expectations of Azerbaijani farmers. It will provide guidance on how to select the appropriate products, offering support in directing farmers based on accurate information. The institute will actively engage in the project, facilitating meetings between Azerbaijani farmers and the project team, conducting fieldwork, and collecting data at every stage.
Would you like to make any comments or add any information to the summary of your organisation's past participation?	The Institute of Soil Science & Agrochemistry has a rich history of participation in international projects, evidenced by collaborative efforts with various institutions worldwide. The cooperation with the institute has led to the preparation and publication of research outputs, including articles in peer-reviewed journals and the creation of ecological atlases. Notably, the institute's contributions to projects involving soil quality assessment, environmental monitoring, and sustainable land use have been substantial, reinforcing its role as a valuable partner in collaborative endeavors.
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E. CONTACT PERSON	
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