

## Aykhan Ibrahimov, Owner of Zamanoglu Textile - Azerbaijan



After returning from military service, Aykhan registered himself at the employment centre of Azerbaijan. Not knowing what kind of job to pursue.

Fortunately, his life took a turn for the better when he took the Generate Your Business and Start Your Business modules in 2016 as part of “Partnerships for Youth Employment in the Commonwealth of Independent States” ILO project.

The training helped him generate a viable business idea in line with his skills and family background, which led him to start his own retail business. After only two months of training, he submitted his business plan and as soon as he got all the necessary equipment, he started his business in June 2017.

According to Aykhan, the follow up session with his trainer and the continuous coaching that followed his training was decisive for the success of his company. In fact, after only 10 months he was already in a position to expand and to hire new employees. He therefore was able to involve his father and brother and to run his company as a family business.

Aykhan’s business is still expanding; he just bought more equipment and hired four new employees and has no intention of stopping here. Aykhan is planning to open one more shop and one day hopefully, turn the whole business into a couture house. After all his achievements, he is confident he is equipped with the right skills to succeed.

*“I want to tell every young person, don’t worry and follow your dreams. You just have to try and believe in yourself.”*