

Newsletter DVV International in Kyrgyzstan

2024



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development



Dear friends, we invite you to read the news of DVV International in Kyrgyzstan about events in the field of adult education in the country and abroad in 2024.

DVV International is an international professional organization that works in the field of adult learning and education (ALE), and cooperates in the field of development and international cooperation. We work on the basis of a holistic concept of education that equally takes into account the economic, social and personal development of people. An important area of our work is improving access to ALE for disadvantaged groups.

DVV International achieves its goals by operating **in three areas: Promoting development and cooperation through projects, developing and expanding expertise, and improving framework conditions worldwide.**

Through the implementation of projects that make the potential of ALE visible, in order to achieve long-term success in this area, in cooperation with our partner organizations, attempts are made to improve the legislative and financial conditions for ALE by supporting and providing advisory services to government bodies. In parallel, we support our partners, mainly from civil society, by engaging in their organizational development and raising their professional level.

we are



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Osh State University teachers master modern methods of teaching adults

Modular training programme Curriculum GlobALE (CG) was successfully completed in June for the educators of Osh State University. CG is built on four core principles: competency-oriented, action-oriented, learner-oriented, learning sustainability, and flexibility.

The implementation of the program at Osh State University is an important step towards modernizing the adult education system at the university. The knowledge and skills acquired will help teachers improve the quality of education at the university, make it more in demand and relevant to current labor market demands.



May 2024, Osh. CG participants doing a group exercise



May 2024, Osh. CG participants doing a group exercise



June 2024, Osh. Awarding certificates to OshSU teachers on CG

Joining forces to develop Adult Education in Central Asia

DVV International regional staff meeting in February in Tashkent is an important event in the framework of strategic management and coordination of the organization's activities in Central Asia. This is a unique opportunity for DVV International employees from Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Germany to meet, exchange ideas, discuss key aspects of work in light of current and future projects and initiatives.



February 2024, Tashkent. Staff of DVV International office in Kyrgyzstan at the workshop



February 2024, Tashkent. Regional Director for Central Asia leads the presentation

The programme of the event included:

- **Strategic planning:** Participants discussed current and prospective projects of the organisation, identified priority areas of activity and developed an action plan for the nearest period.
- **Experience exchange:** Colleagues shared successful practices of project implementation, discussed current challenges in adult education and developed joint initiatives.
- **Digital Transformation:** The issues of introducing digital technologies into the organisation's activities to improve the efficiency and accessibility of educational services were discussed.
- **Strengthening of friendly, partnership relations:** The event served as a platform for expanding cooperation and establishing friendly relations.

Project “ Youth Go ”

In 2024 DVV International, in collaboration with the Institute for Youth Development (IYD), launched a two-year project “Youth Go” - "Youth Empowerment for Digital Governance", funded by the European Union and co-financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

Project objectives: To create an enabling environment for active youth participation in governance and digitalization of services, which is considered key to the development of democracy at the community level. Protection of civil and political rights of youth in Kyrgyzstan, increasing youth participation in local governance, empowerment, and engagement through digital tools and media.

The project covers **27 rural communities** And **2 small towns in all 7 regions of Kyrgyzstan**. In total, the project affects about **275,000 people** as final beneficiaries. The target groups of the project are: State employees - more than 580 employees from district and local administrations, village councils, civil activists - more than 430 members of local public organizations, youth - about 16,700 young people, including high school students and students.

The launch events held in the southern and northern regions of the country marked the beginning of the project. As a result of a large-scale information campaign and competitive selection, twenty-nine rural districts and small towns and twenty-nine youth initiatives from different regions of the country were identified for the joint implementation of the project.



May 2024, Bishkek. Group photo at the kick-off meeting



June 2024, Naryn. Participant of the working meeting

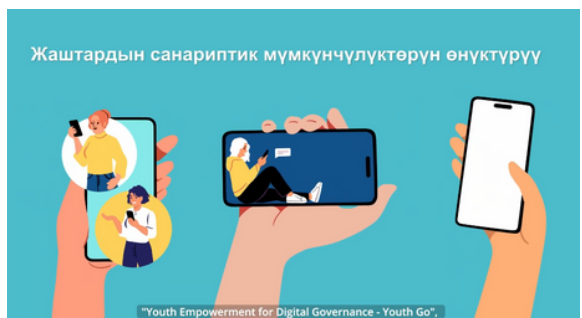
Project “ Youth Go ”

The project included two large-scale studies: **the National Baseline Survey (NBS) and the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA)**. The NBS assessed the state of digital public services and identified the needs of young people for digital solutions. The PRA focused on rural residents, studying their participation in local government and identifying barriers. The research results were presented at a round table with the participation of representatives of district administrations of 7 regions, the Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports, and Youth Policy of Kyrgyzstan, the German Embassy in Bishkek, the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic, GIZ, and other project partners. The discussion helped identify further steps to develop digital opportunities for young people and rural communities.

In autumn, 29 representatives of youth organizations and initiative groups from seven regions of the country received training on civic engagement, human rights, participation in decision-making and solving local problems. We decided to find out the opinion of a participant from the Batken region.

"The training was very useful, on rights, leadership skills, active participation in community events, and also on involving young people. Now when we return to our villages, we will involve young people in active participation and help them develop."

You can get brief information about the project by scanning the QR code.



Fruitful partnership with the Center for Innovative Technologies and Education (CITO)

In 2024, in cooperation with the Central Institute of Traumatology and Orthopaedics, professional and civic courses in various areas were organized to assist internal migrants in acquiring new skills and expanding employment opportunities. Such as:

- masseur
- shoe repairmen
- electrician

After completing the courses, at least 30% of graduates are employed and invited to work in their field of study.

Civil courses were also held :

- Digital literacy and the use of mobile applications of state registration services,
- Legal advice on documentation and registration of property, civil relations in state registration services.



Meetings of the Council of Social Partners

Social partnership plays a major role in promoting activities. By consolidating the efforts of partner organizations, it becomes possible to implement events more quickly and effectively. Information interaction helps avoid duplication of activities in the field of ALE.



April 2024, Bishkek. Meeting of social partners

Media products in 2024

Lifelong learning as a trend should take root in the minds of people, thereby promoting the development of society. In this context, the state needs to recognize and support this area of education as one of the most effective in economic development. The media program for the promotion of lifelong learning will allow for a better understanding and acceptance of the culture of lifelong learning using modern innovative teaching methods. Through the created media products, it will be possible to widely disseminate lifelong learning as a “habit” and a need of the modern world. To implement this activity, a media concept for the promotion of lifelong learning for 2024 through TV, you tube and social networks. A memorandum was signed with Channel 7. Reports were prepared on the advantages of ALE, success stories of adults who have achieved financial independence. A new project, the Umtul Podcast, was launched, where guests in the studio talk about adult education.



July 2024, Bishkek. During the filming of the Umtul podcast



June 2024, Bishkek. CITO meeting with media partners

Conference “Challenges of transformation of adult education in Kyrgyzstan and possible joint actions”



April 2024, Bishkek. Group photo of Conference participants

In Kyrgyzstan, as in many other countries, ALE is part of the continuous education system, which provides access to education throughout life. It allows people to adapt to changing conditions, acquire new knowledge and skills, and realize their potential. The conference in Bishkek became a platform for exchanging experience and information in the field of AIE.

Some of the key points that were voiced were:

- **Adult education is an important part of sustainable development.** It enables people to adapt to changing labour market conditions and improve their competitiveness.
- **There is a need to raise awareness of the importance of adult education.** Informing people about their rights to education and the educational programs available is key to increasing participation in this area.
- **Partnerships between different stakeholders need to be developed:** Governments, NGOs, businesses and other stakeholders must work together to ensure access to adult education for all.
- **Research and analytics:** the key to systematic promotion of adult education in Kyrgyzstan.

Adult Education Festival



May 2024, Karakol. Awarding of participants of the contest "On the podium after 50+"

The annual Adult Education Festival in 2024 was held in Karakol city in May. The event is becoming a good tradition that brings together education enthusiasts who strive for new knowledge and development.

The goal of the initiative : to draw attention to adult education as a powerful tool for improving the lives of each individual and society as a whole. The program included a round table, master classes, a fair, competitions, performances by local dance groups, etc. The festival was organized by the Kyrgyz Adult Education Association with the support of DVV International in Kyrgyzstan, the Karakol local authorities.



May 2024, Karakol. Representatives of local self-government and NGOs at the round table during the Festival.

"TRUST – TogetherR Unite efforts for regional Stability"



May 2024, Osh, Kyrgyzstan. Project presentation at the launch event



October 2024, Uzbekistan. Photo of the participants of the regional workshop

In 2024, a regional two-year project “TRUST – TogetherR Unite efforts for regional Stability” was launched. This project, covering Kyrgyzstan (Batken district and Osh city), Tajikistan (Isfara and Kanibadam districts) and Uzbekistan (Besharik and Kuvasay districts), is aimed at supporting sustainable peace and developing good-neighborliness in the Fergana Valley.

The project is being implemented with the support of the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as in cooperation with partners: the Public Association “Youth of Osh ” in Kyrgyzstan, NGO " Mehrjon " in Uzbekistan and Public Organization "Saodat" in Tajikistan.

Project objectives:

- Strengthening the capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) in the Fergana Valley to enhance their effective participation in the peacebuilding process;
- Promoting peaceful coexistence, good neighborliness, and cross-border trust in the border communities of the Fergana Valley;
- Strengthening cross-border peace dialogue through the promotion of a culture of peace.

JOINT EFFORTS

KEY EVENTS IN 2024

PROJECT KICK-OFF MEETING

In March, a project kick-off meeting was held in Fergana, attended by all partners from the three countries, where we identified further steps, discussed communication channels between the organizations, familiarized ourselves with financial rules and procedures, and clarified the roles of each partner for the successful implementation of the project. In May, kick-off events were also held in three project countries with the aim of familiarizing interested parties and local partners with the project.

REGIONAL INTRODUCTORY METHODOLOGICAL SEMINAR

In April, a "Regional Introductory Methodological Seminar for Project Team Members" was held in Fergana. The seminar was attended by 17 people from the teams of DVV International, NGO "Mekhrzhon", Public Association "Youth" of Osh and the Public Organization "Saodat".

LOCAL ADVISORY GROUPS

Local Advisory Groups (LAGs) were established in each of the target districts, each consisting of at least seven people. The LAGs included representatives of civil society, local authorities, district and regional structures, local leaders, religious figures and law enforcement officials. During the summer, workshops on "Good and Effective and Good Neighbourly Relations" were held for the LAGs.

The main objectives of the seminars:

To deepen participants' understanding of key conflict-related concepts

Developing participants' knowledge and skills in the field of tolerance and diversity

Strengthening the capacity of LAG members and decision makers to apply conflict sensitive approaches and improve neighbourly relations in border communities

Discussion with participants of key criteria and principles for cross-border and peacebuilding initiatives planned within the project.

CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN PEACEBUILDING AND CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION IN THE FERGANA VALLEY

In 2024, the project launched a program to strengthen the capacity of non-profit organizations and initiative groups in the Fergana Valley, with an emphasis on peacebuilding and the development of cross-border cooperation. Through an open competition, 16 registered non-profit organizations and 8 initiative groups from Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were selected.

The following activities were carried out within the framework of the program:

- Regional Workshops on Peacebuilding and Conflict Sensitivity: Participants were introduced to key peacebuilding concepts and conflict management techniques to help them work effectively in cross-border contexts
- Project Development and Design Thinking Workshop: During the workshop, participants learned the skills of planning social projects and using innovative approaches to solve local problems
- Seminar on Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and Risk Assessment (RA): Participants gained practical skills in risk assessment and working with local communities to improve resilience and safety at the site level.

This programme is an important step in strengthening the capacity of organisations and groups working in the field of peacebuilding and promotes sustainable development and strengthened cooperation in the region.

Expanding entrepreneurship opportunities in Kyrgyzstan: libraries as adult learning centers

Entrepreneurship development is one of the key areas of state policy in Kyrgyzstan. Libraries, as centers of access to information and knowledge, play an important role in this process, providing the population with the opportunity to obtain the necessary knowledge and skills to open and run their own business. Within the framework of the project "Expanding access to informal adult education in public libraries of Kyrgyzstan", implemented by the Information Resource Centers (IRC) with the support of DVV International, a training for librarian trainers on the topic "Basics of entrepreneurship and business planning" was held. The knowledge gained allowed librarians to develop a 60-hour entrepreneurship curriculum tailored to local community needs and conduct on-site training. The courses have already been completed by 230 people from different regions of the country. The course program includes: Theoretical classes on the legal basis for starting a business, drawing up a business plan and the basics of marketing. Practical classes, such as excursions to successful enterprises, meetings with entrepreneurs and establishing business contacts.



April 2024, Bishkek. Participants of the course on the basics of entrepreneurship in the library n.aft. Chokmorov



You can see feedback from the participants of the course on the basics of entrepreneurship on our YouTube channel by scanning the QR code.

Peace Clubs as a tool for developing a culture of peace in local communities

From May to October 31, 2024 project “Promoting Social Cohesion through Peace Clubs” was implemented by the Institute for Peace and Development (IPD) in partnership with DVV International with financial support from GIZ. As a component of the PREVECA project, this project supports peacebuilding at the local level by promoting the values of tolerance, a culture of peace and social cohesion. As part of the project, 20 peace club coordinators from the Osh and Issyk-Kul regions underwent a **training for trainers** on the topics of identity, critical thinking, online safety, analysis tools and forum theatre. These sessions provided the coordinators with tools to increase awareness and resilience in their communities.

Over 180 young leaders attended ten **local workshops** on critical thinking and social media safety to prevent involvement in violent groups. **Forum theatre workshops** allowed participants to master the forum theatre methodology, creating productions with trainers that highlight current youth issues. Peace clubs in the project locations implemented **10 initiatives and held 26 events**, reaching **more than 3,000 people**.



October 2024, Osh. Participant of the Peace Club at the flash mob



October 2024, Nookat. Greeting the participants of the workshop



October 2024, Nookat. Forum theatre performance

Peace Clubs as a tool for developing a culture of peace in local communities



September 2024, Osh. At the local training on critical thinking

These events contributed to the creation of more inclusive and safe communities, and also provided young people with the opportunity to demonstrate leadership skills and contribute to the development of peace in the regions. The project successfully carried out **An online campaign** to promote a culture of peace, diversity and non-violence. More than 400 social media **posts reached over 440,000 users**, raising awareness of the importance of tolerance, non-violence and intercultural dialogue and strengthening social cohesion at the local level. Peace Clubs and their initiatives help young people in Kyrgyzstan build unity, security and social harmony in their communities. Education, training and active participation of youth leaders create a culture of peace that contributes to strengthening social cohesion and a sustainable future.

Fruitful cooperation with the Public Foundation “Den-Sooluk Nuru”

A new ‘Cook’ training class was opened in vocational school No. 1 of correctional institution No.3. The public foundation ‘Den Sooluk Nuru’ in co-operation with the Service for the Execution of Punishments under the Ministry of Justice of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic renovated the premises and equipped the new classroom with all the necessary equipment. From 1 September, a pilot cooking course for 12 inmates has been running for 300 hours.

The project was implemented within the framework of the initiative ‘Reintegration through Adult Learning and Education’ with the support of DVV International.



October 2024, Novo-Pokrovka. Opening of the cook training class

Kurak patchwork as a path to self-realization: adult education in the village of Ivanovka

Training program The Kurak course, organized in 2024 by **ADRA Kyrgyzstan** with the support of DVV International, is a shining example of how adult education can be a powerful tool for the development of rural communities. It demonstrates that traditional crafts, combined with modern approaches to learning and entrepreneurship, can be the key to economic prosperity and social harmony in rural areas. Courses include:

- **Basics of kurak** (various techniques, from simple to complex patterns, compositions with traditional Kyrgyz motifs and modern design solutions)
- **Selection and processing of materials** (preparation of materials, working with different textures, taking into account the environmental friendliness of the method)
- **Design and engineering** (creating your own sketches, developing your individual style)
- **Marketing** (women learn how to present their products in a presentable manner, and how to promote goods using modern social tools).

The results of the program are impressive! Many participants were able to create their own unique products and present them at various fairs. This allowed not only to replenish the budget of the Ivanovo craftswomen's family, but also to gain confidence and increase their social status. Moreover, kurak became a way of self-expression and creative self-realization for them.



May 2024, Bishkek. At the charity fair «From Heart to Heart»



April 2024, Ivanovka village. Participants of the course on kurak technique

Decade of the ALE 2024

A significant event of 2024 was the next Decade of the Adult Education and Learning, which took place from October 1 to 10. The Decade started with a press conference, where Deputy Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic Abazbek uulu Rasul, Regional Director of DVV International Galina Veramejchyk speech. This year, large-scale events were held such as a job fair, a master class from the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic, a charity fair, master classes on supporting inclusion through art, thematic discussions, open days in public libraries across the country and others.



October 2024, Bishkek. Speaking at the programme, Channel 7



October 2024, Bishkek. Vacancy Fair

Decade of the ALE 2024

One of the important events within the Decade was the scientific and practical conference "Development of Andragogy in Kyrgyzstan: Prerequisites and Challenges", which was attended by experts from Kyrgyzstan, Belarus and Uzbekistan, representatives of the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic, the rector of the Kyrgyz State University, leading scientists, representatives of international organizations and practitioners in the field of andragogy . The event discussed the following topics: the contribution of civil society organizations and international organizations to the development of ALE, the formation of andragogy as an independent discipline, the role of universities in the development of adult education, the development of human resources and the system of training specialists for ALE, etc. As a result, recommendations were developed for further steps in the development of andragogy and the system of training personnel in Kyrgyzstan.



October 2024, Bishkek. Conference within the framework of the Decade of ALE, presentations of successful cases



October 2024, Bishkek. Conference within the framework of the ALE Decade, Speaker's presentations

Supporting partner organizations in increasing their capacity

DVV International continues to support capacity building of partner organizations through Curriculum ManagerALE modul training programme for leaders. In May 2024, the course for directors of public libraries began. Participants managed to complete 3 modules, where they expanded their knowledge of adult education, learned the principles of effective cooperation, internal management, and leadership skills.



September 2024, Chok-Tal village. Group photo of CM participants



September 2024, Chok-Tal village. Participants group work on the second module of CM

In 2024, DVV International initiated the international ALESBA project to improve adult education systems

ALESBA (Adult Learning and Education System Building Approach) is an approach to building adult education and training systems. It aims to support governments, civil society organizations, universities and other stakeholders in building sustainable education systems for youth and adults. ALESBA provides a conceptual framework and tools for assessing, designing, implementing and improving adult education systems.

The project implementation includes 6 activities, which include the following stages: consensus building, training of master trainers in Sri Lanka together with colleagues from Laos and Jordan, selection of the Joint Evaluation Group (national and regional), training of the Joint Evaluation Groups, evaluation, data collection and systematization, as well as documentation of the evaluation results and preparation of the report.



June 2024, Sri Lanka. Workshop participants



June 2024, Sri Lanka. Workshop participants from Kyrgyzstan

Study visit of colleagues from Jordan to Kyrgyzstan

At the end of September, the DVV International office in Kyrgyzstan and Central Asia hosted guests from Jordan. Representatives of Jordanian training centers visited Adult Education Centers in Bishkek, Issyk-Kul and Osh regions. At the meetings, local organizations and guests exchanged experiences in the field of non-formal education.



September 2024, Bishkek. Welcoming the guests, KAEA



September 2024, Bishkek. Group photo

Development of professional competencies of young people within the framework of the dual education model in Bavaria



Ankommen
in Bayern

In September 2024, the three-year project “**Ankommen in Bayern!**” was launched. The aim of the project is to popularize an effective model for developing professional skills among young people and to expand opportunities for young people to obtain high-quality professional

education under the dual education system in Germany. Over the course of three years, the project will promote cooperation between Kyrgyz and German organizations, including

to support the study of the German language and the study of Bavarian culture;
provide preparation for admission to vocational schools;

to provide consultations on issues of acquiring a profession and dual education in the Kam district of Bavaria for young people from Osh and the Osh region.

The project also supports the advanced training of teachers and trainers involved in the development of cooperation between the Kam District and the Osh Region.

Project funded by European Union.



October 2024, Osh. Meeting at the Aga Khan school



October 2024, Osh. Project partners meeting

DVV International builds connections and networking

As an expert organization in the field of adult education, DVV International continues to participate in sustainable development events organized by local and international organizations. We took part in the first meeting of the Working Group on the Development of Non-Formal Vocational Education and Skills in Kyrgyzstan, organized by the “Cheber” project.

We also support initiatives aimed at building a peaceful future in Central Asia and took part in the “Yntymak Week ” in Osh and Bishkek.

At the final conference of the project “Preventing Violent Extremism in Central Asia” organized by GIZ, we presented the successful results of the project “Promoting Social Cohesion through Peace Clubs”.



October 2024, Bishkek October 2024, Bishkek On final PREVECA Conference



September 2024, Osh. Group photo at Yntymak Week

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