



«СОРОС-КЫРГЫЗСТАН» ФОНДУ
ФОНД «СОРОС-КЫРГЫЗСТАН»
SOROS FOUNDATION - KYRGYZSTAN



ANNUAL REPORT
2015

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SOROS FOUNDATION - KYRGYZSTAN

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Foreword



Dear Friends, Partners and Colleagues,

You are about to read the annual report of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan for 2015. This year we continued supporting civil initiatives which promote human rights, inclusive education, open educational resources, develop public spaces and enhance government accountability, including through the open data policy.

We promote civic participation and human rights protection. Our focus is on ensuring the respect for human rights in the broadest possible sense, as human rights are not limited by constitutional rights. When we speak about the rights, we mean the right to quality education for all, the right to a healthy clean environment, the rights for the most vulnerable and defenseless citizens, and we strongly believe in the SFK's mission - to protect these rights and to ensure equal and fair treatment.

As for citizen's responsibilities, we believe that authority is a tool to serve the people, rather than an advantage in the political struggle. Thus, the transparency and accountability of the state to its citizens is a prerequisite for sustainable development. In turn, we, as a public organization, commit ourselves to ensure the transparency of our work by publishing this annual report with detailed information on the activities implemented and initiatives supported.

2015 was quite difficult for Kyrgyzstan, bringing both challenges and opportunities, and the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan devoted our best efforts to being as flexible and responsive to civil society initiatives as possible.

In 2016, we look forward to working with old and new partners in building a constructive dialogue between the government and the society for the benefit of the development of Kyrgyzstan.

Once again, I would like to thank all our partners, experts, and government authorities for their support and cooperation!

Sincerely,

Shamil Ibragimov
Executive Director
Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan

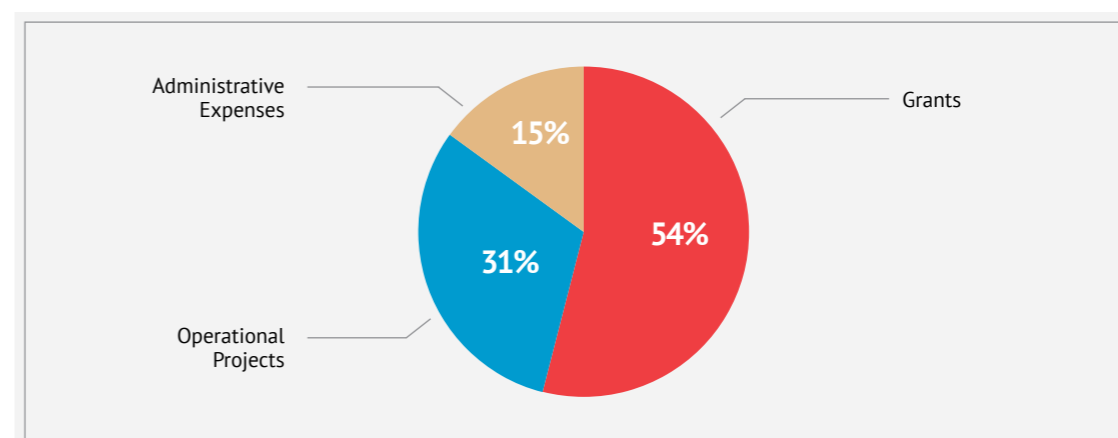
Overall Statistics for 2015

In 2015, the activities of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan were funded by the Open Society Institute (New York).

Over 19.5 million soms were contributed by SFK to the national budget (as social contributions, income and other taxes). In 22 years of SFK's existence, the country gratuitously received more than 86.4 million US dollars.

Program expenses	100%	3 327 013
Grants	54%	2 106 814
Operational projects	31%	1 220 199
Administrative expenses	15%	575 232

Total budget of Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan in 2015 - \$3 902 245



Program	Budget, \$	Proportion of the grant budget. Share of the program in the SFK's grant budget
The Public Health Program	1 069 811	41%
The Law Program	637 915	12%
The Freedom of Information Program	533 625	11%
The Educational Program	494 612	15%
The Youth Program	312 399	11%
The Natural Resources Governance Program	278 651	10%
Total	3 327 013	100%

The Public Health Program

In 2015, as part of advocacy efforts to promote palliative care, the Public Health Program secured a registration for morphine tablets, and their inclusion in the Program on State Guarantees of the KR Mandatory Health Insurance Fund, which greatly improved the situation with access to pain relief medication for patients suffering from incurable cancer. In addition, SFK together with partners held a number of charitable actions in March last year to collect donations for bringing the first batch of the drug to the country and distributing it free of charge among patients in need of palliative care in cancer centers in Bishkek, Osh and Jalal-Abad. Existing projects continued providing outpatient palliative care in Bishkek and Osh, and two new projects were launched – to develop the KR Palliative Care Association (the second parallel project), and to strengthen the access to legal aid for patients and their families.

Advocacy efforts of the Program at the national level, launched in 2015, included an initiative to advocate for public funding for HIV prevention and harm reduction programs for key populations. In October 2015, SFK and UNODC supported a high-level meeting, at which the KR Government made a commitment to provide public funding for HIV prevention programs for key population groups. Through technical support from SFK and UNODC, a working group under the KR Ministry of Health was established, responsible for developing a plan of transition to state funding in 2017. For this purpose, the Ministry of Health already reserved 20 million soms in the national budget with 20% annual increase in the medium-term budget for 2017-2018.

Besides this, the Program contributed to the training of palliative care specialists through further implementation of training on the respective subject in the Kyrgyz State Medical Institute of Retraining and Advanced Training, a study tour to Belarus, a session on palliative care at the I Congress of General and Family Medicine Practitioners, and training on pediatric palliative care. In addition, the Program developed and lobbied a number of regulatory documents aiming to institutionalize palliative care in the health system, and optimized the legal framework on the use of opioids for pain relief in palliative care patients. Together with the Ministry of Health, the Program began working on the development of children's palliative care in the country. A respective working group is now conducting a needs study to inform the development in 2016 of country recommendations on the promotion of children's palliative care.





At the end of 2015, the country registered three generic versions of sofosbuvir, an innovative and highly effective drug for the treatment of hepatitis C, which was made possible through the active advocacy work of the Program and partners from non-governmental sector on amending the KR Patent Law, and comprehensive interaction with other parties, including pharmaceutical companies to lower drug prices. This brought a radical treatment solution for tens of thousands of patients, who were previously unable to use original brand name drugs for treatment because of the very high cost.

As part of the project to provide community mental health services by multidisciplinary teams (MTs) in 6 oblasts of Kyrgyzstan, community care was provided to more than 120 families of patients with a severe mental illness, and more than 850 visits were paid to patients at home. MT model was taught to 24 employees of the Family Medicine Center No.8. Ten families with mental problems residing in Chui oblast received support for improving their living conditions through repair and construction. As part of the promotion of psycho-social care for people with mental health problems, a pilot course on medical psychology and clinical social work was conducted for 10 social workers from rayon social protection units in Osh city and Karasu rayon of Osh oblast, and 6 psychologists. Teaching materials for 144-hour pilot training were developed.



Advocacy work implemented by the Program and partners at the level of the Country Coordinating Mechanism for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria under the KR Government allowed to increase the amount of funding in the country's application to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria for the 2016-2017, even under a sharp funding limitation, and for the first time in history to find additional financial resources in the amount of 180 thousand US dollars for the removal of legal barriers and the provision of legal aid to vulnerable groups.

The Program has successfully cooperated with the KR Prosecutor General's Office on the involvement of prosecution authorities in the implementation of HIV prevention and vulnerable group protection programs in Kyrgyzstan. Three training sessions for more than 80 prosecutors from all oblasts were held, the Instruction for HIV/AIDS Prevention at Prosecution Bodies and Institutions was developed, and joint monitoring of the implementation of KR laws on HIV prevention is planned for 2016.



The Program launched a new project aimed at reducing violence against vulnerable women, which resulted in the presentation of a CEDAW alternative report and binding recommendations for the country.



The Law Program

1. Supporting the judicial system reform in Kyrgyzstan

The effectiveness of the criminal protection of human rights is largely dependent on the quality of state law enforcement, and the observance of humanitarian standards in the implementation of protective and regulatory functions. In the context of the ongoing judicial reform, considerable attention was paid to the quality of the legislative process, which ultimately defines the quality of legislation itself.

The Law Program also provided expert support in the development of new draft laws: Code of Offenses, Register of Criminal Convictions and the Law on Amnesty; contributed to involvement of civil society in the discussion of draft laws being developed and considered by JK.

Thus, the Law Program, along with other donor organizations, provided expert support to Jogorku Kenesh (Parliament) of the Kyrgyz Republic in reviewing the four packages of draft legislation before the first reading at Jokorku Kenesh (JK): Criminal Code (CC), Code of Offences, Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), the draft law "On state-guaranteed legal aid" (Law on SGLA).

To increase awareness and knowledge about the development, concepts and novel legislation, outreach session and roundtables were held for initiators, employees of JK legal departments with the participation of the Government, expert working groups, civil society, the judiciary, prosecution authorities, internal affairs bodies, and the KR Bar Association.

These drafts passed the first reading in June 2015 and entrenched the concept of the Criminal Code, aimed at the humanization of criminal legislation, rejection of repressive measures and the introduction of new mechanisms of influence on the convicted person providing for re-socialization. The concept of the new CPC was also supported in part of overcoming the presumption of guilt, increasing the efficiency of pre-trial and court procedures, and ensuring the necessary procedural safeguards for defendants and victims.

After the first reading of the CPC and making comments thereto, the joint expert working group did a tremendous amount of work to finalize the draft. Coordination meetings were held with the deputies of the new, sixth convocation of JK. Two JK committees together with experts started to prepare draft laws for the second reading.



2. Contributing to the improved state-guaranteed legal aid system

On 14 January 2015, the draft law “On state-guaranteed legal aid” was posted onto the website of JK KR for public discussion. The Law Program provided the expert support at the stage of preparation for the first reading, assisted in conducting outreach sessions and expert meetings. The Program also supported the legal, human rights and anti-corruption examination. The draft law was discussed during the first reading in JK KR in June 2015.

The Law Program, together with the Leninsky rayon administration of the Bishkek Mayor’s Office, contributed to the development of a pilot project to provide free legal aid to low-income vulnerable groups. Community liaison office began to provide consulting and legal assistance in civil cases to residents of Leninsky rayon of Bishkek on a regular basis under the rayon administration. In cooperation with legal clinic “Adam jana Ukuk”, legal advice was provided onsite to residents of villages in Moskovsky rayon of Chui oblast.

For the purpose of the development of the National Agenda for the provision of legal aid to the population, the KR Bar Association, NGOs, grantees working in the field of legal aid, staff of Leninsky rayon administration of the Bishkek Mayor’s Office held the Free Legal Aid Decade in November 2015.



The Law Program supported a study visit to exchange experiences on SGLA to Slovenia and Croatia in October 2015, organized in the framework of the EU project on the rule of law. The delegation included representatives of the KR Ministry of Justice, the judiciary, the Bar Association and the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations (SALSGIER).

One of the key partners in the development of the SGLA system, along with the Ministry of Justice, was the Kyrgyz Bar Association. It received support for key initiatives such as the SGLA system, and expert and technical assistance for the implementation of the strategic development plan for 2014-2016.



3. Project «Support for the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in the Kyrgyz Republic»

Ineffective investigation into cases of torture, ill-treatment and lack of adequate punishment for their use remains an urgent problem in Kyrgyzstan. One of the problems most often faced by the authorities investigating the facts of torture and cruel treatment is a lack of and/or poor documentation of evidence of torture and cruel treatment.

To address this problem, in December 2014, the Law Program supported the Ministry of Health in the development and securing of an approval of the Practical Guide for Health Professionals on Effective Medical Documentation of Torture and Cruel Treatment, which is based on international standards and establishes a new national documentation standard, a patients’ information and referral system, and national statistical records.

For the effective implementation of the Practical Guide, the Ministry of Health approved the Comprehensive Plan for the Prevention of Violence, Torture and Cruel Treatment for 2015, which included educational and information activities providing for the inter-agency cooperation. For this purpose, a secretariat was established under the Ministry with the active involvement of the Law Program.

To support the broader implementation of the new standard on medical documentation, the Law Program supported educational activities for medicolegists, forensic medical experts, forensic psychologists and psychiatrists. As is known, expert opinions of these specialists are of high importance in cases involving allegations of torture/cruel treatment, while the application of new standards, that meet international requirements, can have a positive impact on the consideration of the cases and making fair decisions and sentences by the courts.

To introduce the Guide, workshops and meetings were also conducted with employees of other agencies such as Prosecutor General’s Office, Ministry of Internal Affairs, State Penitentiary Service, Ministry of Labor and Social Development, Ministry of Education and Science, the General Staff of the Armed Forces, etc., and information sessions for law enforcement officers.

In addition, to ensure the confidentiality of forensic and medical examinations, technical assistance was provided to equip a special office in the Republican Center of Forensic Medicine. Besides this, the Program provided equipment to Regional Forensic Examination Offices for capturing and printing traces of violence, torture and cruel treatment.

To expand torture prevention activities, the Law Program in partnership with the National Center for the Prevention of Torture and the NGO Coalition against Torture in Kyrgyzstan drafted and secured an approval of the project application to the European Commission for 2016-2017 with a total budget of 827,777 euros.

4. Supporting the implementation of recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms



Kyrgyz Citizen's Forum, June 2015.

To ensure systematic work on the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, their introduction into national policies and programs, effective inter-agency coordination and the subsequent observance of existing recommendations, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic established Coordination Council for Human Rights (CCHR) in November 2015. CCHR is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and composed of decision-makers from the Government such as Ministers' Deputies. Ministry of Justice is appointed CCHR Secretariat.

CCHR's tasks include establishing a consistent dialogue between the Government and civil society on human rights, frameworks/national programs on human rights, inter-agency cooperation and coordination to address adjacent/overlapping issues, and developing mechanisms for implementing decisions on individual complaints of treaty bodies.

The Law Program provided the following support to facilitate the institutional establishment of CCHR and its Secretariat and a more effective enforcement of UN recommendations on human rights:

- In the framework of cooperation with the UN human rights mechanisms, support was provided for the participation of CCHR Secretariat's representatives: 1) in a session of the Universal Periodic Review; 2) in a session of the UN Committee on the Rights of Migrant Workers; 3) in a session of the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;
- A seminar was conducted with the participation of international experts for the staff of CCHR Secretariat and employees in charge of human rights in every ministry to promote the institutional development of CCHR.

5. Grant competition «Monitoring and documentation of human rights»

In 2015, the Program was implementing 19 grants – eight of them started in 2014, and 11 – in 2015. The total amount of grants is \$256,282.00. Grant support contributes to the implementation of the human rights protection and promotion initiatives, such as the development of legal clinics, provision of free legal aid to vulnerable groups, prevention of torture, promotion of standards on human rights, prevention of violence against children, family violence and violence against women.

Monitoring of grantees from all oblasts was conducted in the framework of the competition.



6. Building a dialogue between the state and citizens «Kyrgyz Citizens' Forum»



Non-governmental organizations initiated a two-day civil "Kyrgyz Citizens' Forum" on 23-24 June 2015 in Bishkek, attended by 200 citizens. The aim of the Forum was to discuss the situation in the country in the context of judicial, constitutional and electoral reforms, and legislative initiatives compromising citizens' rights and freedoms, which had become a frequent practice in the past three years. Forum participants handed over the leadership of the

country their recommendations on the perspective constitutional and electoral reforms. Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev found insufficient the time for the discussion of amendments to the Constitution proposed by JK members and asked the authors of the draft law to formally withdraw the same.

The Forum had four sessions: 1) «My constitution is my amulet»; 2) «Kyrgyzstan in the real economy»; 3) «Citizens' expectations of the future Parliament»; 4) «Voices of the oblasts».

The event was preceded by eight regional forums held from 15 to 20 June 2015. The civil forum format was recognized an effective form of public discourse.



Osh Urban Forum 2015

The Youth Program

In recent years, our society has been faced with numerous challenges leading to significant social problems. The majority of them can be solved through effective public administration featuring citizens' participation in decision-making, both directly and through civil society organizations. Effective public administration must be based on sustainable interaction and dialogue between the authorities and society, including at the local level. Close cooperation of local authorities and civil society allows involving citizens in solving actual problems both at regional and local levels.

Increasing urbanization, high levels of internal migration to urban areas, exclusion of citizens from the social life of their localities, inaccessibility of social services for internal migrants in most areas of the country, including major cities - all these factors lead to increased marginalization, especially among youth, and hampers the effective cooperation between the authorities and society.



The Youth Program focuses its efforts on promoting social activism among young people in local communities in solving social problems by building the civilian capacity, supporting social initiatives for the development of local communities, and creating conditions for effective cooperation with municipalities.



The purpose of the Youth Program

The purpose of the Youth Program is to foster active young people who share the values of an open society, universal human values, have a civic consciousness, participate in a positive social change and use new formats and communication technologies.

In 2015, the Program supported the joint project of PF «Urban Initiatives» (Bishkek), and PAs «Central Asian Alliance for Water» and «Youth of Osh» (Osh) to hold the Urban Forum, Kyrgyzstan's first event dedicated to the development of the city of Osh, attended by over 300 citizens, mayors and vice-mayors of Bishkek, Tokmok, Nookat, Kyzyl-Kiya, Kok-Jangak, Karakol, Maily-Suu and other cities. Along with speakers from Kyrgyzstan, participants from Russia, USA, China and Kazakhstan delivered their presentations.



The main goal of the Forum was to summarize the experience and give new impetus to research the possibilities and prospects of urban development through open discussion with municipal authorities, experts, active and indifferent citizens.

Key objectives of the Forum included:

- to involve the largest possible number of citizens in the discussion and evaluation of the proposals addressing urban issues;
- to develop practical recommendations for the establishment of a feedback between the Osh Mayor's Office and the citizens;
- to study the experience of other cities;
- to demonstrate new ideas and solutions.

The Forum was preceded by Urban Talks, public discussion of global urban trends, main development problems of the city of Osh and possible ways to solve them. Participants of Urban Talks were experts from different fields of knowledge, proactive citizens, officials and businessmen.

The Forum was held for two days and consisted of presentations and discussions with experts, activists and citizens, various exhibitions by young architects, and the Urban Activism Festival organized in public places and places of mass gatherings - parks, squares and boulevards.

The Forum also encompassed the study «Assessment of the urban environment and the community's social capital in Osh».

Public discussion of global urban trends, main development problems of the cities and possible ways to solve them

The results of this study, together with the results of the Forum, were presented to the Osh Mayor's Office.

At the Urban Forum, the Osh Mayor's Office and PA «Youth of Osh», one of the organizers of the events in Osh and our partner in the oblast, signed a cooperation agreement.

Another initiative supported by the Program was a project of PA «Institute for Youth Development» entitled «JashtarCamp-2015», an annual national youth event timed to the Youth Day in Kyrgyzstan. This year, the event was held for the seventh time and covered all oblasts of the country. Every year JashtarCamp brings together hundreds of young people in different cities of the country. JashtarCamp is a unique opportunity to learn about the success stories of interesting people, achievements of the youth for the current year, youth initiatives, and to find like-minded people to share ideas. In these seven years, JashtarCamp has become a recognized brand, an event willingly attended by a wide range of people such as experts, businessmen, politicians, representatives of international organizations, culture and art people, representatives of various media and civil society activists.

Lively presentations of the organizers' team in various universities every year attract a large number of young people from the oblasts. Therefore, every year we meet new participants. Today, JashtarCamp is seen as a communicative and information platform, which can be used by a variety of civil society organizations to share their strategic ideas of work.



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Photo: Theatrical play *The city where I live*,
Theater-club Mesto D..., Bishkek, November 2015.

The Freedom of Information Program

1. Facilitating the transition to digital broadcasting

Since 2010, the SFK Freedom of Information Program has been actively promoting the transition to digital broadcasting. Program's contribution included the work with the key ministries on the development of progressive legislation, technical modernization of TV channels, the development of the state order for content, sharing experience with other countries, and a large-scale information campaign for citizens. The Program provided broadcasters and independent production studios with the annual support for socially meaningful content, regular media training and advice. As part of the transition, we also worked with the civil society in the framework of special open discussion platforms.



In April 2015, the SFK Freedom of Information Program supported the launch of the national information campaign «Turn on the digit!», which included work with the population in the oblasts in the framework of the Digital Caravan, thematic lectures and speeches in the media by key campaign officials, release of video and audio clips on all TV channels, creation of the www.sanarip.kg website, distribution of posters and other printed materials, banner ads, and an SMM-campaign on social networks. The campaign also included the 1212 free hotline, which was designed to help all citizens to connect to a digital signal. The campaign was carried out in partnership with the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism, the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the National Telecommunications Agency, Republican Association of TV and Radio Relay Communications Lines, advertising agency «Quasar», and the OSCE Centre in Bishkek.



Launch of the digital broadcasting in Kyrgyzstan. June 2015

2. Media Research



In 2015, the Program carried out a number of studies on the development of the media sphere and country's preparedness for the transition to digital broadcasting, and monitored the results of the first phase of the «Turn on the digit!» information campaign.

The data obtained in the first study lead to the following conclusions: TV channels and companies delivering a TV product, support the transition to digital broadcasting: 11 TV channels surveyed noted their technical and financial readiness for the transition. The most important advantage of the transition to the digital format is the development of the national television in Kyrgyzstan. Despite difficulties associated with lack of human resources, insufficient income from advertising, high competition from foreign channels, high cost of network construction and content, the Kyrgyz TV market is ready for the transition to digital broadcasting.

In November 2015, «M-Vector» research and consulting agency in conjunction with PF «United Media Committee» analyzed the results of the first phase of the «Turn on the digit!» information campaign within the framework of the sixth wave of media measurement (held annually since 2011 to provide regular representative data on TV viewing, and the audience of print and online media, and radio). The study revealed that the first phase of the «Turn on the digit!» national information campaign resulted in 74% of the population being aware of the transition to digital broadcasting.

3. Developing local content and civil activism

The Program has for four years successfully contributed to the development and production of thematic materials on peace and ethnic diversity, regional development, civic activism, civic identity, modernization of the state language, and multilingual inclusive education as part of efforts to improve access to local socially meaningful content. In 2015, the Program expanded synergy with other topics in this field, in particular urban development issues - one of the SFK's new mainstream topics. In early April, the Program launched the project «The promotion of diversity and urban activism through art and media». In total, the project involved 12 production studios, media and non-governmental organizations, selected within the framework of the nationwide competition, which implemented eight initiatives throughout Kyrgyzstan.

The aim was to promote the ideas of diversity and urban activism by supporting civil initiatives combining media and art to involve citizens in bringing solutions to problems of their cities and communities. The project consisted of two components - social and media. As part of the social component, all initiatives targeted communities and urban spaces, covering a whole range of problems - waste, urban environment, landscaping, improvement of urban culture, preservation of historical monuments, social integration, etc. A compulsory element was the use of visual tools to enable subsequent spread of information in the media, the Internet and at public venues, including the Urban Forum, organized annually by SFK, PF «Urban Initiatives» and other partners. One of the mainstream ideas was diversity



- the peaceful coexistence of different communities, prevention of social and physical segregation of ethnic and cultural groups.

Work in parks «Elephants» and «Prigorodnoe» in Bishkek under the project «Unnamed parks» implemented by PF «Urban Initiatives», achieved publicity success and involved the local community in the restoration of parks. Two other projects implemented in collaboration with Bishkek residents - «3D Park» and «Our cozy yard» - helped to improve several more public spaces and resulted in video master classes, which were aired on the central and regional TV channels and became very popular among Internet users. Media Lab Production made a series of videos about the city environment and timed them



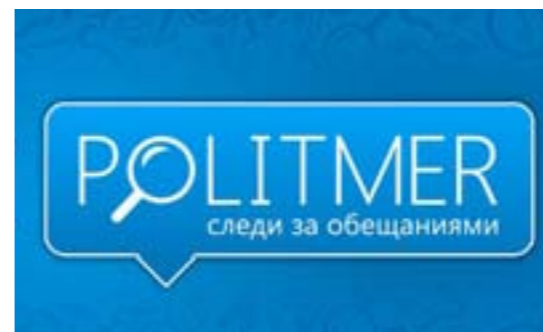
to the opening of their annual Bilim Fest, organized by PF «Initiative of Roza Otunbayeva», which in 2015 was dedicated to environmental issues.

Antares Creative Group, I-Media and PF «Rainbow» worked with children in Bishkek and Osh. The first two partners organized the bus «Kelechek», a mobile creative studio, delivering classes, educational games and activities for children from vulnerable and disadvantaged communities, and the other partner involved volunteer artists to interact with municipal kindergartens in Osh.



The aim was to promote the ideas of diversity and urban activism by supporting civil initiatives combining media and art to involve citizens in bringing solutions to problems of their cities and communities.

4. Promoting transparent elections through the Politmer.kg resource



In 2015, the goal of the project slightly changed with some other tasks coming to the fore - expanding the base of reliable data on candidates to be used by the media and voters, improving the feedback system, updating certain sections of the website, creating a mobile version of the same, increasing the number of publications and monitoring the status of political leaders' promises.

The efforts of «Politmer.kg» helped strength the civil society and the media, deliver a tool for citizens' meaningful participation in country's socio-economic and socio-political development, discuss urgent issues, receive feedback and interact with the public authorities in the most effective way possible.

The «Politmer.kg» project is aimed at monitoring political statements and promises against the real actions. The project was launched in 2011 under the leadership of PF «Civil Initiative on Internet Policy» and the Freedom of Information Program to help voters' decision-making on political leaders, providing them with the most complete information about candidates' activities, promises, programs and actual achievements. Another objective of the website was to provide substantive support to the media in the preparation of analytical materials and the organization in Kyrgyzstan of the first competitive and open electoral debate in 2011.



5. Strengthening freedom of expression, creating conditions for the growth of independent media, promoting media and digital rights



SFK support for the media and Internet freedom and human rights in the digital environment for the past 20 years has made a significant contribution to the democratization process in Kyrgyzstan. Protection of fundamental rights helped eliminate the political and information monopoly, that was the impetus for the development of a vibrant Internet community and the relative pluralism in the traditional media. In 2015, the Program had partnered with two organizations under this component - Institute for Media Policy (IMP) and PF «Civil Initiative on Internet Policy» (CIIP), which demonstrated commitment and excellent performance. In 2015, the two organizations were involved in the promotion of a liberal progressive media policy, monitored and responded to laws restricting freedom of expression and pluralism of opinions in the media and the Internet, provided professional legal support for the protection of journalists in courts, and promoted best legal practices in digital broadcasting, public information, freedom of expression and the Internet.

In 2015, IMP participated in court sessions for 20 statements of claim, with the media themselves or their representatives being one of the parties. Journalists and the media often appear in court as defendants in cases involving the protection of honor,

dignity and business reputation. The breakdown of the total number of cases against journalists by plaintiff is as follows: public entities - 10; deputies of the JK KR – 5, including 1 brought by the leader of the fraction; persons holding administrative posts - 5, and public figures - 5. Five litigation proceedings were terminated, 4 claims were satisfied. Claims' amounts totaled from 1,000 to 1.8 million soms. At this point, 9 cases are undergoing judicial proceedings.

In October, CIIP held the «Digital Rights School» project. The main target groups were civil servants, law enforcement authorities (Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Security Committee, and prosecutors), lawyers at civil society non-profit organizations, and university professors. An intensive week-long training course encompassed lectures and presentations on the following subjects: 1) e-government, electronic document, electronic digital signature; 2) access to information held by state bodies; 3) blockage of websites on the Internet, regulation of the telecommunications sector, e-governance, Internet governance; 4) development and implementation of protocols and standards; 5) intellectual property protection.

The project resulted in the successful creation of a platform for the expansion of knowledge about digital rights and the promotion of progressive legislation to protect citizens' digital rights. The «Digital Rights School» project was the first step preparing local professionals and experts for becoming experts in digital rights.

6. Open educational resources

The work done over the past two years (2014-2015) to promote the open educational resources (OER) initiative began to yield its first results. The creation and promotion of OER on the Internet have for many years remained relevant to a number of key partners at all levels – university and school professors and students, government officials, investors, etc. Many educational institutions realized that improving the quality of education requires the creation of their own free and high-quality educational content. Thus, universities and schools started to replenish their e-libraries with the necessary educational resources using their own funds.

In 2015, the Freedom of Information Program implemented a number of projects aimed at OER institutionalization (Naryn and Issyk-Kul State Universities) and creation (PFs «Children's Media Center» and «Taalim Forum»). Particular attention



was paid to the development of human capacity through training for teachers, public lectures with the participation of leading experts in OER, and the use of information technologies in education. The «Open Education» coalition on a permanent basis continued promoting OER not only in terms of their use but also the creation. In addition, a Kyrgyz Wikipedia, the largest OER in our country, follows the same dynamic development pace.

The next important step in the development of OER is supporting the copyright reform to ensure equal rights and opportunities to access information for all citizens, including persons with disabilities. The «Right to Read - Right to Knowledge» project, which began in 2015, set a global goal - to amend the KR Law «On copyright and related rights», which will significantly enhance opportunities for unimpeded use and distribution of educational and scientific content within the concept of «fair use».

7. Open data

Open data is information published by organizations owning it (in this context - state bodies) under open licenses (allowing free and non-paid processing and dissemination) in a machine-readable form (suitable for automatic re-processing).

Within the concept of open data, SFK supports the ideas of free access to public information, open government, transparency and accountability. The open data initiative enables monitoring and forecasting the level of corruption in every aspect of country's political, social and economic life.

Various mobile applications and software based on open government data have been long popular in the world. At the same time, this trend is still new in Kyrgyzstan, yet very successful. As shown by the latest results of the country assessment in the global open data rankings, Kyrgyzstan improved its position from 98th to 34th. This is also confirmed by the rating of the Open Data Hackathon Central Asia organized by the Freedom of Information Program in 2015. The main prerequisite for the successful development of the open data movement was the lack of financial resources in state bodies for automation of reports and visualization of their data. This particular reason pushed them to open the data to external developers

– which has been for long time done in the developed countries. Years of experience in these countries show that external developers together with civil society activists sometimes create much more interesting and popular products and services based on open data than those which could have been developed by state agencies.

To conduct the Open Data Hackathon Central Asia, the Freedom of Information Program supported the compilation of the largest national data set – the KR Address Register containing three million addresses in a machine-readable form. Also, more than 40 datasets from websites of KR state bodies were compiled and analyzed. The following applications were developed following the Hackathon: 1) **«Open Parliament»** (<http://kenesh.opendata-hackathon.com/>), an online application visualizing the absence and presence of JK deputies at parliamentary sessions, and their voting for particular laws, and 2) **«Open Bilim»** (<http://openbilim.opendata-hackathon.com/>) visualizing the results of the national testing with the option to filter and compare data by area, school, subject, etc.

Most importantly, more than 40 developers, programmers and designers were exposed to new knowledge on how to work with open data, and over 20 journalists learned to visualize and analyze open data using special tools.



8. Developing IT education

This year, the Freedom of Information Program took first steps towards the development of IT education in order to enhance youth employment in technology and innovation areas of the economy that have demonstrated a stable economic growth and a high workers' standards of wellbeing.

Earlier this year, the Program launched the development and implementation of the new standard on Informatics for schools that teach programming starting from the 5th grade. In the age of information technology, each student has to study computer science and programming as it helps to develop logic thinking, independent problem solving capacity, and stimulates interest in programming as the future profession. In today's world, IT and Programming are among the three most promising and highly paid professions, despite the fact that everyone can learn programming, regardless of gender and age.

To present the new Informatics standard to the greatest possible number of teachers, the Program together with the KR Ministry of Education and Science organized a country-wide meeting of computer science teachers, attended by more than 220 teachers from all oblasts of the country. All of their recommendations were taken into account when finalizing the standard to prepare the same for piloting in 2016 with the SFK support.



To promote programming as a profession among youth, the Freedom of Information Program supported Kyrgyzstan's participation in the Hour of Code global campaign. During the campaign, more than 170 million school and university students around the world had a lesson on basics of coding (programming). In just three years, the Hour of Code became the largest educational event in the history of mankind. In 2015, more than 5.5 thousand young people in 40 educational institutions became the part of the movement. The largest number of participants (86%) accounted for school students. The majority of activities took place in Bishkek, but in 2016 the translation of all of the material into the Kyrgyz language will help cover participants from oblasts including the most remote ones, with the basics of programming. The main purpose is to spark youth's interest and show them that programming is easy and promising. All those who get interested in pursuing this profession can continue learning on their own.

The Program aims to increase the intrinsic motivation of young people and promote high-quality training at school level, which eventually should result in the improved quality of higher technical education and training of IT specialists.



Hour of Code 2015 in Kyrgyzstan.

The Educational Program

1

Improving access to education for children with disabilities, and enhancing the quality of targeted services.



Within this framework, SFK supported consolidated efforts of state bodies, civil society and educational institutions to develop an integrated model of inclusive education in Kyrgyzstan, and pilot the same for the subsequent dissemination. By this time, the Ministry of Education and Science and civil society organizations developed and started piloting educational standards on inclusive education.



In addition, following the contest of initiatives of civil society educational organizations working to improve access to education for children with disabilities and providing direct services to children and their parents, five projects were supported, developed by organizations working with children with special educational needs. Thus, about 300 children with special educational needs became direct and indirect beneficiaries of the program activities.

2 Supporting initiatives aimed at the development of multicultural education programs and the promotion of consolidated efforts of members of local communities - parents, students, and teachers - for the development of sustainable and friendly school environment, which could serve as a center of consolidation and good neighborly relations at the local community level.



To strengthen the position of the school as a tool for consolidation, technical assistance was provided to build schools' conflict management capacity in the diversity context and to cover schools' activities in the media.



The partnership between schools and community is based on joint social projects developed and implemented by a school team, composed of parents (parents' committees), student government (school parliaments), teachers (methodical groups) and local communities.

Sixty schools in the south and about 900 school students became direct and indirect beneficiaries of the component.

3 Assisting the KR Ministry of Education and Science in the development and piloting of training programs and materials developed in the framework of new-generation educational standards.



As part of this component, the Educational Program supported civil society's and public bodies' initiatives targeting the establishment of multilingual education in the Kyrgyz Republic as a means of integration and social cohesion, and supporting linguistic diversity in the education system. The main objective of this support was to contribute to the development of teaching materials in native languages as part of the multilingual education system in the Kyrgyz Republic.



Bokonbaeva village, Issyk-Kul region

The Bishkek Resource Center



28 June -1 July 2015, a regional conference of Open Society Foundation (OSF) fellows and alumni entitled «Opportunities and problems of civil society in Central Asia» was held, initiated by the Scholarship Program of the Open Society Foundations and the Bishkek Resource Center at the American University in Central Asia.

In many countries, including Central Asia, civil society faces many challenges. New laws restricting the activities of the civil society, along with wider social and economic processes, create conditions which are tackled by OSF fellows and alumni. In recent years, representatives of civil society have become



Photo: A lecture at the Bishkek resource center, 2015.

In 2015, the SFK Bishkek Resource Center (BRC) administered a program for youth to pursue master's or doctoral degree in Central European University (CEU), Hungary, Budapest.

The University offers scholarships for master's and doctoral studies in socio-economic and humanitarian fields. SFK provided advice on the application procedure. Nor SFK, nor CEU accepted hard copies of applications or supporting documents. SFK did not provide scholarships to study at CEU. Candidates had to fill out an online application for admission to CEU and an application for scholarship.

Regional conference of Open Society Foundation fellows and alumni «Opportunities and problems of civil society in Central Asia».



The Regional Conference of OSF fellows and alumni «Opportunities and problems of civil society in Central Asia» brought together scholars and graduates from Central Asia, Mongolia and Afghanistan to share their experience and results, to discuss how they overcome the gaps between theory, expectations and the reality after their participation. OSF is also interested to learn about their hopes and plans to see what support it can render.

less associated with a particular non-governmental organization (NGO). Today, new topics and new challenges arise on the agenda, including gaps in higher education preventing the development and changes in the society. The OSF Scholarship Program brings together its scholars and graduates and thus contributes to the exchange of views and experiences on these issues.

Over the past 20 years, OSF provided more than 2 thousand scholarships for students and professionals from Central Asia. Grantees pursued an education in various fields, mainly humanities and social sciences. They received bachelor's and master's degrees, and held doctoral, short-term and optional studies. Some OSF graduates are now working for government ministries and departments and form the national policy; others have become professors, scientists and politicians. These activists are trying to make a difference in their communities through their hard work.



The following topics were discussed at the conference:

- Civil society's role in promoting social justice.
- Changing the relationship between civil society, the public and the state.
- University as a space for civil society engagement in the discussion.
- Civil society: stability, accountability and funding.
- Civil society promotion and protection.
- * *Master's programs abroad: what criteria to consider when choosing an area of concentration; how to choose a field of study under a master's program to ensure career prospects after graduation; how to use the experience with the master's program to seek a job – by Altynay Myrzabekova, a scholar of the OSF Grant Program, University of St. Andrews, London, 2013-2014.*

In 2015, BRC conducted guest lectures with the participation of OSF and SFK scholarship programs' graduates on the following topics:

- * *How to get accepted to a master's program; how to prepare to it; what field of research to choose; how to write a letter of motivation; how to pass an interview – by guest speaker Jenny Ensi Tszie (Jenish kyzy), a scholar of the OSF Master of Social Work grant program, master's degree at Columbia University, New York, 2014-2015.*
- * *Presentation «How to enter a top university in the US» – by Ivy League Academy.*

The Natural Resources Governance Program

The program supported partners' and civil society's initiatives, aimed at improving transparency and accountability of the mining industry and increasing the role of local communities in the effective management of natural and local resources.

As part of the «Assisting management institutions in the mining sector» component the Program continued cooperation with the Economic Chamber Association of Legal Entities to enhance the performance of the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources (SAGMR) through the introduction of a competence-based approach to the assessment of qualifications. The draft of the Professional Standard reflects the minimum qualification requirements for a state employee (levels 4-8, with level 8 corresponding to the post of a minister and deputy minister). It is noteworthy that this product is the result of collective work of social partners – SAGMR employees, subsoil users, industry associations, representatives of concerned departments and agencies. Qualifications framework for SAGMR professionals is a universal tool to determine the level of qualifications of civil servants. Methodologic, organizational, teaching and learning materials developed under this initiative were used to pilot the independent qualifications assessment for the following SAGMR employees – Chief Geologist of the Geology Office, Leading Specialist of the Mineral Resources Protection and Mining Industry Office, and Specialist of the Licensing Office.

Tools developed by the grantee can be used in all civil service systems. They were provided to the KR State Personnel Service as a material for the improvement of the KR Law «On state and municipal employees».

Significant reforms in subsoil use and regulation of the Regional Development Funds (RDFs) were implemented during the reporting period. Thus, the introduction of public tenders and auctions for mining helped to attract significant funds to national and local budgets. In 2013-2014, the national budget received more than 336 million soms for licenses issued through public auctions, as compared to over 6 billion soms collected for six months of 2015¹.



¹ Interview with D.T. Zilaliev in Gezitter.org dated 20 July 2015

According to the KR Ministry of Finance, more than 8 billion soms were accumulated from collecting 2% non-tax payment for the development of local infrastructure, of which over 6 billion soms were allocated to district and oblast RDFs, and over 2 billion soms to local budgets. Another source of RDFs' and local budgets were payments from companies for holding licenses and bonuses from public tenders and auctions. The total amount of payments for holding licenses in the national budget amounted to 209.9 million soms in 2014, and 202 million soms for 11 months of 2015.

In this connection, effective performance of RDFs and rational use of funds received for the development of oblasts have become particularly relevant.

KR Government Resolution No. 468 dated 08 July 2015 made a number of amendments to the Model Regulation «On the formation of the Regional Development Funds», followed by the introduction into the new version of expert recommendations drafted by PF «Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia» entitled «Transparent and effective governance of mining companies' income at the local level through Regional Development Funds» based on the legal analysis. To date, 27 RDFs have been registered.



PF «Eurasia Foundation in Central Asia» conducted trainings for the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Economy, the Central Treasury, the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations, the State Tax Service, the heads of aiyl okmotu and district administrations, deputies of local keneshes, and administrative staff of registered RDFs in Chatkal and Ala-Buka Districts. Overall, 127 specialists were trained.

It should be noted that the RDFs are just one of the mechanisms to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of financial receipts from mining companies and other sources, and one of the tools to involve local community in the management of local resources.



Signing grant documents with partners of the program.

Today, however, local economic development is not possible without an integrated approach to regional development. Oblasts in Kyrgyzstan have different economic development potential – some of them need to be integrated into regional development strategies. An integrated approach to regional development includes drafting, implementation and execution of the Comprehensive Regional Development Program with the participation of local communities. Therefore, the Program supported the initiative of PF «Center for Legal and Analytical Support to Local Self-Government» entitled «Promoting sustainable development of mining areas of Issyk-Kul oblast through the implementation of effective mechanisms and local development tools». As a result of interaction of state bodies, local self-government authorities, business structures targeting territorial economic development, the trilateral Agreement was signed on 02 October 2015 between the Development Fund of Issyk-Kul oblast, aiyl okmotu of Mambetov aiyl aimak and LLC «Janar-Kut» for the construction of a meat production plant. This project is the first of a kind for Mambetov aiyl aimak.

Public Foundation «Civil Initiative on Internet Policy» in partnership with the Bishkek Development Agency and the capital municipality launched a project for making public the data on municipal resources and services offered by the Bishkek Mayor's Office. As part of this initiative, an electronic interactive map of the city - www.to.kg - was created, which contains information on the work of municipal services, municipal property, urban transport, land and territory boundaries and social facilities.

Citizens were provided access to information on what municipal lands are held under lease, the status of land and municipal premises and buildings, locations of advertising spaces, schedules and routes of public transport, waste containers locations, the schedule of garbage collection, etc.. The map enabled the visualization of the vast amounts of information held by the municipality, the online analysis of data about tenants, and municipal property lease timeframes.



The technology selected for the initiative allows unlimited volumes of information to be posted, constantly supplemented and updated based on the needs of citizens and the Mayor's Office.

The grantee also developed a package of municipality-level regulations for consideration and adoption by the City Kenesh (council): Bishkek Open Data Concept, Guidelines for Publication of Public Data by Local Self-Government Authorities, Technical Requirements for Publication of Public Data, Regulations on Compiling and Posting of Public Data on the Official Website of the Mayor's Office in an Open Data Format.

All these measures allow citizens to see the effect of publishing information in an open format in the short term, on the one hand, and the officials to understand how simple, effective and promising this format can be with minimum costs, on the other hand. This will help facilitate the upcoming lobbying of necessary changes in legislation at the national level, secure broad political support for the implementation of open data in the activities of all government agencies.



Public Fund «Jyldyz-Transit» - specialists of the two natural parks «Besh-Tash» and «Kara-Buura» of the SAEPF Regional Unit in Talas oblast were trained in environmental measures and monitoring of protected areas and their inhabitants using trail cameras and GPS-navigators.

The project received positive feedback from international experts during the Open Innovation Week 2015 held in Bishkek from 21 to 24 November. In particular, Professor Aleksey Tikhomirov from Inha University (South Korea) noted that the database, which was developed, data placed on the map and the interactive map of the city make Bishkek eligible to become a member of Smart City Association, an international association of open cities.

The Program cooperates with regional partners such as the Institute of Natural Resource Management/ Natural Resource Charter, international organization «Publish What You Pay», international and national EITI Secretariats, Eurasia Knowledge Hub and natural resource management programs of the national OSFs in the Eurasian region.

As part of the regional cooperation, with the aim to promote the exchange of information and enhance the capacity of civil society in advancing EITI and open governments, the Program supported the participation of an independent expert on fiscal transparency and accountability in the international workshop on the promotion and implementation of the global initiative «Open Government» held in Istanbul (Turkey) on 21-25 October 2015 by the Institute of Natural Resource Management/Natural Resource Charter and the OSF Open Government Initiative.

The Program also supported the participation of civil society representatives, public reception activists promoting EITI at the Eurasian regional meeting of civil society representatives and international organizations from Central Asia, Caucasus and Eastern Europe, organized by the Institute of Natural Resource Management / Natural Resource Charter in conjunction with Publish What You Pay (PWYP) in Ulan Bator (Mongolia) on 4-6 November 2015.

Effective resource management at the local level was the focus of grant competition «**Support for local community initiatives in natural resource management**». The Program supported projects from oblasts aimed at the involvement of local communities in the management of forests in Jalal-Abad oblast (PF «**TOLESFOR**»), lands of the Agricultural Land Redistribution Fund of Kyzyl Oktyabr aiyl aimak through land inventory (PF «**Legal Perspective**»), pastures based on environmental and traditional pastoral knowledge of Kyrgyz people in three rayons of Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts (PF «**Muras Bashaty**»); in the systematization of local and natural resources in three villages of Ala-Buka aiyl aimak (PF «**Center for Budgetary Strategy Development**»), and in the management of natural diversity in Talas oblast (PF «**Jyldyz-Transit**»).



KEY PROGRAM RESULTS



THE PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM



Additional 20 million soms were allocated from the national budget for HIV prevention programs



Along with active advocacy, GFATM will be funding both the legal component and HIV prevention programs.



Morphine tablets were registered in the Kyrgyz Republic.



87

As part of the **community-acquired palliative care** component, multidisciplinary teams covered **8 family medicine centers** with their services, and **87 people** received medical care at home. 80% of family members were trained in the basics of palliative care. In Osh, multidisciplinary teams provided outpatient care to more than 62 patients at home.



80

More than 90 prosecutors from all oblasts of the Kyrgyz Republic were trained in HIV prevention in the workplace and protection of the rights of vulnerable groups.



Instruction for HIV/AIDS Prevention at KR Prosecution Bodies and Institutions was developed, containing a set of rule to be followed by prosecutors when interacting with vulnerable groups.



120

As part of the **community-acquired mental health care** component, multidisciplinary teams covered 6 oblasts and provided outpatient care to over **120 families** having a member with severe mental disorders (Bishkek - 60 families, Osh – 20 families, Batken - 10 families, Talas - 13 families, Karakol - 14 families, Naryn - 3 families). All together, multidisciplinary teams made more than 850 visits to patients' homes.

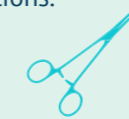


CEDAW Alternative Report was prepared with the active involvement of vulnerable groups.



10

10 families with mental problems in Chui oblast received assistance in the form of repair and construction services to improve their living conditions.



As part of the **development of psycho-social care** for people with mental health problems, a pilot course in medical psychology and clinical social work was held for **10 social workers** from regional social protection units in Osh city and Karasu rayon, and **6 psychologists**. The pilot course utilized a 144-hour training complex developed specifically for this purpose.



30

30 specialists - oncologists, pediatricians, nurses, and employees of the first children's hospice in Bishkek – were trained in the basics of children's palliative care.



Five national experts on palliative care held thematic consultations with experts and specialists in palliative care in Minsk (Belarus). They learned the experience and documents on the implementation of palliative care programs in Belarus.



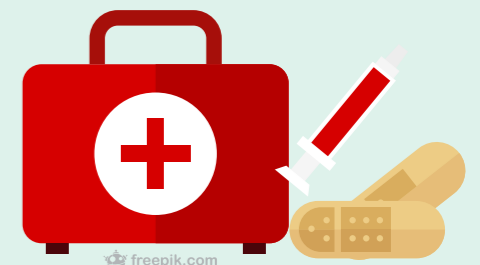
500

The Public Health Program provided financial support to the I Congress of General Practitioners and Family Medicine Centers (FMC) in Bishkek, which was attended by more than **500 medical professionals** from all over Kyrgyzstan, and international experts and health professionals.



150

More than **150 substance dependent and co-dependent** people (from Kara-Balta, Osh and Kara-Suu) attended information sessions as part of the project «Protection of the rights and interests of the OST recipients and promotion of the OST Program».



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THE LAW PROGRAM

Expert support was provide to Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic in reviewing the four packages of draft legislation before the first reading at Jogorku Kenesh: Criminal Code, Code of Offences, Criminal Procedure Code, and the draft law «On state-guaranteed legal aid» (SGLA).



The Law Program provided expert support for the development of new drafts of the Code of Offences, the Register of Criminal Convictions and the Law on Amnesty, and promoted the civil society involvement in the discussion of draft laws.



One of the key partners in the development of the SGLA system, along with the Ministry of Justice, is the Kyrgyz Bar Association (KBA). It received support for key initiatives such as the SGLA system, and expert and technical assistance for the implementation of the KBA strategic development plan for 2014-2016



To ensure the confidentiality of forensic medical examinations, technical assistance was provided to the Ministry of Health to equip a special office in the Republican Center of Forensic Medicine. Besides this, the Program provided equipment to Regional Forensic Examination Offices for capturing and printing traces of violence, torture and cruel treatment.



The Program provided support in establishing the Coordination Council for Human Rights (CCHR). CCHR is headed by the Deputy Prime Minister and composed of decision-makers from the Government such as Ministers' Deputies.



THE YOUTH PROGRAM

EVENTS

Urban Talks and Osh Urban Forum (Bishkek and Osh): **12 events** (Urban Forum, Urban Activism Festival, 6 sessions of the Urban Talks in Bishkek and 3 in Osh, and a research on social capital), together attended by **2,130 people**.

Expanding opportunities for youth (all KR oblast centers and Balykchy): **20 events** (5 training sessions, a presentation, 5 working meetings, 8 master classes, JashtarCamp 2015), attended by more than **4,000 people** from all oblasts.

Practical lessons on women's leadership (Tash Kумыr): **7 events** (3 training sessions and 4 talk shows), attended by **26 people**.

Voice of youth in urban community development (Bishkek and Osh): **23 events** (2 kick-off workshops, 10 consultative meetings, 3 training sessions, 3 roundtables, 5 working meetings), attended by **120 people**.

Actions for change (Batken): **16 events** attended by **519 people**.

Development of youth media environment for the study of human rights in the Issyk-Kul oblast (Karakol): **33 events** (a training session, 20 master classes, and 12 radio broadcasts), attended by **40 people**.

Photodrift as an urban exploration practice (Bishkek): **31 events** (17 seminars and discussions, 6 film screenings and discussions, 5 photodriffs, 2 lectures, and a presentation of the photo magazine), attended by **154 people**.

Making people happy is not hard... (Osh): **55 events** (20 lessons of kindness, a camp, 10 good deeds, a training session, a roundtable, 20 school visits, a day of tolerance, a volunteer day), attended by **826 people**.

Tokmok students in action (Tokmok): **12 events** (a survey, 2 training sessions on leadership, 6 events by leadership groups, a presentation, 2 roundtables), attended by **300 people**.

The city where I live (Bishkek): **88 events** (a casting of actors, 27 workshops, 54 rehearsals, 3 general runs, and 3 first runs), attended by **250 people**.

Social innovation (all KR oblasts except for Bishkek and Osh): **22 events** (a youth summer camp, the selection of 8 projects, and events in the framework of these projects), attended by **298 people**.

Urban Talks and Osh Urban Forum by PF «Urban Initiatives»: publication of the results of the study «Assessment of the urban environment and the community's social capital in Osh».

In 2015, the Program supported the **Urban Forum in Osh** to involve citizens in the discussion of the proposals addressing urban issues, to establish a feedback between the Osh Mayor's Office and the citizens, to study the experience of other cities at the Urban Activism Festival, making the participants to rethink the usage of public spaces, and promote the study «**Assessment of the urban environment and the community's social capital in Osh**». At the Urban Forum, the Osh Mayor's Office and PA «Youth of Osh», one of the organizers of the events in Osh and our partner in the oblast, signed a cooperation agreement.

Voice of youth in urban community development c Technology Center: Youth's Guide on Making Proposals for the Development of Local Communities.development

Development of youth media environment for the study of human rights in the Issyk-Kul oblast by PA «CET»: visuals, audio and video materials on human rights.

Photodrift as an urban exploration practice by PA «Children's Media Center»: magazine «Photozine» as the result of photodriffs

Another initiative supported by the Program was an annual event «**JashtarCamp-2015**», which was held in **7 KR oblast centers** and Balykchy. JashtarCamp is a unique opportunity to learn about success stories of interesting people, achievements and initiatives of youth for the current year, and to find like-minded people to share ideas with. JashtarCamp has become a recognized brand, an event willingly attended by a wide range of people such as experts, businessmen, politicians, representatives of international organizations, culture and art people, representatives of various media and civil society activists. JashtarCamp is seen as a communicative and information platform, which can be used by a variety of civil society organizations to share about their strategic areas of work.

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION program



DEVELOPING LOCAL CONTENT AND CIVIL ACTIVISM

As a result the SFK support, urban development projects, one of the key areas for SFK, reached a new level - more than **50 media products on urban development were produced and 32 locations in Bishkek and Osh**, including abandoned public spaces, yards and kindergartens, were subjected to interventions.

Ethnic and linguistic diversity in the media was also supported by the State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations. In November 2015, 4 million soms were provided to develop 17 media projects, including those developed and supported by the Freedom of Information Program.



PROMOTING TRANSPARENT ELECTIONS THROUGH THE POLITMER.KG RESOURCE

Politmer.kg became the key resource to prepare for television debates on PTRC prior to parliamentary elections. The website allows comparing political platforms and monitoring the status of politicians' promises.



“ FACILITATING THE TRANSITION TO DIGITAL BROADCASTING ”

According to international media experts, Kyrgyzstan has so far demonstrated the most democratic and transparent transition to digital broadcasting in Central Asia, which takes into account the interests of local television and radio broadcasters.

Kyrgyzstan is *the only country in the region* with a parallel construction of two terrestrial digital broadcasting networks – state and private, which is indicative of pluralism in the media environment.

74% of the population is aware of the transition to digital broadcasting as a result of the first phase of THE national information campaign «Turn on the digit!» (according to the research of «M-Vector», a research and consulting company, from December 2015), supported by the Program. It was the first time in the history of Kyrgyzstan that the state ordered an audiovisual product and set out the requirement of observing language diversity, which has been promoted by the Program for the past four years.

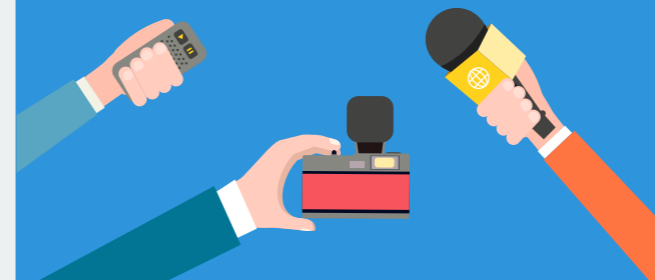
In 2015, the Freedom of Information Program was awarded a state diploma for contribution to the development of digital broadcasting in Kyrgyzstan.

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STRENGTHENING FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION, CREATING CONDITIONS FOR THE GROWTH OF INDEPENDENT MEDIA, PROMOTING MEDIA AND DIGITAL RIGHTS

State Personnel Service and the judiciary are ready to co-finance training in digital and media rights for civil servants as the result of the successful pilot program «Digital rights school».

The Constitutional Chamber of the KR Supreme Court explained the application of the legal provision on knowingly false reports and acknowledged that «invalid reports cannot be regarded as knowingly false and do not constitute an offense under Article 329 of the Criminal Code». This contributes to the preservation of freedom of speech in the media, the target of the Fealty to Field component.



OPEN EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

An important step in the development of OER is supporting the copyright reform to ensure equal rights and opportunities to access information for all citizens, including persons with disabilities. The «Right to Read - Right to Knowledge» project set a global goal - to amend the KR Law «On copyright and related rights» to significantly expand opportunities for unimpeded use and distribution of educational and scientific content within the concept of «fair use».



OPEN DATA

To conduct the Open Data Hackathon Central Asia, the Freedom of Information Program supported the compilation of the largest national data set – the KR Address Register containing three million addresses in a machine-readable form. Also, more than 40 datasets from open websites of KR state bodies were compiled and analyzed. The following applications were developed following the Hackathon: 1) «Open Parliament» (<http://kenesh.opendata-hackathon.com/>), an online application visualizing the absence and presence of JK deputies at parliamentary sessions, and their voting for particular draft laws, and 2) «Open Bilim» (<http://openbilim.opendata-hackathon.com/>) visualizing the results of the national testing with the option to filter and compare data by area, school, subject, etc.

Forty developers, programmers and designers were exposed to new knowledge on how to work with open data, and over 20 journalists learned to visualize and analyze open data using special tools.

DEVELOPING IT EDUCATION

The first country-wide meeting of computer science teachers, attended by more than 220 teachers from all oblasts of the country, was organized. All of the teachers' recommendations were taken into account when finalizing the standard to prepare the same for piloting in 2016 with the SFK support.

To promote programming as a profession among youth, the Freedom of Information Program supported Kyrgyzstan's participation in the Hour of Code global campaign. More than 5.5 thousand young people in 40 educational institutions participated in the movement. The largest number of participants (86%) accounted for school students.

THE NATURAL RESOURCE GOVERNANCE PROGRAM

Deliverables:

PF Association «Economic Chamber»

Draft of the **Professional Standard for Specialists of the State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources under the KR Government (SAGMR):**

- Regulation on Evaluation of Qualifications of SAGMR Employees.
- Evaluation materials for evaluators and examination materials for SAGMR employees.
- A package of documents on the procedures for the competence-based evaluation of qualifications of SAGMR employees.

PF «Civil Initiative on Internet Policy»

The Bishkek «Open Data» Concept:

- Guidelines for Publication of Open Data by Local Self-Government Authorities.
- Technical requirements for publication of open data.
- Rules for the preparation and posting of public data in an open data format on the official website of the Bishkek Mayor's Office.

PF «Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia»

- KR Government Resolution No.486 of July 8, 2015 «On amendments and additions to the model provision on the establishment of Regional Development Funds» was adopted.
- 17 Regional Development Funds were registered.
- Two aiyl aimaks - Ala-Buka and Chatkal - pilot the creation and development of RDFs.
- An interdepartmental working group was established under the KR Ministry of Economy.
- 127 people were trained, including specialists of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Economy, Central Treasury, State Agency for Geology and Mineral Resources, State Agency for Local Self-Government and Inter-Ethnic Relations, State Tax Service, heads of aiyl okmotu, rayon administrations, deputies of local keneshes, administrative staff of Chatkal and Ala-Buka RDFs (Jalalabad oblast).

PF «Center for Legal and Analytical Support to Local Self-Government»

- Regulation on Compilation and Movement of Documents for Construction and Reconstruction of Objects was drafted.
- Institutional and legal framework was established for partnership and efforts to ensure local economic development in the form of 6 collections of laws and regulations and other methodological instructions.
- On 02 October 2015, the trilateral Agreement was signed between the Issyk-Kul Development Fund, aiyl okmotu of Mambetov aiyl aimak and LLC «Janara-Kut» for the construction of a meat production plant. This project is the first of a kind for Mambetov aiyl aimak.

PF «Muras Bashaty»

- Guidelines for Rational Use of Pasture Resources Based on Traditional Ecological and Pastoral Knowledge of the Kyrgyz People (in Kyrgyz) were developed.
- Farmers from three rayons of Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts were trained in traditional ecological and pastoral knowledge in pasture management. пастбищами.

PF «Center for Budgetary Strategy Development»

- Map was created displaying the condition, location, and size of lands, pastures, landscapes, construction stones, sand, clay, precious and noble metals and non-metallic minerals, including spring waters and groundwater in the three aiyl aimaks - Kok-Tash, Kok-Serek, and Oruktu of Ala-Buka rayon.

PF «Jyldyz-Transit»

- Specialists of the two natural parks «Besh-Tash» and «Kara-Buura» of the SAEPP Regional Unit in Talas oblast were trained in environmental measures and monitoring of protected areas and their inhabitants using trail cameras and GPS-navigators.

PF «TOLESFOR»

- Joint Forest Management Units (JFMUs) were established in five villages of the Taldy-Bulak aiyl aimak (Talas oblast) with their goals, objectives and activities enshrined in the respective Articles of Association.
- Forest inventory was completed by JFMUs in five villages.
- Natural Resources Management Plans were drafted for five villages of the Taldy-Bulak aiyl aimak.

PF «Legal Perspective»

- Inventory of lands of the Agricultural Land Redistribution Fund of Kyzyl Oktyabr aiyl aimak (Osh oblast) was conducted.
- Database on the status of lands and rented lands (location, area, rental status, conditions of rent) was created.
- Local population gained access to information on lands available for rent, and the respective terms and conditions.
- Initiative group consisting of 18 local civil society activists was established.

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Annual Report 2015

Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan

Photos courtesy of the Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan program archives

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