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ANNUAL REPORT - 2018

Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan

Annual Report
2018

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For a quarter of a century, the Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan has been supporting innovative ideas from outstanding leaders and leading organizations throughout the country to promote the ideas of human rights and social justice.

Transparency and accountability of government to society begins not only with the tools of civic participation, it begins earlier, with an awareness of their civil rights and to access information, with

the right to their own opinion and the opportunity to ask unpleasant questions.

We believe that one of the fundamental factors for the development of active citizens in our country is a space for safe and free public discourse.

All our projects are aimed at strengthening the dialogue between the authorities and society. We create and support the practice of civic participation in the field of health, education, and justice. We

support free media so that citizens have access to different opinions and have the opportunity to see the situation from different angle, which is crucial in the era of manipulation and disinformation. We support researchers in their attempts to find answers to complex questions, to discover the root causes of problems that concern our society. We inspire and support our citizens to act, to dialogue, not only with the authorities, but also with each other.

The society of Kyrgyzstan is very diverse, and in this diversity lays the strength of our people, which consists of more than 80 ethnic groups. Our task is to be able to interact in this diversity, protect the rights and freedoms of the most vulnerable members of our society, to understand and accept this diversity.

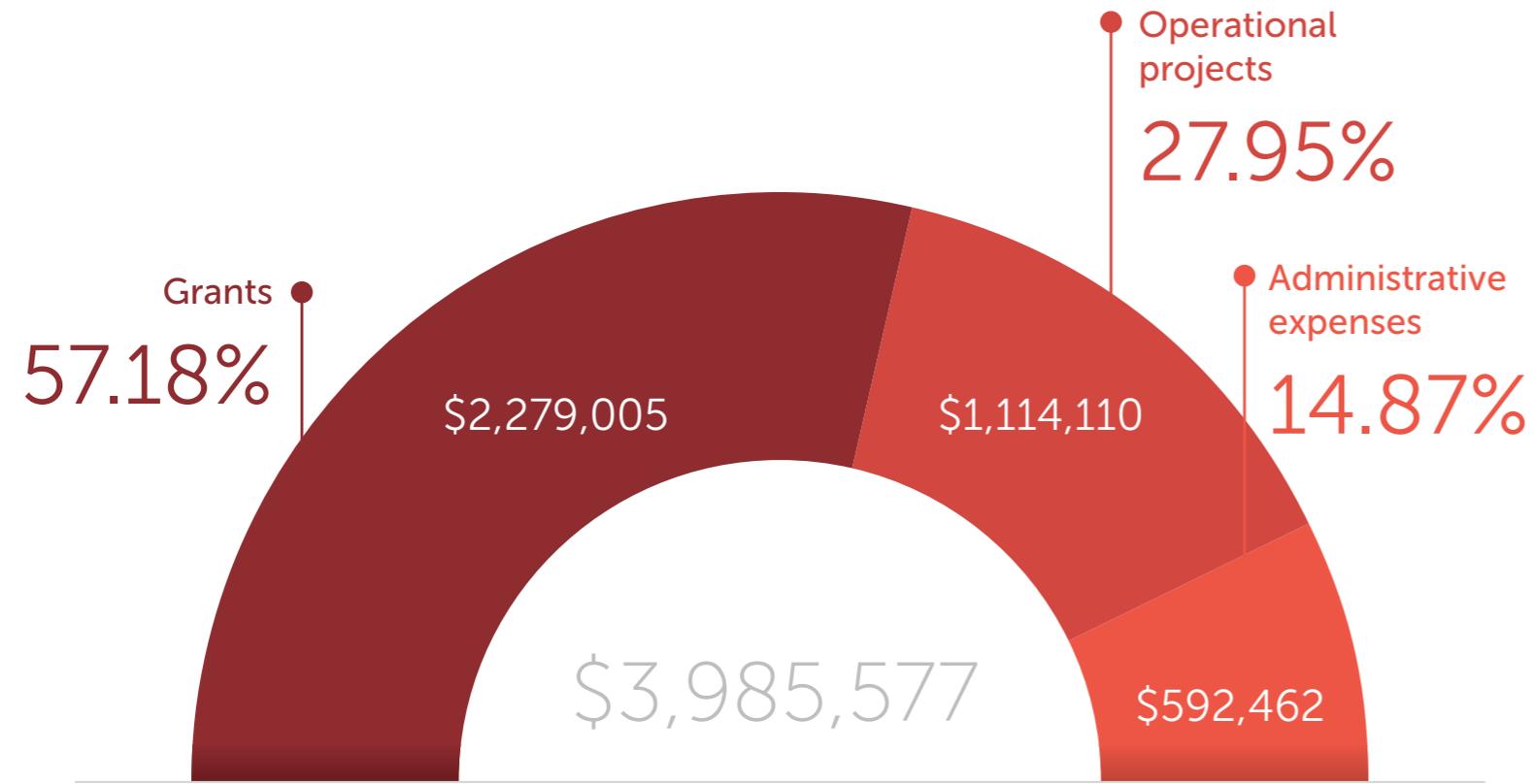
In 2018, we redesigned our office. We have created a new platform for the public discourse where our research fellows present and discuss their work. We invite

various experts and discuss issues that are rarely raised in our society. We believe that in an open society there are no taboo topics for discussion. It is through the dialogue that we educate, understand each other and build open society in this beautiful country.

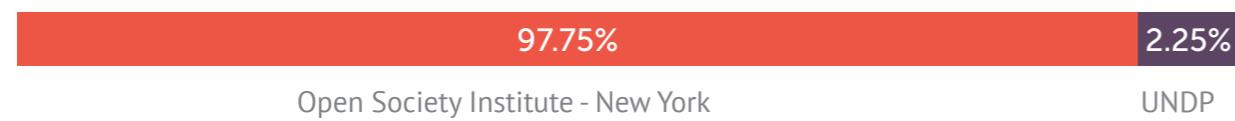
Thank you for your interest in the work of the Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan.

Shamil Ibragimov
Executive Director

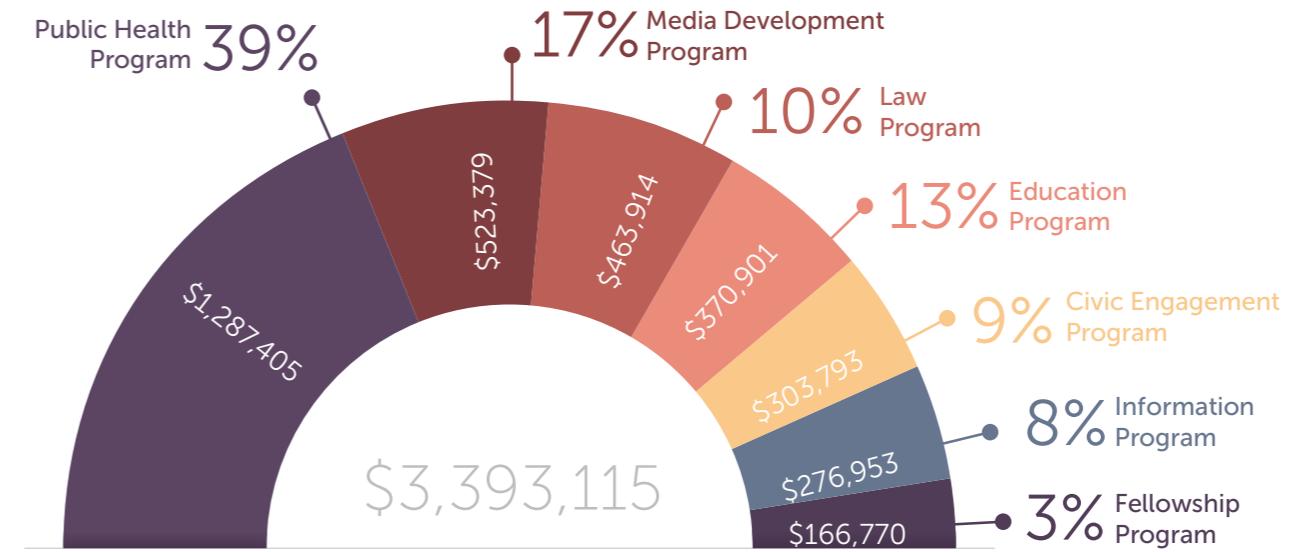
Overall budget of Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan for 2018



Sources of funding in 2018

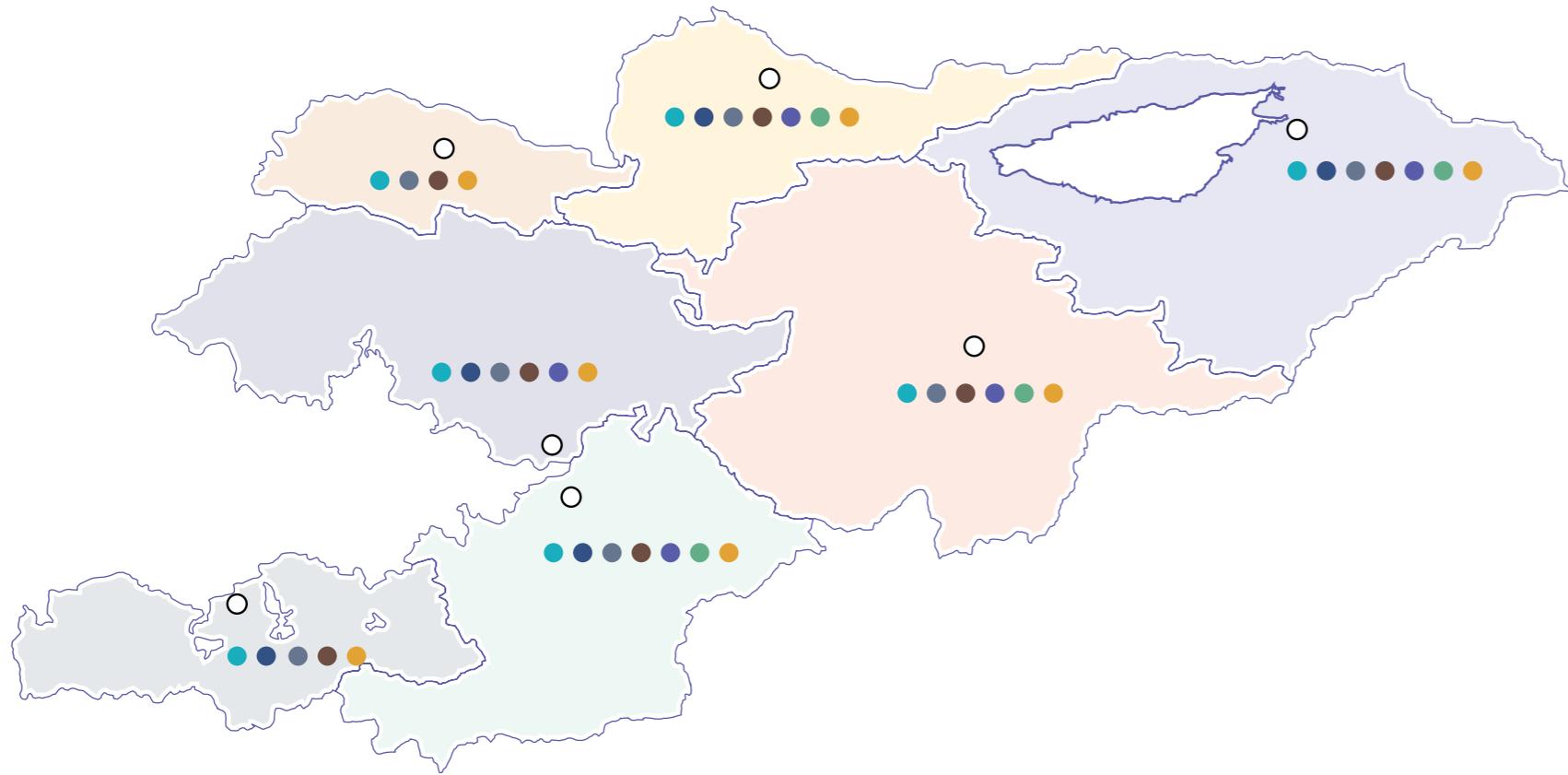


Programs budget of Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan for 2018



Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan has transferred more than **22.9 million KGS** to the State budget of Kyrgyz Republic (deductions to Social fund, income and other taxes) in 2018.

Projects of
Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan for 2018



Public Health Program

PALLIATIVE CARE



from 3000 mg to 5000 mg per year was increased limit on free morphine released per patient

Physical access to anesthetic opioids was ensured in

23 pharmacies in

11 rayons throughout the republic

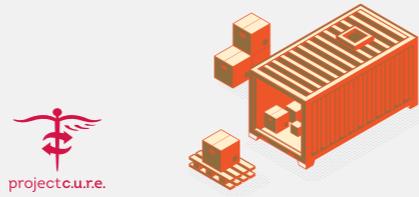


The 3 main anesthetic opioids were included in the National list of vital medicines

OVERCOMING LEGAL BARRIERS WITH RESPECT TO THE KEY VULNERABLE GROUPS (KVGs)

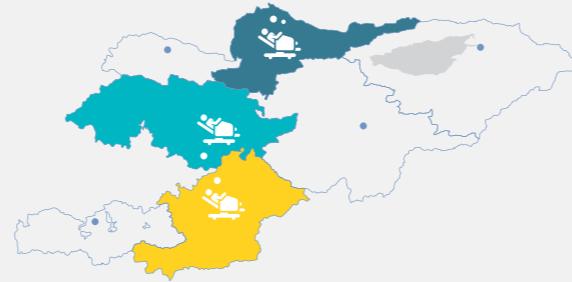
\$1,000,000

As a result of Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan's advocacy activities Global Fund to Fight AIDS and Tuberculosis has launched "Removal of legal barriers" project.



A 40-ton humanitarian aid shipment from the USA with medical products arrived in Kyrgyzstan to provide palliative care at the cost of more than

\$300 000



Osh, Tokmok, Jalal-Abad

Specialized outpatient units were opened to provide palliative care for adults and children.

2 resource books

on the rights of KVGs have been developed and implemented for the training of prosecutors

MENTAL HEALTH



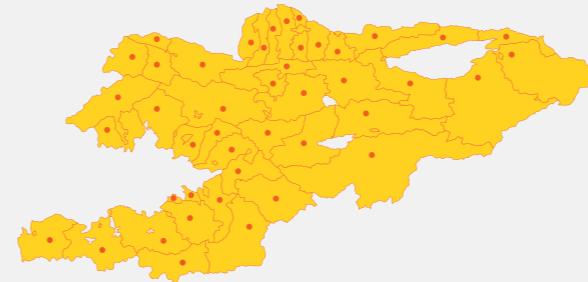
2017 – 2030 years

The State program for mental health protection was adopted.



Housing conditions were improved for 11 families having patients with serious mental illnesses

A pilot model "Multidisciplinary team (MDT)" for providing mental health services at the outpatient level in all regions of the republic was implemented.



Comparison

MDT

In-patient hospital



According to the survey, a seriously ill patient feels more comfortable at home



Saves the time and the efforts of the relatives



Train the relatives in caring for the patient



\$3420



Only required for the patients that are impossible to manage at home



The relatives spend much time and effort on visiting the patient



As a rule, do not have time to train the relatives in caring for the patient



\$15,461

PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$1,287,405

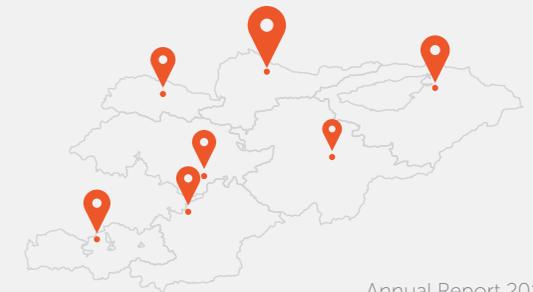
BUDGET ADVOCACY



Ministry of Health adopted a state social procurement program on HIV, palliative care and mental health

3,000,000 ₸

Financing of the NGOs that provided services to KVGs was launched in a pilot mode



The objective of the program is to promote the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Public health advocates for equal access to HIV prevention services, palliative care, community-based mental health services, judicial and legal services for all social groups, and also works to increase the sustainability of treatment, care and support programs for vulnerable and marginalized groups through government funding.

Palliative care

To improve the situation with access to anesthetic opioids (AOs), the State Guarantees Program increased limit on free morphine released per patient from 3000 mg to 5000mg per year. This achievement, coupled with the provision that allows exceeding the limit for patients who suffer from incurable cancer, enabled the eliminate of the economic barrier to the provision of the patients with morphine. The amendments related to simplify the procedure for AOs prescription were made to Governmental Decree No. 2. The joint efforts of the program and partners ensured physical access to AOs in twenty-three pharmacies in eleven localities throughout the country. An important result of the program's activities is the inclusion of the three main AOs in the national list of vital medicines alongside the registration of fentanyl in

the form of patches and the delivery of its first supply to the Kyrgyz Republic.

In cooperation with the Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic to the United States, a delivery of humanitarian goods at the cost of more than \$ 300,000 was arranged in the form of medical equipment and disposable medical products for the provision of palliative care services which were distributed in four large hospitals and oncology centers in Bishkek, Osh, Tokmak and Jalal-Abad.

As a result of the Soros Foundation advocacy campaign, regional hospitals in Osh, Tokmok and Jalalabad established departments to provide specialized stationary palliative care for children and adults. These hospitals provided funding for staff, repairs and the purchase of part of the equipment from their budgets.

Mental Health

With the support of the Soros Foundation, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic adopted the "State Program on Mental Health Protection for 2017–2030". The program is in line with the WHO international guidelines and includes the Foundation priorities related to the protection of patients' rights and state support for the development of community-based forms of mental health care. The Public Health Program conducted a study on the pilot model «Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) for the provision of outpatient mental health services», which was launched by the Ministry of Health in all regions of the country. MDT, as a model of work, had been tested by the Public Health Program for several years and proved its medical and economic efficiency, which is confirmed by the results of a study conducted this year.

As a part of “Turak Zhai” public charity foundation project, eleven families from Bishkek and Chui oblast with patients having severe mental disorders have improved their housing conditions

Overcoming legal barriers regarding the key vulnerable groups

In 2018, by the efforts of the Soros Foundation and partners the project “Removal of Legal Barriers” funded by additional resources of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS and Tuberculosis” was launched. The project carries out activities to create an enabling environment for the development of HIV prevention programs among vulnerable groups. Since 2019, the pilot project “LEAD” has been launched in Bishkek. The project proposes the joint work of the City

of Bishkek Mayor’s Office, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Prosecutor’s office, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Social Protection with the KVGs in the provision of social support services, as well as medical and legal assistance. As part of the work with the Prosecutor’s office, teaching modules were implemented into the training of prosecutors including issues on the rights of vulnerable groups; a guide and two resource books were developed as well.

Budget advocacy

The “2019-Republican Budget Plan” of the Ministry of Health included an additional amount of 46 million KGS for HIV prevention programs for vulnerable groups. In 2018, the Ministry of Health adopted a

departmental State Social Procurement program. It includes priority areas: HIV, palliative care and mental health. Since 2019, the Ministry of Health has applied three million KGS for funding in a pilot mode the NGOs that provide services to the KVGs. The City Halls of five cities of the Kyrgyz Republic have been implementing activities of the “Plan for the transition to domestic funding for HIV prevention programs and social support for the KVGs”. City Halls of four cities developed the National Action Plans for the Municipal Social Procurement (MSP) program and applied funding to implement the MSP and services for the KVGs in 2019. Cityhalls of two cities provided offices for NGO partners.

Khimaya: the story of one shelter

Gender based violence in traditional society is a common thing. But it is hardly ever discussed. Women learned to disguise bruises and shunt the conversation on a more pleasant topic. Children who witness their mother’s suffering know that washing dirty linen in public is forbidden. Social attitudes give free rein to a family tyrant.

The tyrant is invulnerable and the victim «has only herself to blame». To counter a sadist in such a coordinate system is almost impossible. Having no hope for protection, a tired-out woman gives up and places herself and her children at a daily risk of being injured, raped and murdered.



Begimai dreamed of a stable and happy family; at the age of 17 she got married immediately after leaving the orphanage. But a happy family did not work, all that she saw from her husband was pain and humiliation

In Karakol, a small town in northern Kyrgyzstan, according to the informal statistics, every fifth woman suffers domestic violence, which is more than five thousand women. These are women that are not able to change their situation by themselves; women that are intimidated and bound; women that need help.

The “Ulukman Daryger” Public Foundation has been working with such women for fifteen years. The stories of victims of violence are very much alike including: early marriage, lack of education, unconscious

motherhood and financial dependency. All of these women are equally powerless and equally distressed. Most recently, they did not know where to seek help, where to escape from arbitrariness.

Now they have hope for help and rescue - a place that guarantees their safety. In 2016, the “Ulukman Daryger” Public Foundation with the financial support of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan and OSF Public Health Program opened a shelter on the outskirts of Karakol for women suffered from violence. The shelter is called «Khimaya», which is Arabic for «protection».

motherhood and financial dependency.

This small one-storey house - three rooms and a small courtyard - was the only hope for Begimai. For the five years she lived with her two young daughters in the hell of domestic violence and cruelty. Begimai is twenty five years old, she grew up in an orphanage, and she has no relatives. The girl dreamed of a stable and happy family; at the age of 17 she got married immediately after leaving the orphanage. However a happy family did not work, all that she saw from her husband was pain and humil-

The success story of Ulan and his team encouraged the colleagues that work with socially vulnerable groups in Jalal-Abad and Karabalta to open similar centers in these cities. The administrations of these cities also decided to support the work of similar shelters as part of the municipal social procurement starting from 2019.

iation, even the birth of daughters did not change the situation. Trying to escape from the beatings, Begimai ran away from home and lived and worked at a carwash for a while.

In June 2017, Begimai abandoned all hope and turned for help to the Karakol mayor’s office. The mayor’s office sent Begimai to the “Khimaya” center. Protection and temporary shelter is sometimes the only thing a broken person needs to rehabilitate and restore her physical and moral state. Over the past year, Begimai made a

significant breakthrough: she enrolled in dress-making courses and took on some of the responsibilities in the shelter working as a volunteer. Begimai understood that she can be socially active and help other women; she is no longer scared of male arbitrariness.

The director of “Ulukman Daryger” PF Ulan Tursunbaev says that the purchase of own building was a turning point in the work of the foundation. For many years, “Ulukman Daryger” has been seeking daily, for premises for women who hide from violence

and repeatedly turned to the city mayor’s office for help. Now the foundation and the mayor’s office are equal partners. Karakol’s women have new opportunities, now they know where to turn for protection and support.

This story is a good example of how a non-governmental organization efficiently worked on the problems of a vulnerable group, and how it manages to cope with what the municipality cannot always cope with. Last year the «Khimaya» shelter provided support for 229 women.

In January 2018, the amendments to the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic “On State Social Procurement” were adopted. These amendments enable placement of government orders for the procurement of services for socially vulnerable groups at the municipality level.

Karakol was the first city in Kyrgyzstan to place such a social order for a working-shelter for women suffered from violence. This contract proved to be a good support for the public foundation and, importantly, took the relationship of the non-governmental organization and the

municipality on the level of mutually beneficial cooperation and partnership.

Ulan and the organization’s staff are optimistic about the future – the availability of their own building enables the shelter to be financially sustainable, to develop and expand the services being provided and keep their own household running. The fund has already purchased a dozen hens and it plans to buy a cow. Eggs and milk will be a great support for women with children in the shelter. The foundation plans to use milk for cheesemaking. The availability of its own building enabled the

foundation to start social entrepreneurship: the women who came to the shelter can learn sewing. The organization has already begun to receive a small income from orders for sewing bags, bed linen and other household items.

The success story of Ulan and his team encouraged the colleagues that work with socially vulnerable groups in Jalal-Abad and Kara-Balta to open similar centers in these cities. The administrations of these cities also decided to support the work of similar shelters as part of the municipal social procurement starting from 2019.



Law Program

JUDICIAL AND LEGAL REFORM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

01 The heads of 10 key government agencies, 44 trainers, law enforcement training centers, the prosecutor's office, the Higher School of Justice, the State National Security Committee (GKNB), the State Prison Service of the National Security (GSIN), the State Service for Combating Economic Crimes (GSBEP), the Bar Association received

2330 printed copies matters of the criminal codes and laws



02 **241** GSBEP employees completed training

329 GKNB employees completed

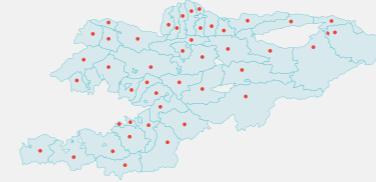
a **24-day training** conducted by the trainers of the GKNB Training Center in all regions of the country from April to June 2018.

A manual of innovative criminal, criminal procedure and criminal executive legislation of the Kyrgyz Republic was developed in

12 modules in 3 parts in Russian and Kyrgyz

03 **40** trainings **7** workshops

for investigation department employees and investigation officers of inter-district departments



44 trainers that were trained and certified

conducted a training in their structural divisions and organizations from May to December 2018

04 **4 information workshops for**

60 judges from 12 district courts of Bishkek city and district courts of Chui oblast

85 prosecutor's office employees

90 lawyers of Bishkek city and Chui oblast of the KR Bar Association

68 Financial Police investigators

05 **21** video courses were shot (more than 9 hours) on the innovative criminal legislation

06 **The experts developed** **122** templates/forms of service documents for the new Code of Criminal Procedure

2 modules on the state-guaranteed legal aid (SGLA) in criminal proceedings

PREVENTION OF TORTURE

A practical guide was developed for the lawyers representing the interests of the people that suffered from torture and ill-treatment in criminal proceedings

650 copies were handed over to the Training Center under the KR Bar Association and the NGO Coalition against tortures

38 judges were trained in "The specifics of judicial examination of criminal cases on the use of torture"

STATE GUARANTEED LEGAL AID

Decade of free legal assistance on 3-10 December, 2018

4622 people received free legal advice

13 workshops were conducted on December 10 in the educational institutions throughout the country

1000 students participated in workshops

LAW PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$463,914

Hackaton "Open data for citizens" Conducted jointly with the National Forum Secretariat "Open Government"

67 participants of Hackaton

1 **Openmed**—application and database that provide access of citizens to the information on medicines in hospitals and health clinics.

2 **Bestudent**—platform that enables graduates and applicants choose a university.

3 **Idea Space**—platform that enables citizens communicate with the government agencies.

The Law Program aims to promote access to justice and a fair trial in the Kyrgyz Republic through supporting the state agenda of judicial and legal reform and developing a state-guaranteed legal aid system, access to qualified legal aid, and the development of the Bar Association of the Kyrgyz Republic. The Law Program contributes to the prevention of torture in the Kyrgyz Republic and promotes the principles of the Istanbul Protocol for effective documentation of torture.

In 2018, the program contributed to the steady progress of judicial and legal reform in Kyrgyzstan. The priority objective of the Law Program was to promote the criminal legislation adopted in early 2017 and was entered into force in January 2019. It included: the Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedures and Criminal Executive Code, the Code of Misconduct, the Code of Violations, the Law on Probation, etc.

The Kyrgyz Government implemented an action plan to prepare the introduction of new codes for 2018: prepare draft by-laws; preparing the introduction of the Unified Register of Crimes and Offenses (URCO), the Unified Register of Violations (URV), the institute of probation. The expert working group (EWG) contributed to the development and implementation of the government plan.

The information and education component has become one of the long-term ones; it has ensured the sustainability of all processes, concepts and the reform itself.

In April 2018, the Law Program held four informational workshops for sixty judges of four district courts of the City of Bishkek, eight district courts of Chui oblast; eighty-five prosecutor's office employees of four districts of Bishkek, Chui oblast, the military prosecutor's office and the headquarter of the Kyrgyz General Prosecutor's office; sixty-eight Financial Police investigators; ninety lawyers in Bishkek city and Chui oblast.

Moreover, the Law Program continued work to prepare five additional modules (seven were prepared in 2017) under the new Criminal Code, the CoM, CCP, CEC and SGLA. As a result, the EWG developed a manual of twelve modules in three parts in Russian and Kyrgyz. It is available on the websites of the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Justice, the Higher School of Justice under the Supreme Court of the Kyrgyz Republic and the Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan. The heads of 10 key state agencies, 44 trainers, law enforcement training centers, the prosecutor's office, the Higher School of Justice, the State National Security Committee

(GKNB), the State Prison Service of the National Security (GSIN), the State Service for Combatting Economic Crimes (GSBEP) and the Bar Association received nearly 500 copies of the manual. Nearly two thousand printed matters of the new criminal codes and laws were disseminated.

The Soros-Kyrgyzstan Foundation organized five two-day trainings on innovative Criminal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure (evidence deposition, plea bargaining, proceedings at the courts of first instance), the Code of Misconduct and the SGLA for potential trainers from among judges, prosecutors, investigators, financial police officers, penitentiary system staff and teachers of law faculties of universities. As a result, together with the partners, forty-four trainers were trained and certified. They conducted training in their structural divisions and organizations from May to December 2018.

The Law Program initiated the EWG kick-off meetings with trainers, training centers and donors, which helped coordinate

the work and conducted training in all state bodies of the country and assisted in improving inter-agency interaction as well. With the support of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, EWG monitored cascade trainings in state agencies and provided expert advice for trained instructors.

To expand coverage of representatives of the legal profession and state agencies, as well as to promote better retention content, twenty-one video courses (more than nine hours) were prepared on the innovative criminal legislation with the support of the Law Program.

The courses are available on two websites:

Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Justice
www.minjust.gov.kg/ru/content/1067

The Higher School of Justice under the KR Supreme Court
<http://vshp.sot.kg/post/3184>

With the support of the Law Program, two hundred forty-one GSBEP employees under the Kyrgyz Government were trained. Forty trainings and seven workshops were conducted for investigation departments employees and investigation officers of the inter-district departments deployed in Issyk-Kul and Naryn oblasts, UGSBEP in Osh City and the inter-district departments deployed in Batken, Jalal-Abad, Osh, Chui, Talas oblasts and the City of Bishkek.

Three hundred and twenty-nine GKNB employees completed six four-day trainings conducted by the teachers of the GKNB Training Center in all regions of the country from April to June.

The experts developed forms of one hundred twenty-two service documents for the New CCP. The templates were presented at the Coordination meeting under the Kyrgyz Government, approved by the Order of the Prosecutor General of the Kyrgyz Republic dated December 25, 2018 and recommend-

ed for use by investigative bodies and courts.

To further study the work of probation and criminal liability norms of legal entities, the Law Program organized a stage-tour to Finland for fifteen representatives of Office of the Government, the Prosecutor's Office, the GSBEP employees (Financial Police), GSIN and the experts.

The EWG members held consultations and meetings on information systems: the Unified Register of Crimes and Offences (URCO) and the Unified Register of Violations (URV). Moreover, they monitored the URCO and URV preparation and implementation, participated in the discussion of the Temporary Provision on the URCO, promotion of reform among state agencies, provided expert support to the GSIN KR in developing road maps to introduce probation and the new CCP.

Promotion of judicial and legal reform was made possible through the active work of the experts, a partnership of state agencies, and the expert and donor community.

Assistance in expanding access to qualified legal assistance and sustainability of the SGLA system in the Kyrgyz Republic

For twelve years, the Law Program has been fruitfully cooperating with the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Justice to develop the state-guaranteed legal aid (SGLA) system. As part of the ongoing judicial and legal reform in the Kyrgyz Republic and in line with the new Law on SGLA, the Center for Coordination of State-Guaranteed Legal Aid was established in 2017.

The program assists in strengthening the capacity of "the Center" through expert support and study tours.

Thus, in May, a training visit was organized for a delegation from Kyrgyzstan

to Ukraine. Twelve people (chairman to the Public Council of the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Justice, "the Center's" staff, members of the Council of Advocates of the Kyrgyz Republic, lawyers, NGOs and the experts) were able to study the work model of the Ukrainian Legal Information and Consultation Centers; familiarize with the current provision of free legal aid and the mechanisms of "the Center's" cooperation with local authorities, study the experience of implementing legal assistance in civil and administrative matters.

During the trip, the KR Bar Association concluded a Memorandum of Cooperation with the Bar Association of Ukraine, familiarized with the experience of colleagues and established contacts for further cooperation.

In November, three representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic's Ministry of Justice, the Central Committee of the SGLA and the KR Bar Association participated in the Third

International Conference on Access to Legal Aid in Criminal Justice Systems. The conference was organized by the Georgian Parliament, the Legal Aid Service of Georgia and the Open Society Justice Initiative (OSJI) and was held in Tbilisi.

During the conference the participants discussed common problems and trends, studied best practices and innovations that enabled the improvement of the reforms and legal aid practice: innovative solutions to ensure access to legal aid services in criminal cases for vulnerable persons, as well as effective management and administration systems for legal aid systems were presented; the role of the bar associations and the private sector in the field of legal aid and their cooperation with state legal aid providers were discussed. Developed by the experts, the documents on rates of payment and the procedure for payment of lawyers as part of the SGLA in 2017 were adopted by Order of the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic of Decem-

ber 19, 2018 No. 593 “About approval of the Payment procedure of the qualified legal help given by the lawyer and rates of payment of the qualified legal aid given by lawyers within the legal aid guaranteed by the state» in criminal, civil and administrative matters. The participation of lawyers in the SGLA system will enable them to meet the needs of vulnerable and poor people for qualified lawyers.

The Law Program also continued to strengthen the capacity of the civil society organizations working in the field of free legal assistance. Consultations and round tables were held for NGOs representatives. More than fifteen organizations completed three-day training on network development for SGLA network member organizations.

In December, as part of a large information campaign on the SGLA, the SGLA members organizations held a decade of free legal assistance. They held workshops in thirteen

educational institutions. About a thousand students participated in the events. Information materials were published and disseminated jointly with partners.

With the support of the Law Program, the experts developed basic and advanced modules on the SGLA in criminal proceedings. As a result of trainings conducted by the Bar Association and NGO partners, the number of lawyers specializing in the SGLA increased.

[Assistance in the prevention of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and punishment in the Kyrgyz Republic](#)

In early 2018, the Foundation supported the Ministry of Health in finalizing the draft “Order of the Government about the unification and standardization of documentation of violence, torture and ill-treatment” in follow-up of coordination with the ministries and departments.

The draft Order of the Government was considered at a meeting of the Coordination Council for Human Rights in June and November 2018. During the meetings, additional comments and recommendations were obtained. The draft is currently being finalized. Moreover, the experts engaged in the Law Program developed a “Practical Guide for lawyers representing the interests of victims that suffered from torture and ill-treatment” in the criminal process. The guide was published in the amount of six hundred and fifty copies and handed over to the Training Center under the KR Bar Association and the NGO Coalition against torture.

Based on the High School of Justice, thirty-eight judges were trained in «The specifics of judicial examination of criminal cases on the use of torture». «A Practical guide to the examination of criminal cases on the use of torture for judges” is being finalized and reviewed.

Torture in Kyrgyzstan: economic and social effects

In October 2018, a group of experts from “the Central Asian Alliance Against Dependence” Public Association, with the support of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan, presented the results of [unique and the](#)

[only study in the Central Asia](#) on the legal, medical and social effects of torture. The researchers have calculated the amount of money that both victims and the state have to spend as a result of the practice of torture.

“

When the state ignores human rights, it has results on long-term negative effects: the level of trust in state institutions and economic activity of the population decrease, anxiety in the society increases

”

Opening the results of the study, we can say that to date the state spends on the prevention of torture less than 1% of the amounts which it loses as a result of this phenomenon.

One can calculate the cost of the effect of torture for the country with high accuracy and produce exact figures but the question on how to calculate physical and moral suffering of the victim remains unanswered.

During the in-depth interviews, the team of researchers looked into the life stories of people that had been faced with torture, learned about their experience, psychological trauma and fears. It became clear

that the figures obtained as a result of the study will remain a relative and very minor value compared to the real experience of the victims.

According to the head of the study, psychiatrist Aida Parpiyeva, 1 900 citizens applied to the Prosecutor's office for torture support over the past six years. According to the study, it is only 60% of those who have experienced various tortures in their lives.

“When the state ignores human rights, this results in long-term negative effects: the level of trust in state institutions and economic activity of the population decrease, anxiety in the society increases” Parpiyeva said.

One of the authors of the study, an expert economist Arsen Imankulov reported that the cost that the effects of the torture place on the state and the victim. He says, a total of 27 cases of torture were analyzed, their victims told the experts in detail what kind of costs – medical, rehabilitation, temporary, financial – they had to face. The calculations were made provided that the victim goes through all the stages of interaction with the state bodies and achieves justice.

The experts divided all cases into three groups depending on the severity of the effects for the victims and calculated their cost for each of the groups.

1 900 citizens applied to the prosecutor's office for torture over 6 years.

To summarize and present the average economic impact of torture on the victim and the state, the working group of the project decided to build on the average cost of one case of torture. The value of almost all types of costs increases as the severity of socio-biological effects on victims increases.

The expenses of the victim can be retraced with a fairly high degree of confidence, as well as the number and types of public services for which they applied.

The scales of losses the victim bears are in KGS:

relatively easy degree - people were able to return to their daily activities quickly enough and recover their income. - 323 thousand KGS;

medium - victims suffered partial losses (they may have had to change their place of residence, spend a long time returning to full life) - 1 million 54 thousand KGS;

critical severity - torture entailed total losses: divorce, relocation, loss of workplace and/or resulted in disability - 4 million KGS.

To estimate state expenditures, standard costs or cost of services provided by the relevant government departments were used. The project working group chose the so-called "mirror" method of recording medical services provided by the state when expenses are retraced based on information on victim of torture applying to one or other state-funded medical institutions.

State financial loss per person, in KGS:

relatively mild - 1 million 300 KGS;

average - 1 million 400 thousand KGS;

critical - 2 million 600 thousand KGS.

The results of the study attracted great attention in society. A debate on torture in the media and social networks coincided with the court decision on the payment of moral compensation to the relatives of Turdubek Akmatov who «died in May 2005 as a result of torture by policemen». The amount of compensation to the relatives of the deceased made up 200 thousand KGS.



Education Program

MULTILINGUAL EDUCATION

1533 students are being prepared for Nationwide testing in

82 Uzbek-language schools

155 teachers and methodologists are completing a course in speech habits progression



170 subject teachers are completing a refresher course

In program of "Content and Language Integrated Learning "(CLIL)

Piloting educational and methodical materials based on

11 secondary schools (more than 1000 students)

14 kindergartens (more than 1400 children)

EDUCATION PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$370,901

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Institutionalization of inclusive approaches in

3 regions of the country

180 children with disabilities were added to the database of support services.

30 study hours are developed in the discipline "Pedagogics" for students

72 study hours are being developed for practicing teachers of the Kyrgyz Republic

"Handbook" for teachers and tutors was published in the amount of

100 copies

10 young people of unimpaired intellect

get a general education in the lyceum school #75 in Bishkek city based on information and methodical center "ARDI"



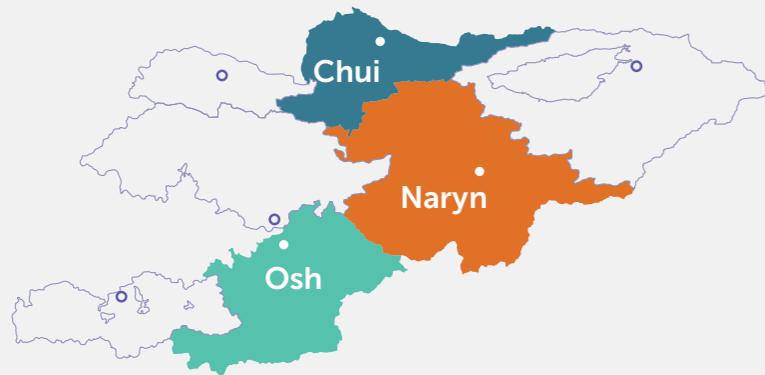
YouTube channel "Kun dostor" was created, where children with Down syndrome are conducting educational Master classes in two languages.



For blind and visually impaired students there will be published

18 various textbooks in Braille

30 various text books in general education disciplines in audio format (*.mp3)



Organization of parental universities and pedagogical workshops for promotion of inclusive education methods based on

6 kindergartens

8 school children with Down syndrome study at comprehensive school



In "ABA mom+" in Osh city classes are conducted with application of ABA methodology – therapy for

10 children with autism and mental retardation aged from 2 to 10 years old

Preparation is carried out for **10** children with autism in inclusive comprehensive school

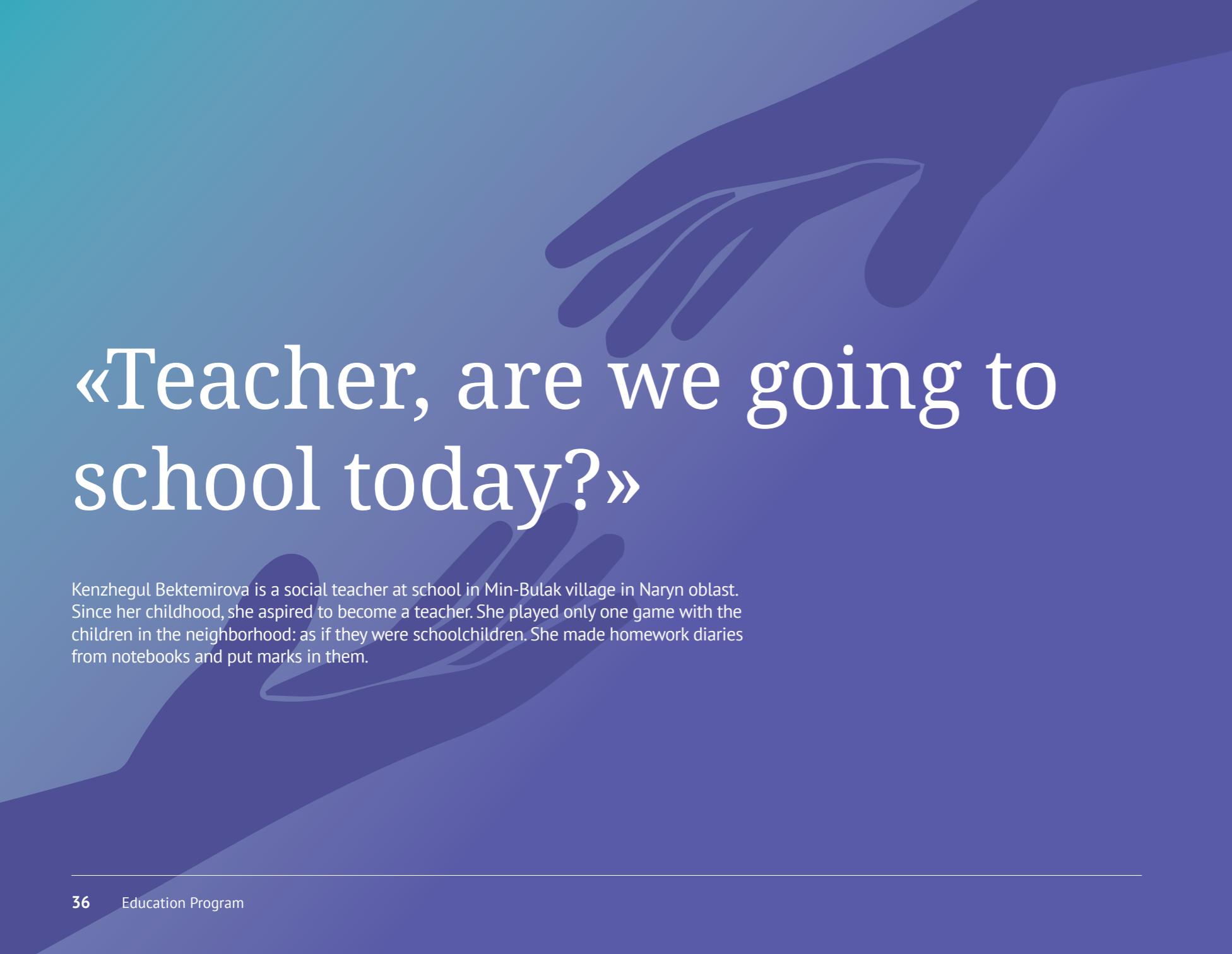
The Education Program supports initiatives aimed at expanding access to education for children with disabilities and improving the conditions for an inclusive environment as well. Program also supports the development of multilingual education as a means of integrating and consolidating society and supporting (language) diversity in the education system of the Kyrgyz Republic.

As part of this activity, the Foundation continues to support the joint efforts of state bodies and the civil society sector in developing, piloting and implementing a holistic model of inclusive education. The Foundation supported civil society organizations and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic in implementation of educational standards, curricula and materials and the creation of support services for children with special educational needs in mainstream schools. In 2018, as part of the competition of initiatives proposed by

the civil sector organizations, nine projects developed by organizations working with children with special educational needs were supported. 850 children became direct and indirect beneficiaries of this program.

As part of the program component aimed at promoting the introduction of educational standards of new generation, special attention was paid to supporting the development of multilingual education programs and learning materials as

a means of integrating and consolidating society and supporting language diversity in the education system of the Kyrgyz Republic. The main efforts were focused on the developing and piloting of teaching materials in native languages and second languages, as well as teaching and learning materials in Kyrgyz and Russian languages for teachers and students of Uzbek and Tajik schools as a preparation for the standardized nationwide testing (ORT) .



«Teacher, are we going to school today?»

Kenzhegul Bektemirova is a social teacher at school in Min-Bulak village in Naryn oblast. Since her childhood, she aspired to become a teacher. She played only one game with the children in the neighborhood: as if they were schoolchildren. She made homework diaries from notebooks and put marks in them.

“ a boy was sitting at the table in a small room and he was writing slowly with great effort, it was evident that he found it difficult to do so. ”

Having graduated from the Pedagogical Institute, Kenzhegul became a Kyrgyz language teacher in her home village. After eight years of working at the in her home town school, Kenzhegul started working extra hours for home-based training. One of the students changed her view of looking at many things.

“When I came to Bolot for the first time, he was diagnosed with cerebral palsy, I saw the following picture: a boy was sitting at the table in a small room and he was writing slowly with great effort, it was evident that he found it difficult to do so. His fingers were not responding very well, he broke into a sweat. I started to teach him, the boy turned out to be smart and

diligently. We had a good lesson. I was about to leave and met the boy's father in the doorway. “There is no point in teaching him, since he will stay at home until old age,” he said.

When Bolot heard his father's words, he tensed and started crying. To calm him, I whispered: «Do not cry, you will go to school». I said this and forgot about my words. And when I came next time, Bolot asked me: “Eje, are we going to school today?” I felt ashamed and I could think of no reason why he should not go to school”.

Kenzhegul recalled that in the secondary school №7 in the city of Naryn there was a

seminar for teachers and a resource center as inclusive education was opened there. Kenzhegul went to Naryn and met with Shaimuratova Turdubu who specialized in protecting the interests of children with disabilities, and she advised Kenzhegul to bring not only Bolot to school but other children with disabilities as well.

Kenzhegul returned to the village and turned to the headmaster with a proposal: “Agay, can I bring children with disabilities to school?” And she heard: “Yes, you can but it is you who will be responsible for them. I suggest that you be a social pedagogue”. Kenzhegul agreed though she knew that the social pedagogue had a lower salary and a longer working day unlike the “subject teacher”. She couldn't give up and in 2012 began working with children as a social teacher.

“Bolot was my first inclusive student and I brought three more children to school after him. These were children with mental disabilities. Pupils of other classes stopped to look at them as a local specialty. Some students were curious, the other students were hostile. The more important was this work for me. I realized that our society has a lot to learn. I firmly decided to fight stereotypes and instill in children tolerance. I began to hold events so that children would be together and communicate

“

Pupils of other classes stopped to look at them as a local specialty. Some students were curious, the other students were hostile.

”

with each other. I set up a school club and involved high school students as volunteers. I constantly studied and attended all the workshops conducted by the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia with the support of the Soros Foundation - Kyrgyzstan in Naryn.

Experts came to our village, examined the children and provided recommendations to teachers, nurses and parents. Our Family Days were aimed at strengthening the relationship between children and parents, and providing parents with useful information about child-rearing as well”.

Today Kenzhegul works individually, visits families, does awareness-raising work

with parents, controls the attendance of children for classes and helps in choosing hobbies. She collaborates with the social security authorities and the council of ak-sakals on account of her activities.

As Anara Nadirbekova, Executive Director of the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, says: “Kenzhegul feels the problems of parents and students and catches on family conflicts. For these six years, she has been able to help many children. Bolot, her first student in the inclusive experience, completes the tenth grade this year”.

The headmaster highly appreciates Kenzhegul: “As a social teacher, she always and everywhere tries to represent the interests

of a child, attends the necessary authorities with the children and takes them to the hospital. Many our students face social problems in their families, often Kenzhegul has to deal with the indifference of parents and others. But we know that she can cope with any problem.

The Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia with the support of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan assisted the school at Min-Bulak village in the implementation of inclusive education initiatives and provided information and methodological support to the social teacher Bektemirova Kenzhegul as well.

The Education program of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan supports initiatives that are aimed at creating conditions for improving access to education for children with special educational needs and those children from socially vulnerable groups of society. The work is focused on combining the resources of state bodies, the civil sector and educational organizations in order to implement the tasks aimed at developing and implementing a holistic model of inclusive education in the Kyrgyz Republic. Education should be available to every child!



Media Development Program



ШКОЛА ДАННЫХ

www.opendata.kg

The opendata.kg was launched with lessons in Kyrgyz and Russian languages on how to work with data. You can also find a catalogue of open data for the Central Asia and the world, a list of instruments required for work with data and data-pubications of the Kyrgyz media. There were conducted

9 #datасреда that raised relevant topics



road safety



the spread of HIV in Kyrgyzstan



child nutrition



quality of secondary education



accountability of the Parliament activities



the Ukraine's experience in data development



www.ky.kloop.asia



4 journalism schools conducted



820 multimedia materials published



59 participants were trained

520 materials in Kyrgyz

300 materials in Russian



www.factcheck.kg

The **first resource in Kyrgyzstan** to counter fake news and manipulation was launched.



140 materials in Russian and Kyrgyz



9 articles on media criticism



5 training modules on factchecking



Media Policy Institute

MPI lawyers participated in



105 court sessions

1 petition considered in the Constitutional Chamber of the Kyrgyz Republic

2 criminal cases

22 court cases

19 civil court cases

1

By access to information

1

Consideration of the application by MPI in the CC for recognizing the Article 4 of the Law "About guarantees of activities of the President of the KR" as contradicting the Constitution

2

Recognition of the material as extremist

16

Related to claims on protection the honor, dignity and business reputation



Legal Clinic "Adilet"



65 legal consultations provided



1 complaint was accepted for consideration by the UN Human Rights

34

the interests of the project beneficiaries were presented in the state and judicial bodies

31

cases are completed

3

cases are in charge



"Legal and ethical foundations of the journalist activity" • 500 copies



"Analysis of judicial practice of considering cases on protection of honor and dignity" • 200 copies

The Life Which Illuminated Truth

Ulan Egizbaev's book with his investigative and journalist works was published



1500 copies

MEDIA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$523,379



Media Support Center

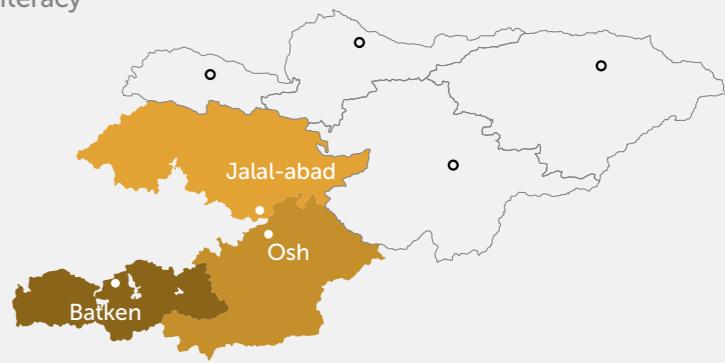
In media and information literacy were trained



2 299 teachers



157 students



The objectives of the program are to promote the development of independent media, media literacy and freedom of speech and disseminate best practices in the field of media development.

The Media Development program in 2018 worked in several areas:

- Protection of freedom of speech and expression, legal support for journalists, support for media self-regulatory bodies;
- Development of data journalism;
- Supporting media literacy initiatives;
- Creating conditions for the development of journalists and independent media through support for content projects on investigative journalism, the development of regional journalism, new approaches to interacting with the audience, inter-editorial exchanges and participation in national events.

Protection of freedom of speech and freedom of expression

The program supported projects and activities aimed at protecting freedom of expression and media freedom in Kyrgyzstan. Assistance was provided through advising and protecting journalists in courts, promotion of advanced legislation in the field of media and monitoring media legislation.

Strengthening the legal and communication components of the activities of [Legal Clinic Adilet](#) and [Media Policy Institute](#) updated the principles of freedom of expression and the importance of independent media.

The Foundation supported the participation of representatives of civil society organizations in strengthening their advocacy work at the local and international levels and assisted them in meetings with the EU representatives.

To support the Commission for Media Complaints, as a self-regulatory body for journalists, training was conducted with participation of local and international experts was conducted. The communication work of the reshaped team was strengthened through publishing and disseminating “the Journalists Code of Ethics”, articles in the media, a campaign on the social networks and the preparation of videos.

Media Literacy Development

The Foundation launched the work of the fact-checker team and the [www.factcheck.kg](#) resource, thus giving a start to a new area in the media environment of Kyrgyzstan. This

area quickly gained popularity with a wide audience and among journalists. Following the investigations by the fact-checker team, many media outlets published exposing material.

The expansion of the program to develop media literacy among school teachers and students of the Media Support Foundation in the Jalal-Abad, Osh and Batken oblasts marked the beginning of a systematic introduction of the media literacy principles in the educational environment.

Data journalism

As part of data journalism development, an educational portal [www.opendata.kg](#) was created. It united journalists, activists and data experts into a single community.

The data school, a new shareholder from the civil sector in the field of data development, launched a series of public events to better understand the world of data in different subject areas.

Training events were held among aspiring data journalists of Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan in a week-camp format; training with

the participation of an international expert was conducted for experienced data activists and journalists. The experienced data activists and journalists passed the torch of the knowledge gained through holding events for their communities.

Support for independent media and journalists

The Foundation continues to support the activities of the Kloop Osh branch and the development of Kyrgyz-language content of the media resource, schools of journalism in Bishkek and Osh, and thus contributes to the development of a new generation of journalists.

As part of the inter-agency exchange arranged by OTRK (Public Television and Radio Corporation) Yntymak(Consent) and Govori TV(Talk TV) participated in cooperation and exchange of experience with journalists from the Naryn, Batken, Issyk-Kul and Jalal-Abad oblasts. Such an exchange enhances the potential of editorial staff in the preparation of a high-quality balanced content. Jointly with “Kaktus Media”, “T-Media” and OTRK “Yntymak” the program launched projects on the production of socially significant content.

Investigative Journalism Foundation gained support to strengthen its institution and in 2019 it will launch a competition in pursuing journalistic investigations in various areas including external aid monitoring.

Partner Media Events

As part of partner projects, the Foundation facilitated the participation of regional journalists in the Internews conference “Media Toptoo” to share experience, obtain new information on trends in the media industry and establish contacts with organizations.

In November, the Foundation supported the holding of the first partner media conference with the participation of regional journalists and international organizations. The conference was also assisted by the Ministry of Culture and Information of the Kyrgyz Republic.

To disseminate the experience of a talented investigative journalist from Azattyk Media Ulan Egizbayev, the Foundation supported the publication of the book “[Ulanbek Egizbayev. The Life Which Illuminated Truth](#)”. The book includes text versions of TV investigations and documentary films that reveal corruption and lawlessness.

Media research

The work has begun on the “Media Influence Matrix” research with the use of the Central European University methodology. The research is conducted by the Promotank Research experts.

The “Media Influence Matrix” project is aimed at exploring a changing landscape in three areas:

- government and political space, changes in policy and regulatory environment;
- sources of funding journalism and their impact on the coverage of topics;
- technologies in the public sphere (how automation and dissemination of information based on algorithms affect the media and journalism).



«Kloop School where everyone feels free»

In a cozy two-story office in the center of the Osh city life is in full swing. The [Osh branch of Kloop](#) Public Association is based here, and as part of three-month

season schools students learn the basics of journalism. Participants from remote regions live here in the hostel.

“

Such school is essential for young people. During three months you can gain deep knowledge and expand your outlook.

”

An important part of these events is the learning format - a practice when a student immediately learns to work with sources, tries to interview and prepares materials. The atmosphere in the school is working but the students are relaxed and free in their creative process.

We arrived at school at noon and had a delicious lunch. The Project Coordinator in Osh branch Kloop, Saadat Tologonova, was setting the table and dishing out pilaf to the young people. Traditional Osh pilaf, with its aroma and unique taste, is a separate topic, and it should be noted that the conversation

with this dish always proves to be warm and confidential. This is exactly what can be said about our conversation with the students of the Kloop School of Journalism. They talked about their impressions of the practice, shared their plans and spoke highly of their young mentors.

Elvira Sultanmurat kyzy, a mentor of the School, came to Osh from Bishkek: “We, coaches, are not much older than our students and this is a big advantage. It is easier for young people to communicate with their peers, they do not feel embarrassed in our presence and they feel free to ask any

questions. The students were selected on the basis of a questionnaire and an essay.

We have a duty system, each student is to release material on his appointed day: news, photos and videos. Thus, we teach them to discipline which also works in the editorial offices of adults’ media. Each material has its own point value: a student earns points by preparing a photo report, news or video”.

The decision on whether the news will go to the site’s news feed is made jointly with the Bishkek editorial staff; the topics are coordinated with the editor-in-chief. In the Osh

There is no customary teacher-student hierarchy, everyone is equal and has the right to express his point of view. Inner freedom in work with young people is very important.

branch the editorial staff has its own staff meeting every Friday.

“We have no chiefs; we appreciate everybody and believe that each person is unique. In the editorial office everyone has an opinion of his own, we decide everything together, we go on excursions together, the guys turn to us not only on professional but personal issues as well”, says Elvira.

Mairambek Taalaibek uulu, a student at the Spring Kloop School of Journalism, said that he didn’t expect the editor to hand him a phone number and ask for information on

the news related to the medical students dissatisfied with extension of medical residency. Mairambek made his first material in the form of [a photo essay about the Orthodox Church in Osh city](#). He had to select 100 out of 500 photos taken, from among which only a few of them were selected for the site. “After thorough preparation I understood how difficult it was to prepare such materials. But I believed in myself and I understood that I was able to make photo reports. I try to convey my impressions to the reader”, Mairambek says.

With the start of training the students imme-

diately plunge into the journalistic life and prepare news on the ground. An important feature of the School is not only an orientation towards practical journalism but the fact that every student here has the opportunity to try different presentation formats. The trainers believe in their students and enable them tackle the most serious topics.

Aigerim Yrysbek kyzy prepared one of the most explosive feature materials [about the landfill near Osh city](#): “At the beginning of school I never imagined that the mayor’s office staff could take me seriously and that I would be able to prepare an article on such a

complicated topic. But in the process of writing this article I not only gained experience but learned a lot about the lives of ordinary people as well". The mentors of the School note Aigerim's abilities: "She takes only the first year of journalism but in conversation she admitted that she picked up a great store of knowledge at our School. Aigerim is an excellent interviewer, she is able to clearly formulate questions and get comprehensive answers to them."

There is no customary teacher-student hierarchy, everyone is equal and has the right to express his/her point of view. Inner freedom at work with young people is very important.

Gulzhan Eshbayeva, editor of Kloop and mentor of the School, notes that when setting tasks the safety of students is primarily

taken into account because sometimes they have to cover such complicated social problems as violence, poverty and crime. Gulzhan shares her impressions of Gulnur Zairova's work whom she remembered for her creativity and communication skills: "From the first days Gulnur worked quite professionally with various press services and became an example for the other students. I hope that the knowledge gained at the Kloop School of Journalism will serve as an impetus for her professional future".

Among the first topics that the editors tell students about is the responsibility of journalists to society. When choosing topics, journalists should be guided primarily by public interest and they should not forget about accuracy and balance.

"Such school is essential for young people. During three months you can gain deep knowledge and expand your outlook", Mairambek says.

It is important that all pieces of news are prepared here in Kyrgyz. According to the latest data from the company M-Vector ([A study of media preferences of the audience, 2017](#)) almost 70% of the population of Kyrgyzstan today prefer to receive information in Kyrgyz language.

Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan supports the activities of the Kloop Osh branch in order to increase the access to high-quality content for Kyrgyz-speaking audience. Supporting schools of journalism for young people contributes to the development of critical thinking of the younger generation and the education of aspiring journalists.



Civic Engagement Program

Grants in amount of

\$600–\$2000

For young people aged

16–28 years

The following regions of Kyrgyzstan were covered:



Audio description of objets d'art and architecture for blind and visually impaired people in Kyrgyzstan.

113 objets d'art of Gapar Aitiev Museum of Fine Arts were audio described



Protecting the rights of PWD

The videos were shot to show that PWD can be unaided and independent, all they need is assistance and support.



"Theater as a method of social change"

The young people aged 12 to 25 years old participated in a forum theater dedicated to the theme of the rights of people with disabilities.



"Erkin (free) microphone"

Trainings on human rights and an exhibition (pictures, art installations and an evening of poetry focused on human rights) were conducted.

Engagement of citizens in the city budget

jointly with the Public Health Program



The Budget Code of the KR entered into force on January 1, 2017

"Instructions on the formation of the program budget at the local level" and "Instructions on the formation of the civil budget at the local level" were developed.



The program and civil budgets of 3 cities were developed.



CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$303,793



Project "Darya/River Park"



Creating a public space in Kok-Jar Microdistrict, Bishkek city, on the embankment along the Alamedin River.



The project is being developed by AUCA jointly with the city architects.

MOVE GREEN "MoveGreen" Public Association



Visualization of the data on air quality through mobile application **Aba.kg** attracted public attention.

An interdepartmental working group under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic which engaged "MoveGreen" employees was set up.



"Our Right" Public Foundation



A draft law **"On the use, reproduction and protection of green spaces in cities and towns of the Kyrgyz Republic"** which will propose the innovations enabling to efficiently protect green spaces is being developed.



"Archa Initiative" Public Foundation



Practical **courses of "Urban greening laboratory"** were developed, as part of them

53 theoretical and practical classes on the proper greening of urban spaces were conducted.



The Art festival **"ArtProspect"** was held. Following it

21 objects were installed in the Botanic Garden.



A **manual on urban greening** was developed for the municipal enterprise "Zelenstroi of Bishkek city". It contains the **Instruction on proper trees trimming** in the city.

The objective of the **Civic Engagement Program** is to enhance a constructive interaction between the authorities and the civic society, support civic initiatives in urban governance and development as well as civic expertise in the field of environment, urban design and data analytics for accountability.

In 2018, we continued our strategic goal to enhance civic activism in urban governance. We believe that city has the highest potential for civic mobilization at a level, where people are eager to act, where they ready to stand for their interests. The main activity of the program was aimed to support initiatives on the promotion and protection of public interests. We supported initiatives in the field of ecology, safe urban environment, development of accessible and comfortable public spaces and increased expertise in urban development as well. Another area was the support of initiatives in the field of art and culture. This area is an important tool for strengthening civic engagement, the possibility of free and conscious expression of one's civic position and drawing attention to the important problems in society.

Protecting the rights of citizens to a favorable environment.

Public spaces like parks and squares are crucial for democratic practices, where citizens can get together to claim their rights. As part of the project on protection of the public spaces due to the efforts of the civil society, work to preserve and develop parks, squares and other green areas of the cities in Kyrgyzstan is carried on. «Our Right» Public Association conducted a study of the green zones of the capital and published a book «The Green Zones of Bishkek.» The Councils for the Conservation of Nature in the Fuchik, Ataturk, Molodezhny Parks, public gardens in the fourth micro-district and near the Chatyr-Kul cinema were set up. A journalistic investigation on the purchase of seedlings by the City Hall was conducted. Following

this journalistic investigation, a criminal case was initiated. Currently, a draft law “On the use, reproduction and protection of green spaces in cities and towns of the Kyrgyz Republic” is being developed.

In order to draw public attention to the problem of air quality in Bishkek and engage citizens in the processes of interaction with government agencies, the MoveGreen Public Association conducts civil monitoring of the air pollution by using special sensors and visualizing their data at the website www.airkaz.org/bishkek and Aba.kg application. Following the first stage of the project, environmental activists and social networks users managed to draw attention of the media to the problem. A large number of articles, interviews, analytical programs and publications attracted public attention. A study on

“Civil monitoring of air quality in Bishkek” was conducted. On the instructions of the Prime Minister, an interdepartmental working group was set up and in early 2018 “Comprehensive Plan for Improving the Environmental Situation of Bishkek” was signed. The State Agency for Environmental Protection and Forestry (SAEPF) held a tender for the purchase of equipment to monitor air quality, and the City of Bishkek, Mayor’s office intends to purchase natural gas municipal buses.

Public foundation “Archa Initiative” developed practical courses for “Urban greening laboratory”. As part of the courses, fifty-three classes were held at the proper planting in urban spaces. In partnership with the ArtEast Foundation, the Art Festival “ArtProspect” was held in the Botanical Garden. Following the festival, according to the developments of the project “On the way to the garden city”, twenty-one art-objects were installed in the Botanical Garden. A team of experts, collaborating with the project has developed a “Man-

ual on urban planting” for the municipal enterprise “Zelenstroy of Bishkek city”. The manual included «Instructions for the proper trees trimming in the city”.

Civic engagement in the issues of city development and program budgeting at the local level has been established..

The Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan in partnership with the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia supported the Ministry of Finance of the Kyrgyz Republic in the development of the “Instructions for drawing up the program budget at the local level” and “Instructions for drawing up the civil budget for local level». Civic engagement mechanisms in budgeting processes were established in cities of Karakol, Kara-Balta and Jalal-Abad cities. Thanks to the assistance of the Foundation, the municipal employees and representatives of the civil society learned how to qualitatively evaluate the existing development programs, measure the needs and requirements of communities, conduct public hearings on

socio-economic development programs (PSED) and budgets, monitor the implementation of the local budgets.

School of Contemporary Art

The main area of School of Contemporary Art project by the ArtIst Public Association is the making of artists, curators and art critics through the provision of relevant artistic information and the acquisition of technical skills as well as the unification of various urban initiatives through implementing interdisciplinary art projects. The school held a series of lectures, workshops, meetings with artists, workshops and exhibitions in various areas of modern art. The students of the School participated in the contemporary art exhibition “Red Tablet”, arranged their own exhibition “Evolution” and participated in the Second International Festival of Public Art “Art Prospect-Bishkek” as well.

#Airinbishkek

According to the World Health Organization, about two million people die because of air pollution in the world every year. Polluted air is one of the most acute modern problems. Unfortunately, the same is true in Kyrgyzstan. In recent years, Bishkek residents have often observed a suffocating veil of smoke, soot and exhaust fumes.

Due to climatic factors, the problem is exacerbated during the heating season but at other times the air quality in the city leaves much to be desired. All these years, the city authorities did not seem to notice this problem at all. They act as if it does not exist.

“According to air pollution reports in the European Union, the bulk of premature deaths from polluted air can be attributed to particulate matter sized from 2.5 to 10 micrometers (PM2.5, PM10),” says environmental engineer Baktygul Stakeeva. According to the WHO, the constant presence of particles in the lungs causes inflammatory processes, which, in their turn, result in respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. Suspended particles settle in the lungs, from where hazardous chemicals spread via the blood throughout the body resulting in potentially fatal consequences”.

The situation was driven from the deadlock due to the efforts of young environmental activists from the MoveGreen Public Association who jointly with the experts tried to draw public attention to the high level of air pollution through measuring harmful particles with the use of special sensors installed in different parts of the city. At the same time, a large number of articles were published in the mass me-

dia, publications were made on the social networks and TV programs. All of them reported to the citizens about the causes of smog in Bishkek and the harmful effects of polluted air on people’s health, especially on respiratory and cardiovascular diseases. The townspeople began to pay attention to black smoke from various urban buildings, the acrid smells from household waste burnt, large amounts of exhaust gases of cars in traffic jams and shared such posts in the social networks. Many townspeople told about the deterioration of their health. However, the state authorities responsible for the environmental situation in the city stayed indifferent to the problem, stating that air quality is normal and there is no reason for concern.

Only when there was formed a critical mass of civic activists and environmental experts who saw the problem as a whole and argued that such a situation resulted from destructive actions by the local authorities and the authorities in urban

planning which were aimed at expanding the roads. This in turn led to even more vehicles in the city, thoughtless felling of trees from such extensions and construction of chaotic multi-storey buildings also affected the wind rose of Bishkek, the situation changed. They managed to draw the attention of the Prime Minister of the Kyrgyz Republic who instructed to set up an inter-ministerial working group and work out efficient measures to address the problem.

As a result of the collection, analysis and visualization of data on the problem of air cleanliness and advocacy organized, the Kyrgyz Parliament initiated the law “On Clean Air”.

“MoveGreen” Public Association is a grantee of the Soros Foundation -Kyrgyzstan.



Youth Action Fund

The Youth Action Fund (YAF) is an Open Society Foundations program of individual mini-grants for young people in Kyrgyzstan. It aims to encourage the active participation of young people in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country. Since 2016, Youth Action Fund has set as its main goal to contribute to the engagement of young people in the promotion, observance and protection of human rights through encouraging and supporting the implementation of the ideas of young people. To achieve this, the Youth Action Fund program allocates grants ranging from \$ 600 to \$ 2,000 to young people aged 16 to 28 years old to support their ideas in the following areas: The rights of people with disabilities; Minority rights: ethnic, linguistic, religious, etc.; Women's rights and health; Youth and Justice, Freedom of expression, Freedom of assembly and association.

Now you can not only look at the pictures but listen to them as well



Five thousand blind people live in Kyrgyzstan. For those who see the world in all, its colors, it is difficult to imagine the life and problems of blind citizens. Many people

are not aware of how blind ones move along the streets, how they travel by public transport and how they make friends.

In the record of the audio guide, the visitor to the museum hears that in front of him there is a simple single-figure composition located horizontally.

Our society often does not perceive blind people as full-fledged citizens, their leisure and involvement in social processes are not on the public agenda. This category does not have full access to education, health services, social and cultural activities.

There are few initiatives aimed at empowering people with disabilities in Kyrgyzstan. However, there are still quite excellent ones among them.

Thanks to the support of the Youth Action Fund and Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan and with the assistance of the Ministry of Culture, Information and Tourism of the Kyrgyz Republic, an innovative project was launched at Gapar Aitiev Museum of Fine Arts through which blind and visually impaired people can now get acquainted with the exhibits.

The project “Empowering people with disabilities through art: audio description of museum exhibits” was initiated and

prepared by a group of young activists - Zarena Syrgak kyzy, Kanykey Kenensariev and Amangeldy Jumabayev. It is aimed at creating an accessible, open and universal platform where everyone, including people with visual disabilities, can freely, that is without any social or communication barriers, visit the museum and enjoy universal objects d’art.

Audio description is a sound verbal description of objects, space, actions and phenomena depicted on a movie screen,

“

I have been to different countries and having visited a museum I always knew what kind of picture was in front of me because I heard its description.

”

theater stage or in paintings. A verbal description of objects for blind and visually impaired people is prepared by an audio describer. The task of the audio describer is to describe the picture in such a way that a person has his/her own opinion about the work of the author. The description should convey visual information rather than an emotional assessment of the graphic image being described.

Take for example, «The Daughter of Soviet Kirghizia» by Semyon Chuikov. The descrip-

tion says that it is oil on canvas. The size is 1181x590. The canvas “The Daughter of Soviet Kirghizia” occupies pride of place in the history of Kyrgyz painting and is considered to be one of the best works by Semyon Chuikov.

In the record of the audio guide, the visitor to the museum hears that in front of them and there is a simple single-figure composition located horizontally. In the center of the picture in close-up there is a girl with dark complexion, she has roses in

her cheeks. She is delicate. There is a red scarf on her head, from under which one can see black hair smoothly combed and braided. She is wearing a long white dress with sleeves up to the elbow. A short blue tank top is put on over the dress. Her right hand is free and she holds several books in her left hand. The girl looks straight and intently. Her expression is serious, calm and confident. The figure is shown on the background which is usual for Chuikov’s paintings: in the distance there stretches the ridge of mountain peaks which start

from the yellow steppe full of various color shades.

Through joint efforts, the young people audio described 113 exhibits in the Oriental Hall of the museum. The recording was made in three languages: Russian, Kyrgyz and English. It was Kanykey who was engaged in the preparation of audio descriptions. It took her a month to record them.

On the day of the project presentation, the museum met a large number of visually

impaired people. They duly appreciated the initiative of the young activists. The member of the Kyrgyz Parliament Dastan Bekeshev knows from his own experience how important it is for blind people to visit museums and theaters.

“Many people believe that blind people can not go to the museums of fine arts. However, a solution was found in the world long ago – audio description. I have been to different countries and having visited a museum I always knew what kind of

picture was in front of me because I heard its description. Today we have this technology here. I listened to audio descriptions of several works and remained pleased. Now it is necessary to make other cultural institutions of Kyrgyzstan accessible for visually impaired people”, said Bekeshev.

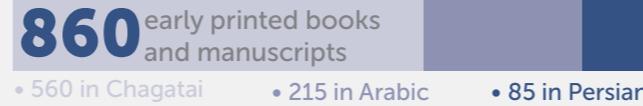


Information Program



www.manuscript.lib.kg

Digitising to preserve the archives of the Manuscript Collection in the Kyrgyz National Academy of Sciences



218 audio recordings of folk melodies, folk tunes and the Epic of Manas



www.kyrgyzkilem.kg

The largest digital collection of carpet sketches and patterns in Kyrgyzstan.



www.edu.gcfglobal.org

On the subjects of IT applying



INFORMATION PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

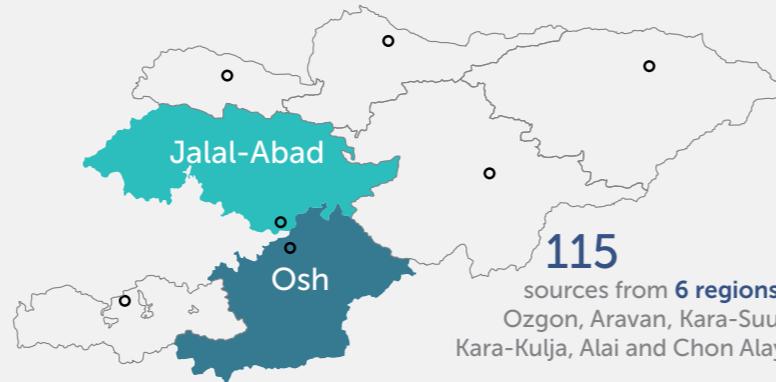
\$276,953



Preserving cultural values

To preserve the tradition "koshok" (bemoaning),

a historic and ethnographic survey was conducted



www.okuma.kg

Resource for Kyrgyz-speaking schools and higher educational institutions increased to

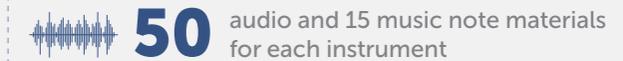
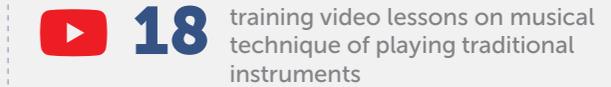


www.knmii.kg

Digitising the collection of Gapar Aitiev Kyrgyz National Museum of Fine Arts



Musical Heritage



Open Government Partnership (OGP)



In 2018, support to the OGP National Forum was provided and the **National Action Plan** for Open Government was developed.



#Часкода #HourOfCode

The annual action was attended by more than



Informatics text book

was developed and tested for grades 5-6



First Central Asian Conference on PyCon 2018

To build capacity of local software designers in Python Programming Language, a conference of Python-programmers was held.



The objective of the Information Program is to ensure open access to information, knowledge and data as well as to promote computer science and programming among children and young people.

The main achievements of this strategy were:

Ensuring open access to information, knowledge and data

The process of Kyrgyzstan's joining of the Open Government Partnership (OGP) supported by SFK continued in 2018 with the formation of the National OGP Forum and the Development of a National Plan of Action (NPA).

The main achievement of this initiative is the engagement of the civil society (CS) in processes aimed at ensuring transparency and accountability of the government. In June 2018, Kyrgyzstan was represented by an expanded delegation of eighty people at the Global Summit in Georgia; half of the delegation was civic activists. The NPA of Kyrgyzstan was presented at the Summit.

In 2018, SFK focused on the development of national educational content, particularly on the preservation of cultural heritage. As part of a grants competition support was provided to the following projects: an educational resource on national carpet weaving, the development of video lessons teaching how to play Kyrgyz musical instruments, a project on the ethnographic study of koshok texts (bemoaning), digitization of the archive of early printed books and audio-magnetic tapes of the Manuscript Collection in the National Academy of Sciences; large-scale digitization of paintings at Gapar Aitiev Museum of Fine Arts was started as well.

In total, as part of the 2018 projects, more than two hundred IT- lessons were translated into Kyrgyz www.edu.gcfglobal.org, about fifty educational video lessons were shot; a repository of educational resources for Kyrgyz-language schools and univer-

sities www.okuma.kg increased up to a thousand books, eight hundred sixty early printed books and two hundred eighteen audio-magnetic records were also digitized.

Promotion of computer science and programming among children and young people:

With the support of the Program, a draft amendment to the Law on Education was developed, and at the moment it is being considered and discussed in the Jogorku Kenesh (JK) committees. The amendments to the Law provide a considerable financial autonomy to primary and secondary vocational institutions. This will enable employers (business) work more closely with educational institutions at all levels of vocational training: 1) development of standards, 2) conducting practical classes involving business, 3) employment.

Thus, the SFK advocates systemic changes in education. These changes should have a long-term effect in terms of preparing the workforce for the IT sector.

Arabaev Kyrgyz State University and RI-ATRTP (Republican Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Teaching Personnel) developed and implemented IT standards for teaching personnel, including not only those in computer science but other subject teachers as well. The course is designed for two semesters of studying how to use IT in the educational process.

The development was completed and testing of new textbooks on computer science for grades 5–6, with an in-depth study

of computer science and programming started. Testing of new textbooks is being carried out in twenty one schools throughout the country (more than 2000 students are covered). The textbooks for grades 7-8-9 (studying Python programming language as part of the school curricula) are being prepared for printing. This textbook is an open educational resource and is distributed under the Creative Commons license.

“Hour Code”, the campaign for the promotion of IT and technical specialties, has taken national form; to date it has been attended by about ten thousand children across the country. In 2018, the President of the Kyrgyz Republic Sooronbay Sharipovich Jeenbekov participated in the

campaign. In general, the popularity of IT professions is dramatically increasing, since more than twenty courses in training programmers were registered in the capital (for comparison, in 2015 there were only two IT courses).

One of the priorities of the National Digital Transformation Strategy “Digital Kyrgyzstan”, the reform of all levels of education for training IT specialists, has been developed with the support of SFK. The expert preparation of the document was carried out on the basis of the research by SFK as part of Fellowship Program.

Nazar simply wants to be happy – to be useful, do what he loves and earn his living

As a child, Nazar wanted to become a pastry cook. But when he grew up, he realized that he wanted to work not only physically but mentally as well. Nazar took his elder brother's steps - he is a programmer - and

he understood that he also wants and can do programming. This work was just for him, since programmers can do freelancing, work from home.

“

My studies lasted 9 months; it was almost a year of exciting adventure. I liked it when my fellow students came up to me and asked what they didn't understand. Helping others is a great happiness!

”

Being diagnosed with ICP, Nazar was allowed home schooling up to grade 9. In grades 10-11 he started attending school. Then he went to J. Balasagyn Kyrgyz National University. Having completed the first course, he transferred to a distant learning, as he found it was difficult to attend classes.

Nazar learned about IT Academy courses from his friend Altynbek, who had studied there a year earlier. Nazar's family helped him in everything: his brother took him to school everyday by car, his mother waited for the end of classes, and they returned home by taxi. Nazar admits that it was difficult to study but at the same time it was desperately interesting. Before attending the courses he had tried to learn programming on his own, but with an instructor the study proved to be much more interesting.

If you are doing something, you should love this occupation and only then you will see the fruits of your labor.

There were times when something worked and something did not work, as it takes time to solve some problems in programming. The solution to the problem will not immediately come to mind by itself. Nazar compares this process with poetry – you need an inspiration!

“My studies lasted nine months; it was almost a year of exciting adventure. I liked it when my fellow students came up to me and asked what they didn't understand. Helping others is a great happiness!”, Nazar says.

The life after studying at IT Academy has changed in everything. First of all, Nazar found a very good job. A very good job! Secondly, there is almost no time left for the young programmer, no need to be bored. Thirdly, he began to feel more mature and more confident and believes that he can motivate other young people with his example.

Nazar is often asked a “sensitive” question: what is the difference between studying at university and studying at IT Academy? He answers simply: if a person has no

desire to learn, there is no difference. If you are doing something, you should love this occupation and only then you will see the fruits of your labor. Both university and academy have advantages of their own. Nazar studied at the university for a year and believes that he became wiser and more self-reliant, and has made new friends. The advantages of the IT Academy are an accessible and understandable presentation of the material, conveying speed, modern technologies and tangible results. The world does not stand still and Nazar also wants to learn something new, devel-

“

Sometimes the young man has difficulties; it won't be that interesting without them.

”

op and keep up with the times.

Nazar really wanted to live up to his family's expectations that he could work, be useful and earn a living like all people. Every day when he went to school, then to the university, and later to the Academy, his mother was with him. She did everything to support her son, helped and cared for him. Now, as Nazar believes, it's his turn to take care of his mother.

At present, Nazar works for the Business

Soft Company and at the same time he studies. "It is a great pleasure and honor for me to feel as a part of the Business Soft team. I do my best not to let down my employer, I try my hardest".

Sometimes the young man has difficulties; it would be uninteresting without them. But as Nazar says, difficulties should not be feared, they need to be overcome. When Nazar fails, he reminds himself about this.

Nazar did not tell about his plans, he

promised to tell when everything would have come true: "I love dreaming, I dream of many things, but basically I am realistic and my dreams are down-to-earth and feasible. Last year I mostly dreamt about working for a serious company. Now my dream came true. You don't need much to be happy".

IT Academy was created with the support of the Information Program of the Soros Foundation-Kyrgyzstan



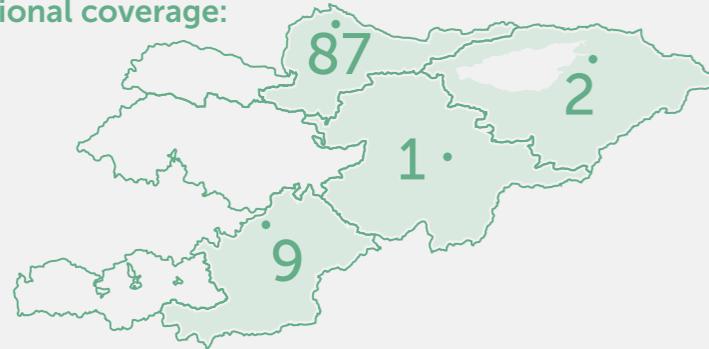
Fellowship Program

TRAVEL GRANTS

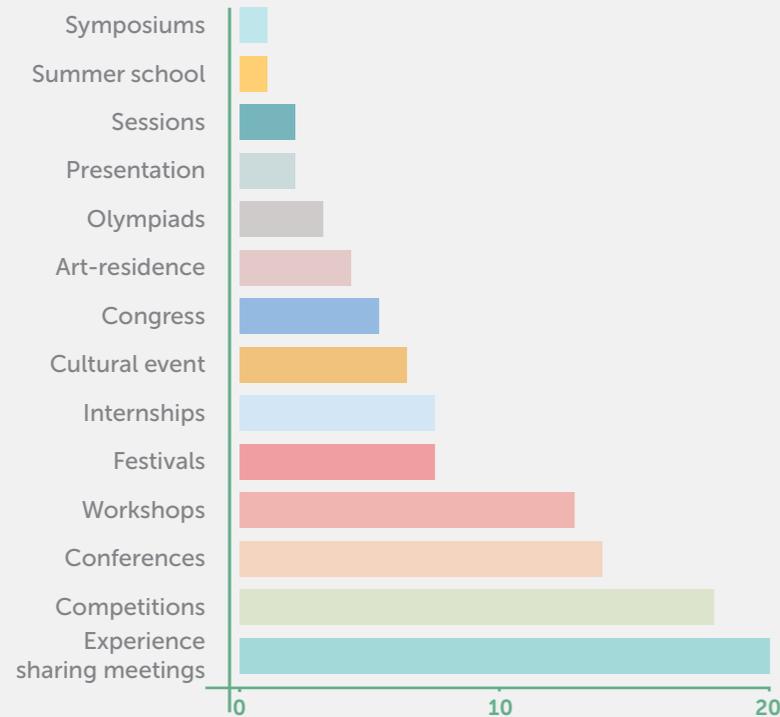
314 applications were submitted and considered

99 applications were supported

Regional coverage:



Types of activities:



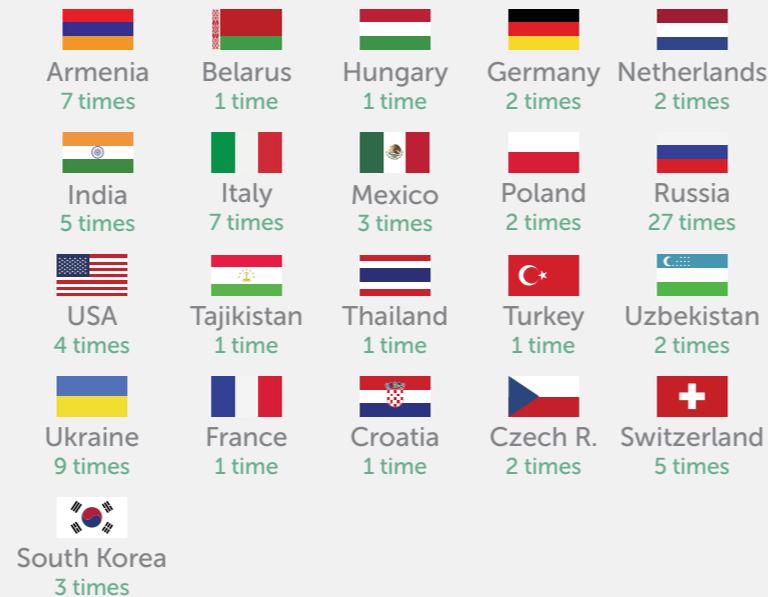
Countries of destination by SFK Travel grants

Out of total number of the applications supported

20 group trips

A total of

87 trips were made around the world



FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

74 applications were submitted in 2018

10 researches were supported

April 2018
based on the School of Public Policy,
Central European University

November 2018
to finalise researches

6 day training was held for researchers

4 day workshop was held

FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

Total budget for 2018

\$166,770

01



"Raising a child with a developmental disorder in Kyrgyzstan: the experience of the mothers that raise the children having Down's syndrome"

02



"How can the transport provision of Bishkek city be improved? The study of impact factors on the transport infrastructure of the city and suburban areas"

03



"The basis for involving citizens in the policy for changing Bishkek city"

04



"IT-market and IT- educational services market of Kyrgyzstan"

05



"Accessibility of cancer care to children in the Kyrgyz Republic: the current situation. The ways to address the problems"

06



"Inclusion of people with mental development disorder in sports: problems and prospects"

07



"Engagement policy: increasing opportunities for higher education among ethnic minorities" (using the example of the Uzbek population)

08



"The execution of the right to work through the activation of "sleeping" norms of employment of PWD"

09



"The effect of regional development projects. Pros and cons of the possibilities provided by the Regional Development Funds and incentives"

10



"Bike economy: arguments in favor of using a bicycle movement as a factor of economic and social development of cities in Kyrgyzstan"

The SFK **Travel Grants Program** aims to help increase the professional and expert potential of citizens. The Foundation provides to professionals, civic activists and experts concerned an opportunity to participate in international conferences, workshops, forums and other events in priority program areas.

Zhanuzakov Dastan was first to travel in 2018 as part of the travel grant: he participated in the «Competition of Students and Young Scientists» in Moscow and took first place.

Group meetings, sharing experiences trips and study-tours are aimed at implementing the objectives of broad public importance.

The visit of delegation with the Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic (Kudaiberdieva G.), the director of the National Center for Oncology and Hematology (Tilekov E.), the head of the “First Children’s Hospice” (Alyaeva D.), and the team of the Children’s Educational Center “Dino” (Keldibekova L.) to D. Rogachev Moscow National Research Center of Pediatric Hematology, Oncology and Immunology (MNRC PHOI) was educational in nature, it

enabled share experiences and establish the necessary connections among professionals with the aim of opening hospital school for children in Kyrgyzstan.

Moreover, to gain knowledge and build relationships with relevant specialists, a trip to the Second All Russian Conference (with international participation) of educational specialists from hospital schools was supported. The conference was held in Moscow, and the Foundation supported the participation of two teachers from Kyrgyzstan.

A trip of the team from Kyrgyzstan to Kiev to participate in the “Impact for Data” workshop contributed to the opening of the [Data School](#). Other SFK projects also contributed to the opening of the School but participation in the workshop directly influenced this process.

“The SFK Travel Grants Program” also enables specialized doctors to grow professionally. Through the trip as part of the Travel Grants Program, Begimkulova Ainura, the country’s only ophthalmic oncologist, was able to complete an internship in the Department of Ophthalmology and Oncology under the supervision of Saakyan S.V, Ph.D, Professor, at the Moscow Helmholtz Research Institute of Eye Diseases.

In 2018, the Foundation received 314 applications, all of them were considered and 99 were supported.

12 applicants declined travel grants. The main reasons for the withdrawal of the application were visa refusals, the availability of another source of funding, family affairs and tickets purchased earlier.

The Fellowship Program supports the capacity building of researchers whose activities are aimed at developing and changing the public policy. The program aims to support proactive collaboration among researchers, civil society organizations and decision-makers. It is expected that in the course of time, the society will have a sufficient number of independent researchers with deep analytical skills who will be able to initiate and conduct discourse upon important aspects of our society.

Independent researchers including experts, analysts, representatives of academic and the civil society will conduct a constructive dialogue with the state. Based on the studies conducted and analytical materials, they will contribute to the development of efficient political and managerial decisions.

In 2018, the program supported ten studies which were selected from seventy-four applications as part of the competition. The studies were conducted to analyze and study topical issues with subsequent devel-

opment of proposals and recommendations.

Work was started to update important topics that had not been raised or studied sufficiently before. Thanks to the "Research Grants Program" a study on pediatric oncology was conducted. Sultan Stambekov, a pediatric oncologist, who was concerned about accessibility of cancer care for children, tried to find out in what way the work in this direction can be improved. The researcher found that 75% of calls for help in Kyrgyzstan are late. Failure to provide timely help reduces the likelihood of saving children. Sultan tried to draw attention to this problem through his study. He plans to launch a discourse in society and among experts on the importance of taking a number of measures to improve the situation.

Olga Yarova studied the situation of parents who had children with Down's syndrome (DS). She compared their problems and positive aspects of life and studied sources of support. Thanks to her

study, Olga will conduct awareness-raising work among doctors on how to work with parents who have a child with DS. For this, she has developed recommendations for doctors and parents of children with DS.

Atay Samiybek uulu studied civic engagement in working out «Land Use and Development Rules». In the course of the study, he found out that citizens have no idea of this normative document and the study on this topic turned out to be almost impossible. The researcher was faced with the task to educate citizens and tell them about the importance of this normative document which he was deeply involved in.

At present, Bishkekglavarhitectura (Bishkek main department of architecture) began developing the land use and development rules of the City of Bishkek. It is impossible to evaluate whether there is a direct link between Bishkekglavarhitectura's work and study by Atay Samiybek uulu but the fact that the townspeople are interested in discussing this document is a good indicator.



Creation and provision of educational services for children and adolescents with disabilities from the rural areas at the expense of the local budget

According to official statistics, today in Kyrgyzstan there are 180 thousand people with disabilities, 30 thousand of them are children under 18 years. These children are particularly vulnerable and often isolated

from the rest of society. Kindergartens very rarely accept them and schools unwillingly enroll them. More than half of them do not desolate home at all.

“

He is a child like everyone else.

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It is mostly tough on children with disabilities in rural areas where in addition to social stigmatization they face infrastructure problems: the lack of special transport, ramps and handrails.

In very rare cases parents of a child with disability can leave work and spend all their time with him. Many families are unaware of their rights and available support.

Adilet Manatbekov lives in Leninskoe village. He is nine years old. He studies in the second grade of the secondary school named after Lenin. Adilet finds it difficult to move unassisted, he needs physical support. His mother is usually beside him. Adilet loves his school. His teacher helps

him not only to learn but communicate with his classmates as well. After school Adilet shares impressions of the past day with his family using gestures and cards. Adilet hasn't spoken since birth.

«One day he came home and began showing us the traffic light with the help of cards and toys – they were told about traffic rules in school. Adilet explained everything to us very well. He is a child like everyone else», his mother says.

Adilet's mother accompanies him to the classes and helps him during the breaks. To stand up from the desk or go to the toilet, Adilet needs support: special handrails. None of them can be found either in the

classroom or in the corridor.

For several years the Public Association of the parents of children with disabilities «Bala Tilegi» (translated from Kyrgyz «Bala Tilegi» means «the child's dream») held meetings with deputies of local kenesh: the parents told the deputies about the difficulties the children with disabilities were faced with and asked for their help. The negotiations produced no results.

In 2017, «Bala Tilegi» Public Association participated in the study «Creation and provision of educational services for children and adolescents with disabilities (WD) from rural areas at the expense of the local budget». The study was supported by the

Adilet's mother accompanies him to the classes and helps him during the breaks. To stand up from the desk or go to the toilet, Adilet needs support: special handrails. None of them can be found either in the classroom or in the corridor.

Soros Foundation – Kyrgyzstan.

Thanks to participation in this project, the organization was able to analyze the budget expenditures of Lenin ayil okmotu for three years. «Bala Tilegi» representatives learned to use open data (budget.okmot.kg, minfin.kg), make official requests, referring to existing laws (the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic «On access to information administered by the local self-government»).

As a result of their own investigation, the Public Association of the parents of children «Bala Tilegi» learned that the Leninsky ayil okmotu, in whose territory the Association is located, has a fairly large budget if compared with other ayil okmotus of the

Alamudun district. (In 2017, the ayil okmotu revenues accounted for 40 million KGS).

Having specific data on expenses and incomes, the organization began to negotiate with local authorities more confidently and efficiently. The negotiations finally bore fruit.

By early 2019, an estimate was made for the installation of ramps and railings along the corridor and in the classroom in Lenin school where Adilet studies. Moreover, from the local budget the funds were allocated to arrange transportation of children to attend schools. According to Article 36 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic «On Education», the arrangement of transport-

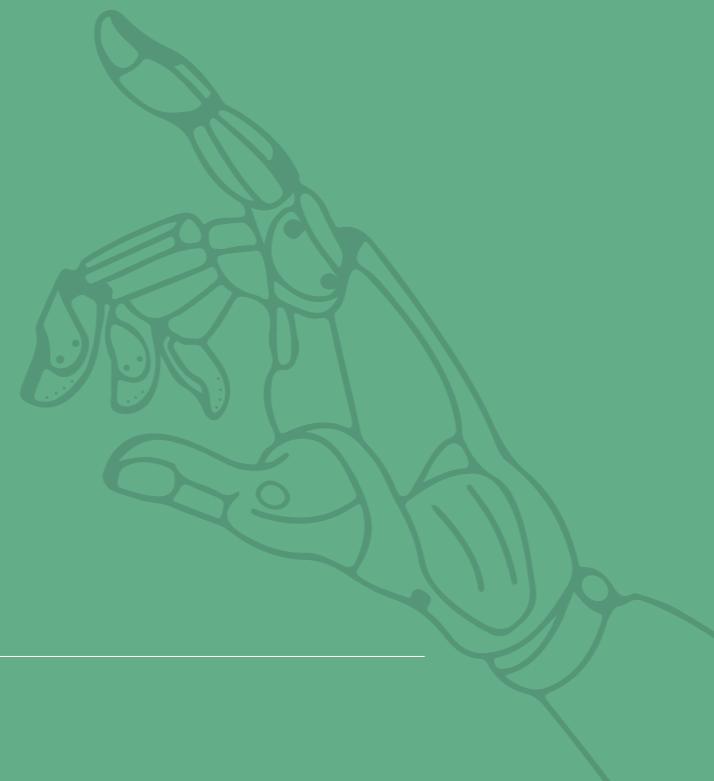
ing children to educational institutions and to the places of their actual residence is within the competence of local authorities (LSGB).

Participation in the study helped the organization build a strategy to promote the allocation of funds for the creation and maintenance of services for children with disabilities at the local level. And Adilet and other children with disabilities in the Alamudun district got more chances for socialization and education.

Aisen is sure that robots will pretty soon do the dirty jobs for human

“Genius Olympiad 2018” is a large-scale event and a great event in my life. I am very proud that our team was one of seventy-four participants in this Olympiad. I am proud that we have worthily represented our country and demonstrated our ideas. The work of the Olympiad was

held in several categories: art, science, literature and robotics. Our category, «Robotics», is considered to be most time consuming. For several weeks we prepared our robots for the trip. The robot had to be able not only to move but clean the territory and remove rubbish as well.



“

For me, work in this project enabled to unlock my creative potential and express myself both individually and in group.

”

We had to “repair” our work many times and rectify the details. In the long run, we took two robots to the Olympiad. Much to our regret, one of them broke down on the way and we had to present the only robot in the form of a travelling crane at the Olympiad.

The competition was held in five rounds. In each round there were separate tasks for robots. We had to present our vehicles in style and tell the jury members about their features. While presenting the robot that «survived», I understood that it was really not bad. It coped with all the tasks, and our team achieved good results: we took a decent 4th place among 74 countries.

On the final day of the Olympiad, my team was awarded with Certificates Merit and our work was marked as innovative.

During the Olympiad I saw a lot of interesting ideas and presentations by teams represented in their categories. Each of these presentations covered the problem of ecology and the environment both within the country and abroad.

For me, work in this project enabled to unlock my creative potential and express myself both individually and in group. Moreover, I understood that the quality of the project largely depends on a certain initial readiness level of its authors. Surely,

one trip for personal growth is not sufficient, so I will do my best to participate in such large international competitions to deepen my knowledge, experience and practical skills not only in robotics but in other areas as well. I will also try to go to the “Genius Olympiad” next year. To that end, I already have experience.

I have ideas for improving my robot and increasing its functionality for practical use in environmental clean-up. Participation in the Olympiad enabled me to take a new look at the problem of ecology. On my return I decided that I would be more actively engaged in the activities for a clean environment in my school.

I will continue to deepen my knowledge in animation and robotics, and focus the experience and skills on the activities for environmental safety not only within my own country but throughout the world. By creating a smart robot, you can free many workers from hard work. Moreover, robots can be involved in sorting and processing rubbish, creating special enclaves for sterilizing dirty air and sea flows, and cleaning the bottom of the deep sea and oceans from marine waste and rubbish as well. I am sure that very soon all this will be brought to life.

I spent almost two weeks in a distant and beautiful country, a country I had dreamed of since childhood. When I learned about the upcoming Olympiad of geniuses, particularly on the problem of ecology, I was enthusiastic about participating in it. As I

am fond of animation, the first thing that popped in my head was to participate in the animation category. But I was late for the presentation of the work in animation. Therefore, we together with our computer science teacher decided to participate in the “Robotics” category. And I have no regrets about it.

The Olympiad itself was held in the beautiful city of Oswego which is located on the shores of Lake Ontario. The places we visited in Oswego were well-kept and beautiful!

The program of the Olympiad was rich in presentations and reports. Moreover, there was an extensive program of various entertainment and trips. Of course, I do remember the trip to the famous Niagara Falls, I was deeply impressed.

If I say that I really liked the trip to America, it will sound trite. This trip blew my mind. I saw a lot, heard a lot and I was nearly drowned in the flow of information. The most important thing is that I met wonderful people.

Besides the Oswego Olympiad, we visited five states, New York, Washington, Boston, Los Angeles, the famous MIT universities, Harvard, the White House, the United States Capitol and Hollywood with the Walk of Fame.

I liked America for its purity and simplicity, the people there are just wonderful. I understood how they respect their country and how carefully they protect their nature. I would be happy if we care the same way about our country”.

Dinara Alyaeva believes that education is a vital component for the medical and social rehabilitation of children with cancer.

As part of our trip to D.Rogachev NMRC Hospital School in Moscow, a Memorandum of Cooperation was signed between the Rogachev NMIRC and the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic.



The implementation of the hospital school will provide seriously ill children that are on treatment for a long time with the right to education.

The memorandum signing was fulfilled by the participation of the director of D.Rogachev NMRC PHOI, academician Rumyantsev AG, the head of the project “Teach & Know” PhD Sharikov S.V. and Minister of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic Kudaiberdieva G.K.

According to this document, the creators of the innovative educational platform «Teach & Know» (Moscow) will provide comprehensive methodological support in creating conditions for the education of children undergoing long-term treatment. This project was named “Teach & Know - Kyrgyzstan”.

The implementation of the hospital school will provide seriously ill children that are

on treatment for a long time with the access to education. Academic and preschool education is a vital component for the comprehensive medical and social rehabilitation of children with cancer.

Classrooms for hospital schools will be allocated in a new building currently under construction at the Children’s Cancer Center in Bishkek.

The Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic made financial calculations to allocate funds from the budget for the hospital school teachers.

In the summer of 2018, the staff and technical project for equipping the hospital school was being prepared.

As part of the project, a significant attention is also paid to the preschool development of children, as this category of patients prevails.

The delegation included representatives of the Children’s Educational Center “Dino” who engage with the children of preschool age at the Children’s Department of the National Center for Oncology and Hematology of the Kyrgyz MoH.

The delegation from Kyrgyzstan included the executive director of Public Association “Helping is easy” Alyaeva D., director of the Children’s Educational Center “Dino” Keldibekova L., and preschool teachers Shmalyuk G. and Redina E.



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