**PROJECT**

**"PROMOTION OF THE CENTERS OF CULTURE AND LEISURE OF THE POPULATION OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN »**

Considering the importance of education / adult education and non-formal education as a tool for encouraging citizen participation in cultural, social, economic and sustainable development, as well as to increase welfare, the Branch Office of the German Adult Education Association (DVV) in Uzbekistan carries out project activities aimed on strengthening the potential of formal and non-formal education and training of youth and adults.

Cultural centers established on the basis of former houses of culture and club institutions, being in the form of ownership by state organization, mainly operate in the informal sector, offering a variety of cultural and educational services (circles, art and discussion clubs, meetings with cultural figures and others).

The main goal of implementing reforms in Uzbekistan in this sphere is to create the necessary conditions to satisfy the growing cultural and educational needs of the population, especially the young generation, as well as to assist them in organizing their productive and meaningful leisure time.

Currently the centers mainly working in the field of culture and art - they offer to the local population (mainly schoolchildren, students) various clubs of music, singing and dancing (including participation in creative ensembles), as well as massive cultural and entertaining events for the wide layers of population (concerts, theatrical performances, etc.).

To the centers are being created, in addition to those functions that houses of culture and club institutions were previously performing, assigned new responsibilities: the dissemination of modern cultural and educational services demanded by all layers of the population, the creation of Internet studios, study courses on information technology and foreign languages, the various paid services of a social-cultural nature of the population, taking into account their needs.

Assessment of the Centers' potential showed that the implementation of new functions stays for the staff of the Centers as difficult task, since they do not have sufficient knowledge and skills to organize and conduct training activities for various population groups; technical installation and equipment of the Center is insufficient for conducting courses in various directions.

The joint activities of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the DVV Branch in Uzbekistan are aimed at enhancing the potential of the Cultural Centers through familiarization with modern approaches in management, with activities, as well as on expanding access of the population of the city, district and region to various cultural and educational services. An important objective of the project is to increase the number and improve the quality of the events, courses, clubs, and also to expand the range of target groups (women, people with disabilities, the elderly people, unemployed youth, etc.).

In 2016, the Center of Culture of the Namangan Region was identified as a first location for testing project ideas. At the beginning of 2017, work began in the second pilot location - the Center of Culture of the Karshi district of the Kashkadarya region, and in 2019 the Center of Culture of the Kuvasay city, Fergana region became a third project location.

**The overall objective of the project:** To contribute to the improvement of the effectiveness of the informal education and adult education system in the regions of Uzbekistan due to innovative approaches.

**Project goal:** Expanding the range of cultural and educational services of the Centers of Culture of the Republic of Uzbekistan by strengthening institutional potential and organizing courses demanded by various categories of the population.

**Target groups of the project:** women and youth from socially vulnerable groups of the population in selected regions; population of selected regions, regardless of age, gender and social status; staff of cultural centers operating in selected regions.

Courses on improving qualifications for employees, the administration of the Center itself and nearby Centers, seminars, round tables allow introducing innovative approaches to managing the activities of cultural and leisure institutions of the region.

Strengthening the material base of the Centers and the primary financial support for professional courses (modeling, cutting and tailoring; decorative arts; basic computer literacy; photo and video editing, etc.) and educational orientation (personal development, etc.) for the population, it provides an opportunity to expand the access of various target groups to cultural and educational services.

The accumulated positive experience of the project will be summarized and systematized, further will get multiplied into the country's Culture Centers.

More detailed information on the project results for the period from 2015 to 2018. posted here (here is the link to the report).