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NEWSLETTER №12 of Representative Office *dvv international*

CONTENTS

NEWS



Introduction

«Meeting of friends»

Not to be late in studying contemporaneity.

Interview with Mikhail Rozhansky

Information on the workshop “History and Identity

Local Characteristics, Research Program and Methods”

“Organizational defocus and group progress”

New projects of dvv international in Uzbekistan

Viktoria Krause: Summary of internship at the

Representative Office of dvv international in Tashkent

ADULT EDUCATION IN THE WORLD



Announcement of Conference CONFINTEA VI

Tajikistan: Opening of the National Representative

Office of dvv international in Dushanbe

Tajikistan: Organizational meeting under the “PATENT” project

Kyrgyzstan: Courses “Yurt manufacturing master” in Issyk Kul area

THEORY AND METHODOLOGY



Publication “History and Identity: Regional Integration and History”

Internet publication “Oral History, work with eye-
witnesses and historical projects in Central Asia”

Call for participation in Writing Workshop



Do you want to write creatively?

Do you want to know how to write a good story?

Would you like to discuss your text with other students?

Do you know German at level B2 or higher?

Then apply to participate in the Writing Workshop in Chimgan to be held on 29-31 May 2009!

- Applications to participate in the test shall be emailed before 1 April 2009.
- The test will be held on 3 April 2009 from 16.00 to 17.00 at DAAD Office (Address: 2 Rakat St., near Bobur Park, Main Entrance).
- Results will be announced via email on 8 April 2009.

DAAD jointly with **dvv international** covers transportation, accommodation and meals for 15 students from Tashkent and Samarkand

Please send your questions and applications at:

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Introduction



Dear colleagues, partners and friends! As you may be aware, recently I have become a successor to Mr. Matthias Klingenberg as the Head of Representative Office of **dvv international** in Tashkent and taking this opportunity I would like to thank you for your warm welcome in this beautiful and special city.

Since I am a family man and due to my job responsibilities, at first it was hard for me to decide to move to another country. However, I am more pleased now to think back to my first weeks here and say that I don't regret my decision at all.

Despite my short stay here, I am delighted to tell you about some events that have taken place in the past few weeks.

First of all, I am pleased to inform you that **dvv international** has opened its National Representative Office in Dushanbe. Another interesting event was held in Dushanbe as well. An organizational meeting under the "PATENT" project was held on 11 March 2009.

In addition to a lot of other new interesting information, in this issue you will find an article on the workshop "History and Identity: Local Characteristics, Research Program and Methods" delivered by Russian trainer Mr. Mikhail Rozhansky in Tashkent. In this issue, you will also find an interview with him, as well as the announcement about the project week "History and identity – 2009" and an article on publication of the fourth book with materials on the project week "History and identity – 2008".

I am pleased that successful cooperation started by my predecessors is going on and on behalf of the whole team I wish that you have a nice time reading issue 12 of our newsletter.

Yours sincerely,


Gerald Kalcik
Head of Representative Office
dvv international

News



«Meeting of friends»

«The greatest pleasure on the earth is when you can be with your friends»

Rudaki

On February 27, the Representative Office of **dvv international** in Tashkent hosted a sad and at the same time happy event "Meeting of Friends" to celebrate delegation of powers from one Head of the Representative Office to another. On the one hand, all the present felt sad as Matthias Klingenberg officially left his position after long years of work in Central Asia, including the last three years as the Head of the Office for Central Asia and South Caucasus, as well as the Head of Tashkent Office of **dvv international**, and said goodbye to all his partners before leaving for Germany. At the same time, everyone was glad that Matthias who became a real friend to many of us will remain a member of the **dvv international** big team uniting staff in many countries. Now he will work at the head office in Bonn as a regional coordinator for CIS countries and help develop adult education not only in Uzbekistan but in other FSU countries as well. This means that he will be able to come to Tashkent and meet with his long-time friends.



the form of big flowerbeds and bouquets. And the finishing touches were the first spring dainty flowers on the tables, cooks in snow-white stiffened caps going back and forth and friendly waiters with bow ties and trays. The guests could see the gorgeous, **dvv international** logo-shaped cake among numerous snacks, dishes and wineglasses, and for a long time no one dared to cut it. Finally, only Matthias and Gerald could take a managerial decision to start trying the sweet things, and everyone could appreciate the confectioners' professionalism.

To the Meeting of friends long-time partners of **dvv international** were invited including those from neighboring countries, representatives of international organizations, ministries, agencies, business community, nongovernmental organizations and mass media. At the beginning, the guests were shown a brief presentation on the activities of the Representative Office in the last three years. That was a video sequence of outstanding events and facts. After that, they wanted to express their gratitude to Matthias and give him souvenirs. For many of them "singing to the guitar" presents came as a surprise, and everyone sang in chorus.



Moreover everyone was looking forward to meeting the new Head of Tashkent Office. All guests were looking around trying to find him. The intrigue did not last long. This evening was simple, in a family way and had no long official speeches. After a brief greeting, Matthias thanked everyone for cooperation and introduced the new Head Gerald Kalcik. A little bit later there was a ceremony of transferring the key to the Representative Office building, and it was not a symbolic, but real key to the entrance door decorated with an elegant ribbon on that festive occasion.

The festive atmosphere was complemented by white and blue balloons – the main colors of the **dvv international** logo and colorful compositions of the same balloons at the entrance to the office in



The team of the **dvv international** Representative Office gave Matthias a big humorous collage reflecting his activities during those three years, which was immediately laid out on the floor. Color photos of both important and official and funny, touching and memorable moments of joint activities, recreation and cooperation seemed to be hovering against the background of grey silhouettes of ancient historical sites of Uzbekistan. Below there was a caption "May it bring back fond memories!" which fits well with Matthias' action-oriented character: "Fewer words – more activities!"



At the end, the homelike atmosphere at the farewell party-celebration was more like that of a disco. Everyone was dancing and having a very good time including Matthias and Gerald to live music by rock band "Origami Wings".

The finishing touch...was rather cheerful than sad ...

New projects, meetings and friends of **dvv international** – this all will happen in the future. And Matthias should be thanked for many of them. He "passed the baton", and everything will go ahead now with the new leader.

Good luck!

*Irina Razilova,
Project Coordinator*

«Not to be late in studying contemporaneity»

History has always been a value. The best museums in various countries of the world store as rarities journey notes by travelers of the past centuries, maps and contemporaries' evidence. Every conscientious person understands the importance of the world history and histories of countries. However, every place or population center has its own history, as it originated from something, then developed and reflected in a special way the history of the whole country.

Currently, in the FSU a number of small towns, villages and settlements, which were quite well-developed 10-15 years ago, are

fading away due to migration. People move to larger cities, find jobs there, take their families with them and their "small motherland" is getting depopulated. An opportunity to trace the history of a place once sound with life, trace the elements of the whole country's life and its characteristics is gradually disappearing with the residents. However, there is a way to attempt to reconstruct the local history of places where a lot of generations grew up. It can begin with stories told by remaining residents, mainly old people, and specialists enthusiastic about creating a historic and social layer of the country's life exploring lives of small population centers and their own lives as eye-witnesses.

Today this approach is used in various countries of the world. In Uzbekistan it is being successfully used under the project "History and Identity" being an interesting line of activity by the Representative Office of **dvv international** the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association. The Project "History and Identity" has always relied on the principle of realizing history through personal eye-witnesses' personal perception. For example, in 2008 under the **dvv international**'s project a book about recollections of Tashkent earthquake in 1966 was created and published.

Working with oral stories about local history of a population center is a new activity to us and requires mastering relevant methods and approaches. To transfer experience in such methodology, the Representative Office of **dvv international** organized workshops and invited as a trainer Mikhail Rozhansky, Ph.D., the scientific director of the Center for Independent Social Research and Education (Russia). In an interview he told our reporter about the accumulated experience in preserving historical facts about small localities using Irkutsk region in Russia as an example.

- In fact, our research and education center originated when we united people living in different villages and towns in Irkutsk region as well as in some other neighboring regions to make a book-map. A map of the processes occurring in those localities not in the way they are seen by journalists and sociologists who randomly select some places on business trips and expeditions when they try to understand what is going on in the country, but at an outward glance. Since sociology in a general sense, along with social studies in general, is an urban science, and in Russia it is even a capital one, and I think it is not only in Russia but in Uzbekistan as well; thus the view from the center does not make it possible to see something most important and essential. Researchers on site also experience their own challenges since they write about the life they got accustomed to and have close links with. That was why we had to break some stereotypes, which is called "expansion of consciousness", and to this end during all our activity we carried out training workshops where our specialists improved research methods and discussed results of their work. The first outcome was an almanac issued in 2002, and in 5 years the second book was published; currently, the third one is being printed. It is the idea to make a similar almanac that inspired the people working in Uzbekistan.

- What do you think is the essence of this project, and what it is aimed at?

- What are social and in this case historical studies aimed at in general? I think that the most important thing is studies of contemporaneity. Here, the primary objective should be to develop social vision of those who will get acquainted with the research results. Such an almanac includes works by sociologists, historians, philologists, and journalists but it should not be written for a narrow range of those specialists. Most importantly, people reading about some ongoing phenomena should be able to look at their views and stereotypes, and maybe their lives at a slightly different angle. This will help them pose questions and live consciously. This does not mean accepting another viewpoint, this means that it is possible to see the same processes in different ways, and familiar things might hide something significant including opportunities that could be used.

While working on the selected topic, researchers from Irkutsk sometimes obtained results that became a discovery for themselves. One of the forty articles in the first almanac showed a historical layer of origination and development of a small town Angarsk through reflection of this topic in poetry by local authors. A satellite town that appeared after the end of the Second World War originated from several sources. On the one hand, it resulted from one of the youth constructions that were based on postwar enthusiasm. On the other, at that time prisoners played a big role in construction, so even some years later people related to the supervision system were still important to the city. When all this is mixed in the same town, one has to see it in a language, habits, rules of behavior, etc. That is, for a person living not only in Angarsk, but also in other towns with similar background, it is really important to be able to see and better understand the world they live and participate in.

A number of materials in the Irkutsk almanac explored history of the so-called urban settlements. On the one hand, they resulted from the national policy of that time, and on the other, they originated from extensive economy based on utilization of new resources, which brought about new industries, construction of infrastructure, housing, etc. When the previous economic system collapsed, such settlements became especially vulnerable, and their population got trapped in that situation as they lost both their past and secured future, since those settlements meant comfortable houses, stable wages, vocational education opportunities, etc. The studies show history and current status of settlements and their population. Now people's destiny largely depends on settlements location and their proximity to cities and railways, thus job search begins somewhere in big cities. And this drastically changes families' habits, their lifestyle patterns, etc. That is, the vision of the current situation and questions raised by it is based on analysis of events directly related to people's lives. All those are serious situations that could be understood and analyzed from the inside, by people living if not in the settlements then at least somewhere near them, being able to come or even live there, talk to people and observe what is going on and how this lifestyle is organized for weeks or months.

- Who joins the research team?

-As I said already, the first project resulted in our center that formed this team. It includes journalists, librarians, museum staff, teachers of higher educational institutions, but mainly school teachers, graduates of various years and departments of liberal arts. The participants in our first project include people that have changed their destinies, for example, have started scientific activity, work in central Russian cities, but our project was their starting point. They are mainly teachers. Having worked for 15-20 years at both urban and rural schools, as project participants they felt the effect of expanded consciousness, or as I call it, the vision development. In fact, the activity is based on this and follows this. I would like to note that people working at schools are usually open to new knowledge, modern methods and such interdisciplinary projects. While issuing the third almanac, we can note that this work has gone far beyond Irkutsk region and we have researchers from various parts of the country. Moreover, our Center for Independent Social Research and Education, which has been operating for 6 years already, is becoming increasingly focused on providing methodological and intellectual support to specialists in different humanitarian areas working in various Siberian universities. And the biggest ongoing project in our center is studies of what is going on at humanitarian departments of different universities from the viewpoint of changes in the so-called social space. That is, the style of relationship, rhetoric, organization of university space, etc. This is another very interesting line of activity.

As for the idea to transfer the accumulated methodology to Uzbekistan, it may also result in a book-almanac on the history and current status of small localities. I would like to say that the team of the workshop "History and Identity: Local Characteristics, Research Program and Methods" held in Tashkent on 2-5 March is better prepared than the one in Irkutsk when we just started; there are many people with good research experience, and the team is also interdisciplinary from the very beginning. I would like to see more young people participating in it since they have somewhat different views. It is essential that the work reflect views and experiences of different generations in studies of our contemporaneity.

In addition, another principle underlying the project "History and Identity" is reflected here – it is a dialog between generations which ensures not only interrelations between generations but also opens up horizons from viewpoints of various events.

*Luiza Makhmudova,
Journalist*

[Information on the workshop "History and Identity: Local Characteristics, Research Program and Methods"](#)

The workshop "History and Identity: Local Characteristics, Research Program and Methods" was held at hotel "Malika", Tashkent, on 2-5 March 2009. The workshop participants were representatives of various occupations: sociologists, historians, journalists, philologists,

psychologists and geographers.



The workshop was initiated and supported by the Representative Office of **dvv international** in Uzbekistan. The workshop facilitator was Mikhail Rozhansky, Ph.D., the scientific director of the Center for Independent Social Research and Education.

The workshop program aimed to provide participants with theoretical materials in the morning, and carry out practical activities in the afternoon. On the first day of the workshop, when discussing the almanac "Baikal Siberia" published under the guidance of Mikhail Rozhansky, the goals, opportunities and methods used to prepare the above almanac were discussed.

In the afternoon, participants' expectations and interests were discussed in a friendly environment. During the workshop, the facilitator used interactive training techniques and demonstrated films as visual aids.



The next day the participants familiarized themselves with the report on the quality research methods using generation analysis as an example. Given the number of participants (28 persons), the

facilitator organized group work in the afternoon. When working in groups, the participants could explore and identify all the types, advantages and challenges of interview as a research method.

On the third day, the theoretical material presented was the report by Mikhail Rozhansky on studying of family histories using the biographical method, and practical part of that day included selection by each workshop participant of his/her topic and focus of individual research for further individual work.

On the last day, the participants reviewed the oral history methods, discussed research and stylistic criteria of the prospective almanac in Uzbekistan as an example. In addition, Mikhail Rozhansky provided additional information on the following topics:

a) social mobility; b) cultural, social and symbolic capital; c) social networks; d) generation analysis; and e) observation.

The workshop resulted in the solemn certificate-giving ceremony. Summarizing the work done, I would like to say that the acquired knowledge and skills will help and facilitate working with eye-witnesses of historic events to collect information. This workshop proved to be interesting and fruitful for each participant.

*Kamil Kalanov,
Ph.D. in Sociology*

«Organizational defocus and group progress»

Tashkent, the "city of bread", is one of the most well-known cities in Central Asia region and in the so-called Former Soviet Union. Spring. Early spring of 2009. After last year winter, which was considered severe in Uzbekistan, this spring is in many terms early and nice. It is quite symbolic time to hold a workshop presented below in this attempt to describe an unusual event that took place on 5-9 March this year in the regular life of the **dvv international** office. The symbolic character is seen at least in how spring is perceived as the period for renewal of nature, as the time when hidden life processes finally manifest themselves. This workshop was an episode that gave way to hidden interrelationship in our team. Such interrelationship in each team is the "air" we breathe even without noticing it, and it determines whether we are moving forward and if this movement is effective.

The workshop title was «Organizational development and group process». This is of course quite a barren and abstract title as compared to how live and active it was in reality. The "city of bread", Tashkent, was mentioned on purpose since we again welcomed trainer Igor Ovchinnikov, who I think many readers of this "blog" already like since he is a great specialists and, as I personally think, a nice person. No doubt that the way the workshop was held is his achievement.

Frankly speaking, before the workshop and when it just started many team members were skeptical about it saying «Why do this?»

and “Why do we need this?” And you can imagine how pleasant it was to see the lustrous eyes of my colleagues when everyone was learning with enthusiasm the mysterious group development stages and behavior strategies in a team.



Everything began with getting acquainted, and, though some workshop participants already met Igor at Summer Academy 2008, everyone took an active part in a small contest for the most interesting or unusual question about the trainer. The participants were especially interested in this as a small rewarding prize was expected. In general, the first day was devoted to development of collective agreements for the workshop. I think, here both the workshop goals and challenges were identified. Taking group decisions, development of wordings everyone agrees on, reaching a consensus, effective communication, negotiations as well as a number of other topics were subsequently addressed at the workshop.

Conflict management was the cross-cutting topic of the whole workshop. Wars, conflicts, even minor, have accompanied all human activities throughout human history. And most of them are a hindrance to effective work, a negative element in human relations which should not be underestimated. Thus, people’s willingness to learn how to resolve or avoid conflicts is quite natural.

In groups we drew a collective portrait of an unpleasant person who we would not like to conflict with. Then we presented the portraits to other participants. There, the issue of “labels” appeared for the first time since when describing an opponent most of the traits became generalized, not specific. From theoretical materials we knew about conflict development stages, which turn an ordinary discussion into an argument or a conflict.

The first day was quiet, and the second day was equally opposite. I think that the second day was the most quiet and unusual, and even critical. The participants’ emotions, interests and expectations, which were hidden on the first day, unveiled. It was not by chance, as most of the day was devoted to identifying a common goal of the workshop, not the abstract one announced back on the first

day, but a specific one including each participant’s real expectations and aspirations. This should not be a consensus but a unanimous decision. Here, we could see the group development stages, and ambiguous, hidden internal processes that could occur in a team. At the end of this day full of animated discussions, arguments and emotions an attempt to “cross the river” was made, which failed but anyway made it possible for everyone to draw conclusions about his/her behavior in a team.

The third day, which began with handouts and slogan “Take risks!”, was full of games, but nevertheless everyone kept thinking about him/herself and other participants. During the game “Black and white” we learnt how to take risks and trust each other, and in the game “Labels” to see a person, and not the label, in the game “Trade” we could see and analyze each person’s behavior in a team. One of the challenging moments was a task for everyone to select a conflict in the past where he/she acted as a “judge” i.e. disapproved of a person and to analyze this situation based on the questions read by Igor given the knowledge obtained.



The next day and next stage of our training began with a very interesting game “Broken squares”. As I see it, everyone liked this interesting and unusual game. Moreover, it was exciting and equally meaningful. Having learnt not to be afraid to destroy what had been built before and start from the very beginning, we proceeded to the most interesting topic – negotiations. There were a lot of theoretical materials backed by group discussions; first, the groups were split by parts of the world according to ancient Celtic classification, then there was quite a strong and interesting psychological exercise – “Controlled visualization” – those who participated in the Summer Academy last year must remember it.

The last day of the workshop was the “lightest” and the most relaxed, since everyone expected that it would end soon. This does not mean that everyone was impatient for the end or that this day was not interesting, on the contrary, most of the workshop positive outcomes were shown. In particular, this was evident in the interesting game “Elephant”, where we brilliantly fulfilled all the tasks.

In general, one can say that the workshop was useful. People learnt a lot of new and interesting things and enriched not only their academic knowledge, but also better understood themselves and their colleagues. Finally, our team members became even closer to each other, and all previous hidden conflicts were resolved.



Finally, I think the meaning of the article's title should be explained. It is similar to the workshop's title, but the meaning is completely different. Under "organizational defocus" (sounds quite ambiguous, doesn't it?) I meant that after the workshop we could see our team not only as some staff of an organization, but also as a group, a team. Thus, for many people there the "group process" became clear – having seen not only coordinators, managers, etc, among each other, but also team members "sailing in the same boat", we will be able to better interact and contribute to achievements and success of **dvv international** in the future.

*Rostislav Lunev,
Designer/Secretary dvv international*



New projects of dvv international in Uzbekistan

In 2008, cooperation with such organizations as training center under "Uzbektourism", LLC "Chirchik-Shokhsanam", LLC "Golden Heritage of Aral", the "Center for Business and Tourism Development" in Khiva, the Institute for Advanced Training and Retraining of Teachers for the SSVE and others was successful and fruitful. In this context, the Representative Office of **dvv international** in 2009 also plans to support project proposals of these partners.

Training courses for disabled women in Nukus

The Representative Office of **dvv international** will render assistance to organize the "Mobile Sewing Workshop". The project aims to help disadvantaged populations in Karakalpakstan gain steady income and improve their living standards by training them in sewing (patchwork) for unemployed women in Akmangit village and the Society of the Deaf in the Republic of Karakalpakstan.

The mobile workshop will operate in line with the principle "Education close to home". The training course in sewing is the most popular one. In addition, the organization "Golden Heritage of Aral" will be able to sell the products they manufacture. After the training, support is planned to be provided jointly with the Karakalpak branch of the Business Women Association to obtain credits to purchase sewing machines.

We hope that with the acquired skills new self-actualization opportunities will be opened for women.

Guest houses in Farizh district

In 2008, in Farizh district guest houses were united into LLC "Tabiati Farizh. We plan to continue working to develop ecotourism jointly with the training center under "Uzbektourism". If in previous year the main activities were training workshops for guest houses, this year the activities will be aimed at capacity building of LLC "Tabiati Farizh" and promotion of tourism products in international and national markets, as well as at the organization's institutional development.

Training in tourism at the Art-Restaurant in Khiva

In 2009, tourism personnel training courses at the Art-Restaurant will be continued in Khiva. DED experts will continue working in Khiva to build capacity of local partners.

Adult education in the penitentiary system.

Since 2003, the Representative Office has been implementing projects in the penitentiary system. We plan to continue activities in this area. The project activity mainly aims to support the prisoners' efforts to come back to social useful lifestyle by improving their educational level, qualification, retraining, and basic vocational education. Educational activities will also continue for women released from penitentiary facilities and belonging to risk groups.

These workshops will be held at LLC "Chirchik-Shokhsanam" in Chirchik city.

Training and retraining of andragogists

This year the project "Training and retraining of andragogists at the Institute for professional development and retraining of personnel in the secondary specialized vocational education (SSVE) system", which started in 2008. Last year a pilot course under the program "Training of adult education specialists (andragogists-practitioners)" was held. Training under this course was delivered by specialists of the Institute for professional development and retraining of personnel in the SSVE system having undergone the training "Methodology of adult training". In 2009 the developed curricula will continue to be improved given the foreign experience.

*Makhbuba Saidakhmedova,
Project Coordinator **dvv international***

Summary of internship at the Representative Office of dvv international in Tashkent

Overall, I spent 5 months in Uzbekistan, and during this time I was undergoing internship at Tashkent Representative Office of **dvv international**. Thanks to this practice, I could take part in business trips and thus I familiarized myself with project activities on site and with the country and its people. In addition, I learn more about cooperation with Uzbek partners, including cooperation in the area of development assistance, and got a picture of social and day-to-day life of people in Uzbekistan. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to Matthias Klingenberg and Elena Sabirova, who made this internship possible, helped me get involved in the organization's activities, and assigned me interesting tasks. I also would like to thank the whole staff of the Tashkent Representative Office of **dvv international** who kept me enthusiastic about coming to the office every day. This practice was a valuable experience in every respect, and I will always have fond memories of my stay in Uzbekistan.

*Viktoria Krause,
Temporary Expert **dvv internationa***



AE in the world

[Sixth International Conference on Adult Education \(CONFINTEA VI\)](#)
[Brazil, 19-22 May 2009](#)

"Living and Learning for a Viable Future: The Power of Adult Learning"



On 19-22 May 2009, Brazil will host the Sixth International Conference on Adult Education (CONFINTEA VI).

During 2008, a number of regional preparatory conferences were held to explore specific characteristics of various countries. Germany was represented at the Conference for Europe and North America held in Hungary in December. Africa and Asia Pacific region were represented at the Conference in South Korea in November.

Now the final Conference is to be held in Brazil and result in the "Global Report on Adult Learning and Education". This process is run by the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), jointly with a group of advisors representing governments, specialized institutions and nongovernmental organizations.

Opening of the National Representative Office of dvv international in Dushanbe

On 15 January 2009, the Representative Office of **dvv international** was opened in the capital of the Republic of Tajikistan. Currently, the Representative Office is undergoing official registration. The Office is located in the left wing of the Adult Education College at 94/5 Tursun-Zade St., Dushanbe. The primary objective of the Office in Dushanbe is to coordinate and monitor projects supported by **dvv international** in the Republic of Tajikistan.

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Organizational meeting under the “PATENT” project

On 11 March 2009, Dushanbe hosted the first organizational meeting in Dushanbe under the project “Poverty Alleviation in Tajikistan through Education and Non-formal Training (PATENT¹)”. As reported earlier, this project was launched in January 2009. The PATENT project is implemented under the European Commission Program “Enhancing individual incomes and improving living standards in Khatlon and Sughd Regions, Tajikistan” and funded jointly by the European Commission and the Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany. The project is implemented by the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (**dvv international**) and the Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia of Tajikistan (ASTI).

The participants of the organizational meeting at the conference hall of “Asia Grand Hotel” in the capital were directors of partner educational institutions in Sughd and Khatlon regions, representatives of the ministries and agencies concerned, as well as representatives of international organizations and embassies operating in the Republic of Tajikistan.



The meeting began with the welcoming address by Mr. Matthias Klingenberg, Project Coordinator for CIS, **dvv international**. He noted that a number of ongoing projects supported by our organization in the Republic of Tajikistan necessitated setting up the National Representative Office of **dvv international** in the Republic of Tajikistan. In his turn, Mr. Gerald Kalcik (Project Coordinator for Central Asia and South Caucasus, **dvv international**), expressed his hope for further beneficial cooperation with our Tajik partners.

Then, at the opening of the National Representative Office of **dvv international** in Tajikistan there was a presentation of **dvv international's** activities that included the key goals and objectives of the organization, as well as its main areas of activity.

¹ PATENT - «Poverty Alleviation in Tajikistan through Education and non formal Training»

Then followed a presentation by Iliana Miritesku (Project Manager, Delegation of the European Commission to Tajikistan), covering current activities and plans of the EC Representative Office in Tajikistan, and a report by Nozimchon Sidikov (Head, Department for Nongovernmental Organizations, the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Tajikistan) on the “Role and value of basic vocational education in the Republic of Tajikistan in training specialists-workers and labor migrants in line with the current labor market demands”.

After that, Farrukh Tyuraev, Director General, ASTI, presented the “Poverty Alleviation in Tajikistan through Education and Non-formal Training” project, and the first results of project activities were discussed. For example, to date partner vocational educational institutions have been selected, the labor market analysis has been performed (representatives of vocational educational institutions have been trained in similar survey methodology), and the most popular occupations are being selected now. In the near future, a workshop on curriculum development methodology DACUM (Developing a Curriculum) is planned to be held for staff of vocational educational institutions and other agencies concerned, and social partnership i.e. links among interested agencies (e.g. an employer and educational institutions, etc.) is supposed to be developed.

After a short break the meeting continued, and S. Imronshoev, Head of the Adult Education Sector in Tajikistan, Ministry of Labor, Tajikistan, made a presentation “Adult Education – reality and strategy”, Farkhod Sadykov, Deputy Project Leader “Support to vocational education and training in Tajikistan, Stage 2” – “Interaction of projects”, as well as Grieta Tentere (Project Leader, GTZ/GOPA “Support to vocational education system reforms, Tajikistan”).

The meeting ended with sectoral sessions. Having been split into groups, the meeting participants discussed ways to achieve the project goals (participants – representatives of partner VET schools), as well as the patterns for cooperation among stakeholders during the project implementation period. After presentations and discussions of the issues of interest to participants, the working meeting was adjourned.

More information on the project is available at website of the Regional Representative Office of **dvv international** in Uzbekistan (<http://www.dvv-international.uz>, [link to the article](#)).

Vitaly Grischenko
Project Coordinator **dvv international**

Courses “Yurt manufacturing master” in Issyk Kul area

The project “Non-Formal Vocational Training in Rural Areas of Kyrgyzstan” funded by the EU TACIS/IBPP Program continues to be implemented. The main applicant for this project is the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (**dvv international**), which implements the project jointly with the Kyrgyz Adult Education Association (KAEA) along with 12

Adult Training Centers (ATCs) being a part of the KAEA, as well as local administration and employers from a number of regions in Kyrgyzstan. The project aims to improve the employment level and opportunities for income-generating activities for poor unemployed rural populations by offering more short-term courses and access to training in various professional skills being in demand in the local labor market. Under the project, 36 courses in 6 occupations will be held for rural people.



The experience of the Karakol Adult Training Center (ATC) in organization and delivery of the course “Yurt manufacturing master” is very interesting.

The labor market analysis in Zhetyoguz district in Issyk Kul region of Kyrgyz Republic has shown that most respondents in this region need to acquire skills and competencies in national crafts, namely, in making a yurt – traditional Kyrgyz house.

The traditional Kyrgyz house “Boz uy”, a yurt made of natural materials without a single nail, is a symbol of an environmental-friendly house and harmony with nature. Beautiful and perfect structure of the traditional Kyrgyz house, its interior and exterior composed of unique things with clear functional purposes, artistic design and technology attract attention of craftsmen and yurt-making masters.

Obviously, the selected villages Lipenka, Kabak, Chyrak in Zhetyoguz district lack such masters although now there is a strong demand for yurts among population, as before. This is thanks to the fact that yurts are used for household purposes (including tourists) and to maintain traditions.

Given the rapid development of tourism as a whole and ecotourism in particular, yurt gains in importance and is the national pride of Kyrgyz people.

It is obvious that yurt-making craftsmen are getting smaller in number; and yurt-making skills are not transferred to younger generations. Recently, it has become very difficult to find a good master, especially when it comes to installing and assembling a yurt. No educational institution delivers courses in the occupation “Yurt-

manufacturing master”.

In three remote villages of Issyk Kul region, 3 courses will be organized and delivered, and, as a result, 45 persons will acquire knowledge and skills in yurt manufacturing (60% of them is women). In each village, a workshop for yurt manufacturing will be organized, and 3-5 jobs are expected to be created in each workshop. The first course was delivered in Chyrak village. A group of unemployed persons – 7 men and 6 women – willing to master yurt manufacturing skills was formed. The participants were so happy and satisfied when they had tea in the handmade yurt at the end of the course!



Some course graduates will be able to unite and organize small enterprises to manufacture souvenirs symbolizing elements of yurt interior and exterior and sell them later on.

The KAEA with its successful experience gained and available material resources will be able to further carry out these courses on a regular and fee basis. The courses will be delivered at different premises depending on the agreement with Ayyl-okmetu (local administration). For example, in village Lipenka – at a school classroom, in village Kabak – at training premises of a local NGO, and in Chyrak village – on a backyard farm. All premises will be provided with necessary training facilities. The required materials (wood, wool, felt, and threads) are purchased on site. It is important to note that mainly local raw materials are used.

Given the specific character of this course, the emphasis is placed on mastering practical skills by trainees. Thus, the course “Yurt-manufacturing master” is 80% practical and applied, so the obtained theoretical knowledge should immediately result in skills and competencies. Practical sessions under this course require immediate feedback at each session, following the principle “right here and now”. There are various forms of feedback. Such interactive

practical sessions arouse interest and are a distinctive feature of adult education.

The project activities aim to achieve several goals, namely: attract prospective partners and donors at a local level to AE, train rural people in popular occupations, exchange experience and set up a network for interaction between the Adult Training Center and local administration (Ayyıl-okmetu).

A yurt-manufacturing master is a creative and competent specialist having theoretical knowledge, practical skills and competencies in yurt manufacture and installation complying with the technology developed by Kyrgyz people, which has proved its rationality for centuries. The yurt manufacturing technology is a set of interrelated and consistent practical activities that perfectly done by a yurt-manufacturing master.

Currently, despite mass construction of fixed houses in Kyrgyzstan, a portable house – a yurt – has not lost its importance in households with remote livestock grazing and developed tourism.

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Director, Karakol Adult Training Center*

Theory and methodology



Publication “History and Identity: Regional Integration and History”

This February, the fourth book was published under the project “History and Identity”. This publication contains materials on the project week “History and Identity IV: Regional Integration and History” held on 13-16 May 2008.



Like previous three books published in 2006, 2007 and 2008, this book is in three languages (Uzbek, Russian and German) and presents reports made by invited specialists under the conference opening the project week. The following published reports can be mentioned:

- Frank Golczewski «Formation of nations in Eastern Europe in 19-20th centuries».
- Report by our colleague Vanya Ivanova from **dvv international**, Sarajevo “Five Years History Project in South Eastern Europe: Lessons Learnt for Better Cooperation in the Region”;
- Reports by specialists invited by the Gerda Henkel Foundation, on Central Asian identity from Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan’s perspectives.

Publication of the book was supported by six German organizations: Representative Office of **dvv international**, the Goethe Institute Tashkent, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the Friedrich Naumann Foundation, the Gerda Henkel Foundation and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

The author thinks that other reports that cannot be mentioned here due to lack of space are also of interest to a reader.

*This book can be obtained free of charge at the Representative Office of **dvv international**.*

[Internet publication “Oral History, work with eye-witnesses and historical projects in Central Asia”](#)

An article by Matthias Klingenberg, Project Coordinator for CIS, **dvv international** has been published on website of the Representative Office of **dvv international** in Uzbekistan. The article discusses special features of historic projects by international organizations in Central Asia. Below is an excerpt from this article.

After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, when the first international organizations came to the then far and unknown Central Asia to open their offices in Tashkent, Bishkek, Dushanbe or Almaty, many of them made a mistake, having transferred available programs from the so-called Third World at a ratio of 1:1 to a new target region with the slogan “what helps in Africa cannot do harm in Central Asia”.

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