

Advanced trainings for young leaders “Dilgir”

The Kyrgyz-German project “Prospects for Youth”

is implemented on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). The project works in 20 municipalities in four regions of the Kyrgyz Republic – Chuy, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas. It aims at strengthening the capacities of governmental and non-governmental institutions in the youth sector. It also focuses on employment promotion and economic participation of young people.

The objective

of the project is the improved implementation of policies and measures to strengthen the economic and social participation of young people.

Our measures on advanced trainings for young leaders “Dilgir”

To achieve long-term positive effects, the project facilitates cooperation and capacity building of representatives from the national ministries and agencies, local administrations, youth NGOs, and young leaders. To this end, the project developed together with its partners certified training course for young leaders and activists called “Dilgir”. When translated from Kyrgyz language, „Dilgir“ means „Curious, enthusiastic“. The graduates validate the course name with their drive and ambition.

Many young people feel frustrated that their opinions are rarely asked for and seldom taken seriously. The goal of the certified training courses is to provide skills and knowledge for young

Project name	Prospects for Youth
Commissioned by	The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project region	Kyrgyz Republic, regions: Chuy, Issyk-Kul, Naryn and Talas
Main Partner	State Agency for Youth Affairs, Physical Culture and Sports under Ministry of Culture, Information, Sports and Youth policy of the Kyrgyz Republic
Duration	2019-2022

leaders about their rights and opportunities to raise the interest of young people and get engaged in the public sphere.

Dilgir graduates become better equipped and more efficient in creating needed youth services in their respective communities. This is achieved by building and developing further dialogues and cooperation with local authorities. Young people realize that these opportunities are available for them, but they have not previously made use due to unawareness and low will. Young people learn that there are structures in place and particular approaches as well as procedures need to be followed when cooperating with local self-governments. Thereby, Dilgir graduates take part in local decision-making processes and are more outspoken.

Some Dilgir graduates also learned that they need to unite and establish/join official organizations if they want their collective voices and opinions to be heard. This way, many new youth and volunteering NGOs were formed. The civil society sector in the Kyrgyz Republic is one of the strongest in Central Asia. Approximately 3,500 civil society and community-based



*Left to right:
Dilgir training courses in Chui region.
Presentations of final portfolios in Talas region.*



Left to right:
Dilgir training courses' graduation ceremony in Naryn region.
Dilgir training courses in Issyk-Kul region.

organizations work in a range of areas, including professional development, health, environment, and education.

These certified training courses consist of seven modules:

- Diversity and youth rights;
- Leadership, team and effective communication;
- Youth work: basic methods and forms;
- Youth policy: development, promotion and implementation;
- Local youth development strategy;
- Fundraising, social engineering and entrepreneurship;
- Youth in developing their community.

The participants learn how to identify local youth problems and solve them through development, fundraising and implementation of social projects and entrepreneurship initiatives.

Each module takes place in a course of approximately one month – first, participants attend a few days of seminars focused on theory and, afterwards, do the practical tasks in their respective local self-governments. These practical tasks can be in a form of conducting a training for young people in their community, creating needed youth service, organizing fundraising campaign, or developing local youth development strategy with close cooperation of local state and non-governmental actors.

In addition to the practical assignments, participants have an opportunity to use gained knowledge and skills by implementing small scale projects on-site. Course graduates receive financial support for projects which focus on strengthening communities and empowering women participation. Graduates receive state recognized certificates since the training's curriculum is licensed by the Ministry of Education and Science of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Trainings' flexible schedule allows to combine it with students' studies and work. In 2020 two out of seven modules have been transferred to online format on a digital platform.

Since 2013, 514 young leaders have graduated (237 female, 277 male). Some of the graduates currently work for local municipalities, local parliaments and state structures, others are well-known activists in their towns and villages. Youth policy, youth work, youth rights are relatively new fields in the Kyrgyz Republic. The curriculum taught during Dilgir trainings is not available in local schools or universities. In addition, young people are only able to develop their soft skills by attending paid courses outside of schools. There is a growing gap between young people who can afford to pay for such courses and who cannot. Dilgir training provides both theoretical and practical knowledge and students seize this opportunity.

In each region, the leading youth NGO/volunteering organization acts as main implementing partner for these training courses. Each NGO is responsible for recruiting participants and trainers for modules, disseminating information about training and submitting reports to GIZ.

There are alumni networks on regional level, where graduates have an opportunity to make an experience exchange, implement joint activities and advocate for youth interests. GIZ together with its regional partners has launched a series of events to bring the understanding of one united national alumni network.

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