

Youth Employment Promotion

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.

Our objective

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

Youth Employment Promotion measures

The aim of Youth Employment Promotion is to improve employment opportunities for young people in partner municipalities. GIZ project supports entrepreneurship projects implemented by youth NGOs that focus on the development of labor-market related skills for young people. Priority areas are innovative business sectors with growth potential. In the Kyrgyz Republic these include information and communication technologies, tourism, textile industry, food processing/catering, and architecture/construction related services.

Financial sustainability is crucial for the long-term survival and effectiveness of youth NGOs. By taking part in Youth Employment Promotion contest, youth NGOs generate income while implementing their projects and create working opportunities for their peers in respective communities.

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

To ensure that NGO's project has potential for sustainable future (after financial support from GIZ ends), key selection criteria are put in place. Professional skills and abilities of youth NGO members as well as the willingness to cooperate with other stakeholders including local self-governments are important.

GIZ puts strong emphasis that supported projects are not run by individual entrepreneurs, but by NGO itself. GIZ promotes trilateral cooperation, whereby youth NGOs are encouraged to start/develop further cooperation with local self-governments, with private sector or find other additional sources of funding to implement their entrepreneurship projects. By taking part in local public hearings and budget allocations, young people learn about opportunities of collaborating with their local authorities and communities. Public hearings also allow to identify needed services on the local level. Local authorities, in their turn, learn that young people are ready to take matters in their own hands and have willingness to develop their communities. Municipalities usually support youth NGOs by providing premises or funds for renovations of premises. For example, in Teploklyuchenka and Min-Kush municipalities local authorities have allocated funds to partially cover expenses for maintaining premises for youth NGOs' projects.



Left to right:

“Issyk-Kul kayaking” project by Youth volunteering organization Leadership, Karakol city, Issyk-Kul region.

“My event” project by Zhash-Danaker NGO, Naryn city, Naryn region.



Left to right:

“Sky Fit” sport studio by Zhash-Nurdan NGO, Uch-Korgon village, Talas region.

“Multimedia learning studio” project by Novopokrovka Youth Council, Novopokrovka village, Chuy region.

GIZ provides consulting and equipment for implementation of entrepreneurship projects by youth NGOs. This trilateral cooperation contributes to better understanding, dialogues, and stronger participation of young people on the local level. These experiences will thereafter influence the development of policies and action plans, especially in the field of youth employment promotion.

In addition to financial assistance, GIZ provides technical advisory support, mentorship, and capacity building measures. Trainings vary from taxation, financial reporting to SMM, customer journey mapping, market research, gender and women entrepreneurship, inclusion, and accessibility. These trainings and mentoring sessions serve as excellent basis for launching successful projects and help youth NGOs come up with innovative project ideas. Trainings also facilitate strengthening the skills and abilities of youth NGO staff. For example, in Min-Kush and Kochkor municipalities, Naryn and Balykchy cities youth NGOs learned that social entrepreneurship projects can be tax exempt if preliminary approved by local authorities. Unfortunately, in most cases youth NGOs are not aware of various procedures and approaches which are available but not known to general masses.

Since 2017, 122 employment-oriented projects from 44 youth NGOs were supported and co-funded by local municipalities. As a result, 177 young people have found employment opportunities.

Among the successful projects implemented by youth NGOs are the sewing workshops, which helped with shortage of masks during the outbreak of COVID-19.

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