



Education System Reforms in the Countries of Central Asia: Focus on Quality and Innovation

Context

After the Central Asian countries gained their independence, their education sectors were forced to adapt to the new political, economic and social conditions. Yet despite enormous efforts made since 1990, the education systems in the region remain unable to offer children and youth an education of sufficient quality. Pressing problems, such as the lack of qualified teachers, inadequate school infrastructure, lack of innovative educational technologies and of modern textbooks, continue to threaten the overall development of students, to hamper the practical development of life skills and to deprive young people of vocational guidance.

The programme of GIZ “Education System Reforms in Central Asia” supports the Ministries of Education of four Central Asian countries in their efforts to improve the quality of education, to introduce necessary reforms and to monitor their impact.

Programme objectives

We focus our actions and efforts on providing quality education for children and young people from age 6 to 18, in order to facilitate their harmonious development and increase their employability in the future. For this purpose it is necessary to reform the system of training and retraining of teachers, so that their teaching will meet modern didactic and methodological requirements and enhance the students’ interest in learning. We focus on applied subjects such as technology, biology, chemistry, physics and mathematics, as well as on elementary school teaching. In addition, we support regional exchanges of

Project name	Reform of Educational Systems in Central Asia
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Key Partners	Ministries of Education, education academies and institutes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan
Overall term	2014-2016 (2009-2016)

experiences and processes of collaborative learning between the countries of Central Asia.

Programme activity

We support the Central Asian countries to maintain an ongoing dialogue on education and to assist the improvement of school education in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan through the implementation of concrete reform projects.

Building upon the methodological and didactic innovations developed and tested by the programme during the previous years, we advise our Kyrgyz, Tajik and Turkmen partners in developing and implementing strategies for disseminating these innovations. Working with schools and teacher training institutions and, this dissemination is achieved through training replicators, through facilitating events and through enhanced networking between our main partner organisations so as to ensure the quality of teacher training and professional development of teachers.

In addition, the programme facilitates regular meetings of representatives of the Ministries of Education as well as joint Central Asian studies of student achievement. Based on this



Kyrgyzstan: teachers in an interactive game during mentoring training

Peer to peer education in Kyrgyzstan: students of vocational school teach pupils the basics of technology



Kyrgyzstan: modern chemistry lesson with the presentation of experimental results

Team work in an elementary school in Turkmenistan

improved cooperation in the region, each of the countries receives the necessary data and support in order to implement reforms at the country level.

Outcomes

Since 2009, more than 2,000 teachers of secondary schools and educational colleges have acquired new professional and methodical-didactic knowledge within our training courses. These teachers actively apply this knowledge, including new methods of teaching. For example, classes in natural sciences are oriented towards practical experiences from everyday life, through experiments done by the students. Such new concepts of teaching enhance motivation not only among teachers, but also among students.

The ministries of education have successfully integrated our tested modules into the curricula of their national capacity building programs for teachers, using them to improve their systems of preparation of educational professionals. A growing number of teachers who have undergone such training are currently working as trainers themselves, teaching their colleagues using knowledge gained in the courses.

A web-page www.mugalim.kg, initially supported by the program and now maintained by our partners, serves as an information exchange platform between teachers and education professionals of Kyrgyzstan.

Published by Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Registered offices Bonn and Eschborn, Germany
Regional Programme "Reform of Educational Systems in
Central Asia"
Dr. Holger Ehlers, Programme Director
Toktogul Str. 96-7,
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
T +996 312 90-91-47
holger.ehlers@giz.de
www.giz.de

On behalf of Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Division 401 East Asia; Central Asia

Author Dr. Holger Ehlers

Layout Maria Kharitonova

Printed by ST. Art Ltd, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

As at February 2014

Address
BMZ Bonn
Dahlmannstraße 4
53113 Bonn,
Germany
T +49 (0)228 99 535-0
F +49 (0)228 99 535-3500

BMZ Berlin
Stresemannstraße 94
10963 Berlin
Germany
T +49 (0)30 18 535-0
F +49 (0)30 18 535-2501

GIZ is responsible for the content of this publication.

poststelle@bmz.bund.de
www.bmz.de