



PRESS-RELEASE

First forum on role of Badakhshan youth in business development

Khorog, September 22, 2016

The Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association (DVV International) in March 2015 initiated the 3-year project “**Youth Empowerment toward Sustainability and Change**” (**YES to Change**) in Tajikistan within the framework of the EU “Peace Building Partnership Programme”.

The project is co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development and targets all 7 districts of the remote region of Gorno-Badakhshan (GBO) and its capital town Khorog in the East of Tajikistan.

Within the framework of YES to Change, DVV International cooperates with the local Public Organization (PO) “Madina” on youth business promotion. Its activities consist of a series of training courses “**Start and Improve Your Business**” with a total of 420 participants, **grant support** to the most promising youth business initiatives collected from the entire region, and the **promotion of networking and youth participation** in the social and economic life of their communities.

Today, the local partner Madina together with DVV International has conducted the first annual forum on the role of the youth of Badakhshan in business development in Khorog, Tajikistan.

The forum brought together about 50 participants from all the 7 districts of GBO to discuss the existing business development environment and trends, the particular needs of the regional youth, constraints and achievements. The audience included participants of the project’s training and grant activities, stakeholders (trainers and consultants), local and regional governments, journalists, and partners. The programme included presentations and inputs from local experts and young local entrepreneurs. The key role of information and education for a sustainable development of local business initiatives was stressed repeatedly during the lively discussions: “Even if you are 70, 80, or 100 years old, continue to learn”, Boimamad Alibakhshov from the Association of entrepreneurs in GBO advised the young participants at the forum.

The forum will publish a joint resolution which will be handed over to the local Government on September 28. It is expected that the forum serves as a starting point for increased networking on youth business development and overall economic development in Gorno-Badakhshan.

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