

Internet Development in Central Asia and Its Role as an Information Resource

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Internet Development in Central Asia and Its Role as an Information Resource

- Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) in Central Asia
- Internet Development Trends in Central Asia
- Following Kyrgyz Revolution and Andijan Events Online: A look at IATP user behaviors of and attitudes towards accessing online news resources.
- Recommendations for Internet Development for Media





IATP Access Sites
in Central Asia

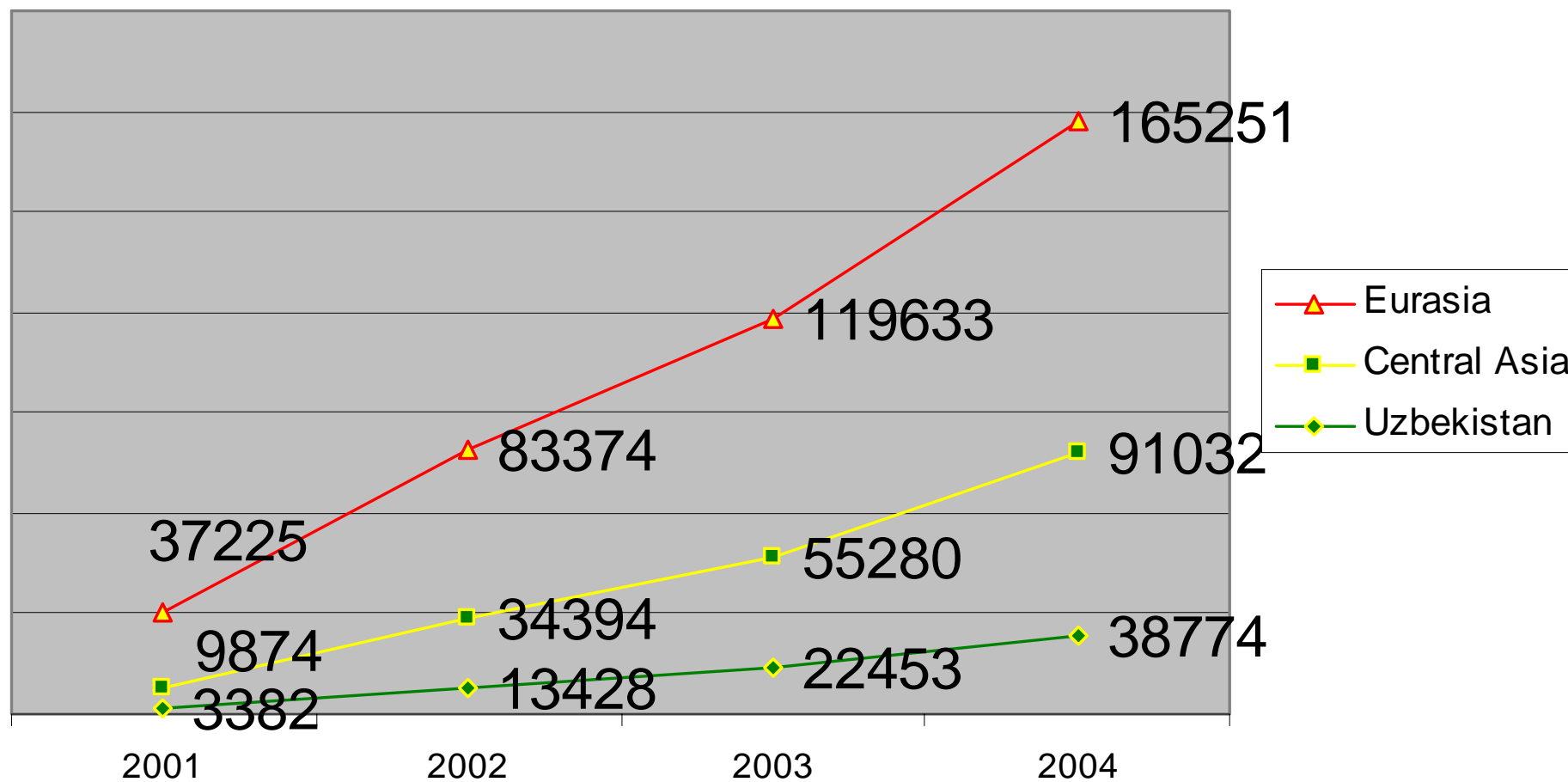


IATP Free-of-charge Services:

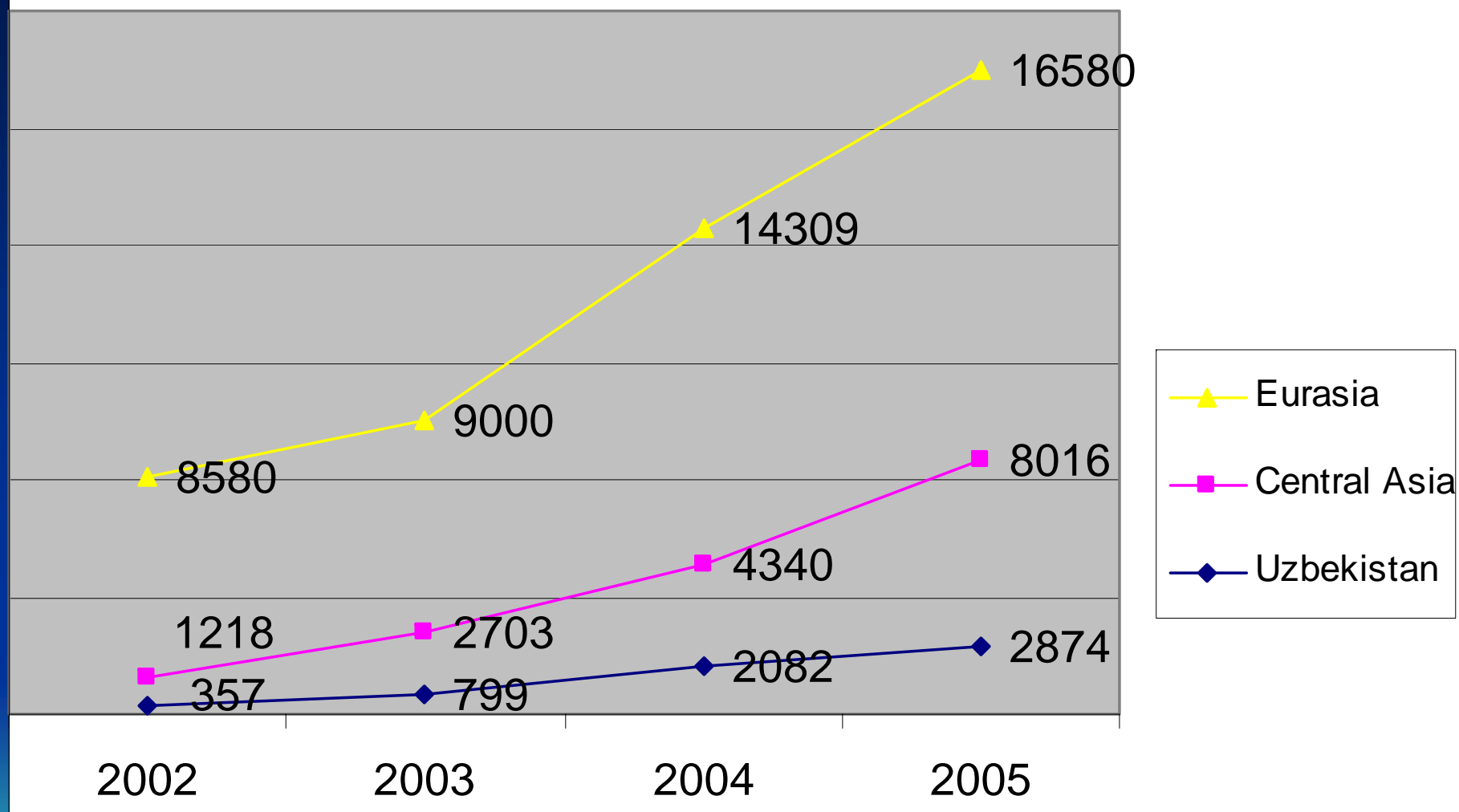
- **Internet Access**
- **Training**
- **Web Content Development**



IATP Users



Total Number of Users Trained



IATP's Work with Journalists

- Trained over 220 journalists in the last 12 months
- 150 regularly access centers
- Online discussions




Trends in Internet development in Central Asia

- Internet getting cheaper
- More people using the Internet
- Government assistance/interference



Dial-up Internet and Internet Café Costs in Central Asia

- **Kazakhstan:** dial-up is as low as \$.40/hour and at Internet café is \$.50 – 1.92/hour. Average monthly salary \$220/month.
 - **Kyrgyzstan:** dial-up is as low as \$.20/hour and at Internet café is \$.50 – 1.00/hour. Average monthly salary \$40/month.
 - **Tajikistan:** dial-up is as low as \$.50/hour and at Internet café is \$.50 – 1.50/hour. Average monthly salary \$30/month.
 - **Turkmenistan:** dial-up accounts still almost impossible to obtain. Internet at some hotels is about \$2/hour. Average monthly salary \$75/month.
 - **Uzbekistan:** dial-up is as low as \$.50/hour and at Internet café is \$.50 – 1.00/hour. Average monthly salary \$35/month.
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Percentage of Population Using Internet at Least Once a Week in Central Asia, 2005 Figures:

- Kazakhstan: 9% (2002: 3%)
- Kyrgyzstan: 3% (2003: 2%)
- Tajikistan: 4% (2003: 1-3%)
- Turkmenistan: 1% (2001: .1%)
- Uzbekistan: 3% (2003: 2%)



Government Assistance/Interference

- Kazakhstan: Internet in schools
- Kyrgyzstan: Internet in rural areas
- Turkmenistan: Internet in institutions, but Internet use strictly monitored
- Fewer websites blocked than last year, except in Uzbekistan



Websites Blocked in Uzbekistan

- www.lenta.ru - blocked after May 15
- www.ferghana.ru – blocked (homepage might open, but not most of the articles)
- www.centrasia.ru - always blocked
- www.gazeta.ru - blocked occasionally
- www.uznews.net - blocked
- www.regnum.ru - blocked
- www.eurasianet.org - blocked
- www.tribune-uz.info - blocked
- www.nytimes.com – blocked after May 15, but no longer blocked

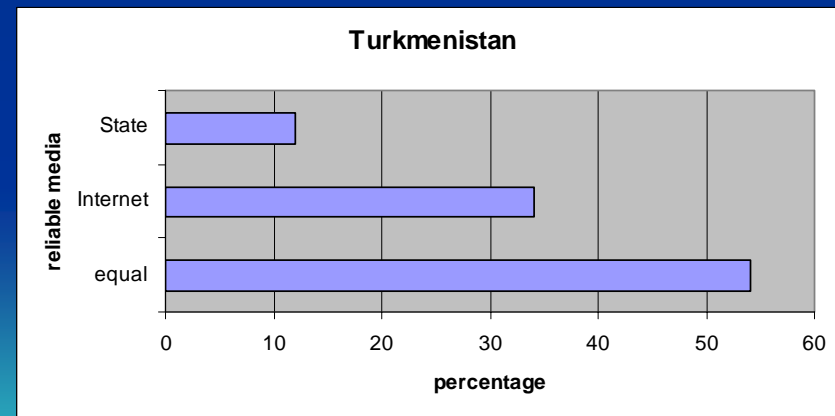
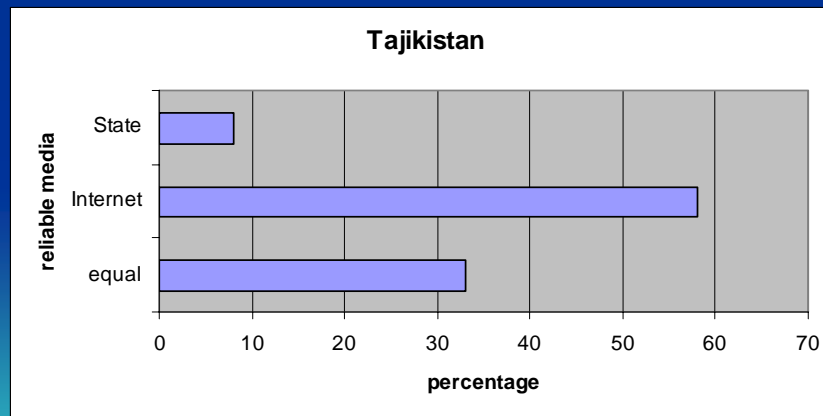
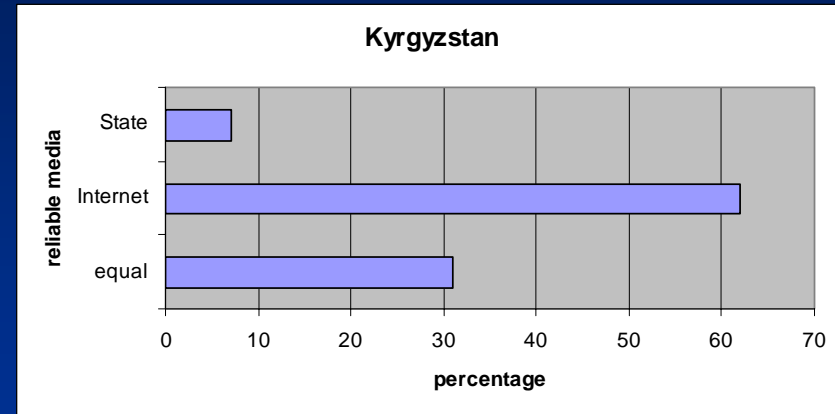
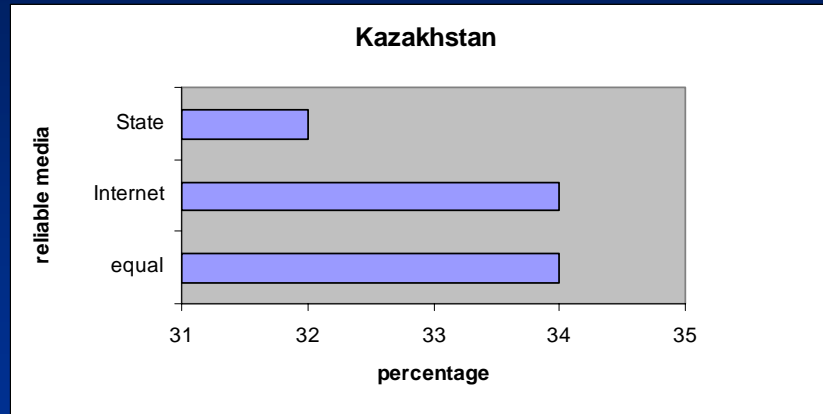


IATP User Mini-study

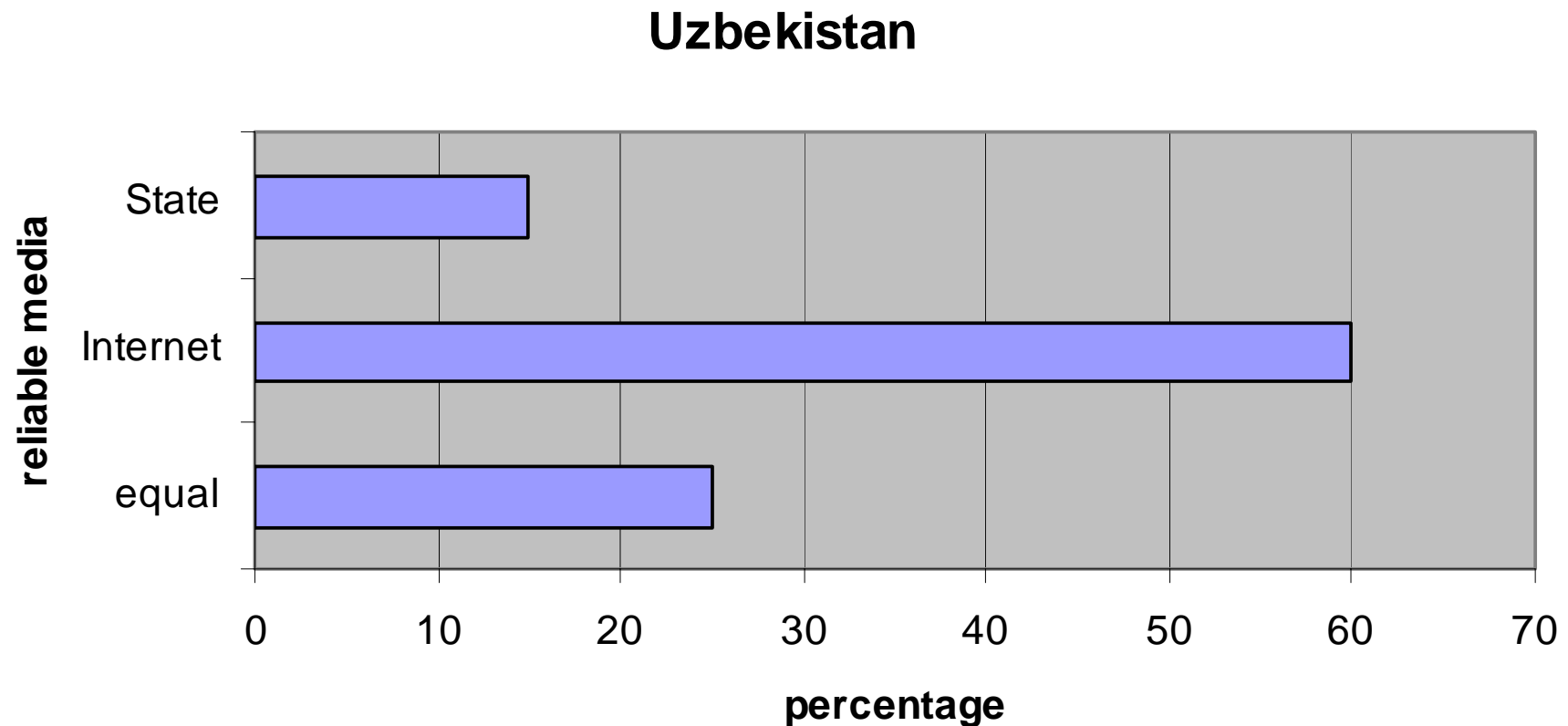
- **Internet's Role after Kyrgyz Revolution and Andijan "Massacre"**
 - User Behaviors with Media
 - Attitudes Towards Online and Government News Resources



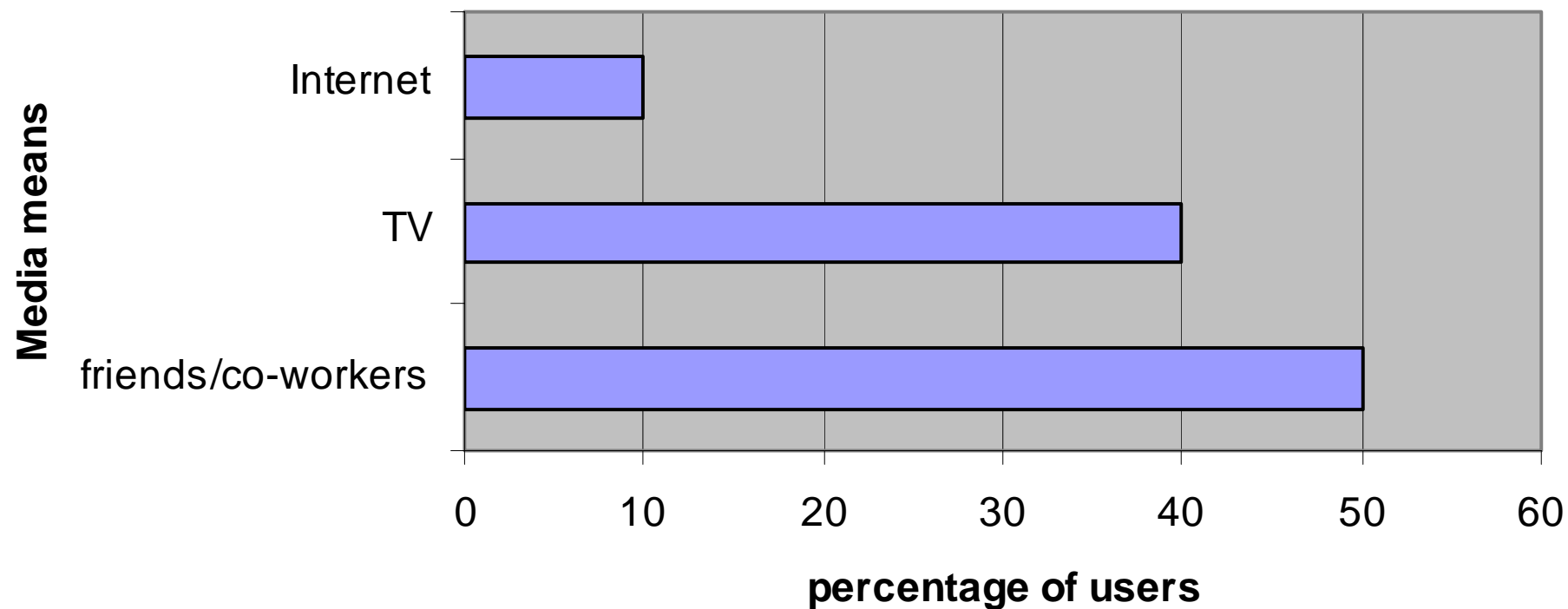
Percentage of Respondents Who Find Internet or State-owned Media More Reliable



Percentage of Respondents Who Find Internet or State-owned Media More Reliable



How Uzbeks learned about Andijan first



...75% of Uzbek respondents turned to the Web for more news

Recommendations for Internet Development for Media

- Raise Number of Computer and Internet-literate People
- Listservs
- Cross-border Information Sharing
- Forums and Chat Rooms
- More Web Content, Including News in Local Languages
- Translate English-language Resources
- Provide Full Funding for IATP



CONCLUSIONS

- In countries where almost all information is tightly controlled, the Internet is already used, but it needs to be developed and more accessible to advocate free speech, access to information, and a stronger foundation for democracy.

