



Osh city Mayor's
Office



Public Foundation
«IRET»



Office of Special
Representative of KR
Government in Osh
province



OSCE Centre in
Bishkek



Office of Special
Representative of
KR Government in
Chuy province



Public
Association of
rural women
«Alga»

Fact sheet

Project “Increasing capacity and improving cooperation between youth in Kyrgyzstan”

Bishkek, 25 March 2013

Project: “Increasing capacity and improving cooperation between youth in Kyrgyzstan”.

Partners: Public Foundation “IRET”, Public Association “Alga”, Osh city Mayor’s Office, Offices of plenipotentiary representatives of the KR Government in Osh province and Chuy Provinces

Beneficiaries: Youth of Osh and Tokmok cities and Osh Province, government officials and local residents from Osh City Osh Province and Chuy Provinces.

Project objectives: 1) developing the overall capacity of all Territorial Youth Councils in Osh city and of the City Youth Coordination Council in Tokmok city, 2) Encouraging the promotion of tolerance and peace building amongst youth at local, provincial and inter-regional level; 3) Establishing a sustainable platform for promoting the discussion of youth problems between youth and local authorities; and 4) promotion of inter-regional relations between youth and respective local authorities and local communities.

Project Background Information

According to the National Security Concept that was adopted by the Defence Council in 2012 and signed by President Atambayev, it is necessary to promote the participation of youth in a multi-ethnic state in the general context of encouraging transparency and mutual responsibility of individuals, society and state. Youth are also encouraged to have the opportunity to participate in the improvement and enhancement of effectiveness of public administration system and decentralization of public authority with delegation of separate functions to local state administrations and local self-government bodies.

Since 2011, CiB has been engaging with local public authorities in Kyrgyzstan to promote ways to improve the participation of youth in public life at the local level in a sustained fashion. In 2011, CiB, PF IRET and the Osh Mayor’s Office and signed a three-sided MoU which led to the establishment of 12 youth territorial councils in Osh City. Participation in the youth councils was open to all youth from Osh City, and gender balance and ethnic diversity on each of the territorial youth councils was highly encouraged. The territorial youth councils have two mandates: first, to encourage the promotion of inter-ethnic tolerance and reconciliation amongst youths of Osh city; second, to give youth a platform to engage in youth advocacy related activities vis-à-vis local government authorities. In 2011, CiB funded 7 mini-grant pilot projects that enabled the territorial youth councils (TYCs) to engage in peace-building activities. Project beneficiaries also traveled to Northern Ireland and learned about its experience in overcoming conflict and achieving reconciliation amongst youth.

In 2012, the main areas of emphasis were on project activities to build the capacity of these TYCs through various activities on promotion inter-ethnic reconciliation and conflict prevention, capacity-building trainings, and other activities and performances staged by youth council members in Kyrgyz and Uzbek language theatres in partnership with the Embassy of Japan. In addition, the project also expanded to Chuy province. The youth councils of Osh city exchanged experiences and practices with the youth in

Tokmok city, particularly, how to most effectively discuss youth's problems and coordinate activities in the sphere of youth development between Osh and Tokmok cities.

In 2013, the work of the Osh City TYCs will expand to also work with youth in Osh Province. Ongoing mini-grant activities will continue within Osh-City, and continued partnership in joint activities between the youth of Osh and Tokmok cities will take place. Tokmok City will also establish a youth coordination council under the oversight of the Tokmok City Mayor's Office, and activities designed to promote joint activities amongst youth in Tokmok City, Osh Province and Osh City will be supported.

Between 2011-2013, the Osh City Mayor's Office to date has contributed 341760 KGS to ensuring overall sustainability of the development of territorial youth councils in Osh City.

Project activities and expected outcomes:

1. Engagement of youth councils in Osh and Tokmok cities in effective advocacy on youth related issues is strengthened

After the establishment of a Youth Coordination Council (YCC) in Tokmok city, the YCC of Tokmok and the TYCs of Osh city as well as local city officials will get trainings and regular consultations on how to build their capacity in the areas of internal management and organization, advocacy and how to improve cooperation with local public officials. TYCs in Osh city and YCC in Tokmok city will conduct monthly internal meetings as well as meetings with local government officials.

2. Engagement of youth councils in Osh and Tokmok cities in effective resolution of youth problems is enhanced

The TYCs in Osh city and the YCC in Tokmok are expected to receive official status and cooperate with the local city councils on topics related to youth policies and projects and get observer's status at discussions in the city councils in Osh and Tokmok Cities on issues related to youth policy. Interaction between TYC of Osh and YCC of Tokmok cities and law enforcement structures is also foreseen.

3. Youth engage in activities related to promoting tolerance and peace-building

The YCC and TYC members will receive regular trainings and consultations on promoting inter-ethnic tolerance and general peace-building, which will be organized by PF IRET and PF Alga. They will engage jointly in mini-project activities related to the above mentioned topics in cities of Osh and Tokmok and Osh Province.

4. Inter-regional cooperation and understanding amongst youth in Kyrgyzstan is increased

The youth from Osh city, Osh Province and Tokmok city will meet each other and local officials to create links with each other and with local officials as well as to plan future activities, as well as discussing common problems they are encountering. In the framework of such cooperation, a joint mini-project will also be organized and take place in Osh City.

4. Public awareness and visibility related to project activities and beneficiaries is enhanced

The project implementers will organize press conferences, develop and distribute promotional materials, develop and print booklets containing the history of the project and contact information of people involved in the project. The YCC and TYC members will also learn how to properly use a video camera and voice recorder in order to be able to discuss youth problems more independently in the future.