



PRESS-RELEASE

From Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Europe on a Study Tour

Dushanbe, 17 April 2014 - Within the framework of the EU-funded project “Handicraft and Business through Regional Integration and Fair Trade Market”, the International NGO Cesvi will organize a 10-day European Study Tour for a Central Asian delegation composed of Tajik and Kyrgyz stakeholders.

The Tour will bring representatives from Tajik and Kyrgyz Economic Ministries and Business Intermediary Organizations to share their views and experiences and explore together, through the study of some European best practices, the potentials of the Central Asia handicraft as a strategic opportunity for job creation and economic growth.

Deputy Minister Gulru Qayumova, from the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan, will be one of the members of the delegation. "The Study Tour will change our vision of the handicraft –Ms Qayumova explains- and it is a great opportunity to learn from the experience of other countries and establish contacts for fruitful partnerships with our Kyrgyz neighbours".

The group will travel to the Netherlands (April 21-22) to visit the World Fair Trade Organization; then to Belgium (April 23-25), for a series of meetings with representatives from the European Parliament, the European External Action Service and the European Commission’s DG Enterprise; and finally to Italy (April 26-29), where it will participate in the International Handicrafts Trade Fair of Florence and will meet local craftsmen and entrepreneurs.

Established in Italy in 1985, Cesvi is working in Tajikistan since 2001, where it implements humanitarian and development projects encompassing sectors such as environment protection, rural development, disaster risk reduction and income generating activities. The 2-year project “Handicraft and Business through Regional Integration and Fair Trade Market”, started in January 2014, is funded under the European Union’s Central Asia Invest Program, that promotes the development of the private sector, especially of small and medium-sized enterprises, in Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

"The study tour is only the first of a number of Tajik/Kyrgyz joint initiatives – Marco Alfieri, Cesvi Project Manager, says - The project will create concrete opportunities for mutual collaboration between the two countries in the spirit of the Regional integration promoted by the Central Asia Invest Programme".

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This project is funded
by the European Union

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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 25 million annually in development assistance



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