



PRESS-RELEASE

MEMBERS MEETING OF THE CENTRAL ASIAN NGO NETWORK “CANDY”

From 21 to 22 April 2014 a **meeting of the members of the Central Asian NGO Network “CANDY”** will be held at the "Issyk-Kul Aurora resort" in the village of Komsomol, which is part of the Issyk-Kul region in the Kyrgyz Republic.

The event is organized by a group of Central Asian organizations in cooperation with **Hilfswerk Austria International**, an international non-governmental organization from Austria, as part of the project "Economic development in Central Asia through the promotion of Business Intermediary Organizations and SMEs in the processing sector" which is funded by the "**Central Asia - Invest III**" program of the European Union.

The "CANDY" Network of NGOs in Central Asia is an informal association of non-profit organizations. It is an open, non-profit and non-political network. The full name of the Network is "Network of Central Asian NGOs - CANDY", in brief: "CANDY" (http://www.agroinform.tj/?option=com_content&view=article&id=336)

Since 2012 the Network is supported by the Austrian non-governmental organization Hilfswerk Austria International (HWA).

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the results achieved through network activities and the elaboration of recommendations and proposals to strengthen the activities of the network.

Representatives of Central Asian organizations will attend the meeting together with local stakeholders who are interested in pursuing the goals and objectives of the Network.

A project implemented
by: **Hilfswerk Austria International**



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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.

The international non-governmental organization **Hilfswerk Austria International** implements in equal partnership with regional organizations in Central Asia its third project as part of the “Central Asia – Invest” program of the European Union.

This series of projects, which have been implemented for the last five years by a joint team of six regional and international organizations, aims at Central Asia’s integration into the global economy by developing the fruit and vegetable processing sector as well as increasing the competitiveness and export capacity of SMEs.

PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS:

ASTI (*Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia*) is a non-profit, non-governmental public organization promoting the development of democratic reforms and mitigating the problems of poor people in Tajikistan through the efficient use of the scientific and technical intelligentsia and through strengthening the role of the non-profit sector by implementing social, information, coordination, educational, consultancy and development programs.

NASMB (*National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of the Republic of Tajikistan*), registered in September 1993, is a non-profit membership organization uniting entrepreneurial structures on a free-will basis and representing the interests of a wide range of Tajikistan’s entrepreneurs. Its main goals include protecting and promoting the interests of entrepreneurs, providing, methodological and educational services as well as consultancy to businesses.

TES Center is a non-governmental organization from Kyrgyzstan, whose goal is to increase revenue of the people engaged in agriculture by means of high quality education and consultations. TES Center is a non-profit education and consultancy organization acknowledged by the government of Kyrgyzstan, established by GTZ in 1999, together with Osh State University.

AFVE (*Association of fruit and vegetable enterprises in Kyrgyzstan*) was established in June 2003 and currently unites most fruit and vegetable enterprises in the country, developing the fruit and vegetable processing sector and enterprises by creating a favourable business environment and developing the market for processed products. The “**Association of fruit and vegetable enterprises**” is a non-governmental, non-profit organization uniting legal entities engaged in the production and processing of agricultural produce, on the basis of free will and common interests.

WIFI - The Institute for Economic Promotion

The Institute for Economic Promotion (**WIFI**) is a department of the **Austrian Federal Economic Chamber**. With a market share of 20 percent, **WIFI** is the largest training and adult education institute in Austria. Beside the training courses, **WIFI**’s task is to provide advice and consultancy to businesses and thereby helping companies to cope with the challenges of structural change by providing the information they need about new technologies. **WIFI** is the spring board for new training methods and products, innovations and SME programs.

In 1990, **WIFI** started to export its vast experience in adult education, which led to the **WIFI International Network**, which provides further education programs throughout the CEE / SEE regions. The **WIFI International Network** benefits from the vast expertise of its mother organization and with which it not only addresses the specific needs of local SMEs, but also generally promotes entrepreneurship.

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