

Problems of artisans and possible solutions discussed in Dushanbe within EU project

Dushanbe, December 5, 2014 - The networking meeting «The Union of Craftsmen as a resource for Tajik craftsmen» took place today, at 9:00 am, in the Ismaili Center Dushanbe.

The overall objective of the meeting, organized by the **Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan** (UCT), was discussing the condition of the handicraft industry and possible ways of its improvement. The debate gathered artisans and other stakeholders to foster coordination in the sector and discuss the role of Business Intermediary Organizations in the development and promotion of Tajik handicraft.

Marco Alfieri, Project Manager of the Italian NGO **Cesvi**, reported on the progress of the project "Handicraft and business through regional integration and fair trade market", whereas Gulyamov Huseyn, Executive Director of the Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan, presented the case study of the UCT, making an analysis of the actual problems of interaction between crafts organizations and artisans. The meeting also featured a presentation of Nasiba Aminova, Executive Director of the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan (**NASMB**), on the implementation of one component of the project, which is the improvement of the legislative framework for handicraft small enterprises.

Umed Sharipov, director of the Tajik Community Based Tourism Association (TCBTA) and Takhmina Karimova, from the National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT), completed the panel discussion, offering the valuable point of views of two partner organizations engaged in correlated sectors.

The event was held in the framework of the project "Handicraft and business through regional integration and fair trade market ", funded by the European Union. The project, of a duration of two years, aims to promote the development of Tajik and Kyrgyz private sector with particular emphasis on the regional integration of handicraft sector. This objective will be achieved by increasing the operative capacity of the Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan, main handicraft Business Intermediary Organization in the country.

For further information, please, contact: Umed Alimov, Tel: +992 90 000 1505 Email: umed.alimov1990@gmail.com

A project implemented by



Cesvi Tajikistan 16 Firdavsi street 734003, Dushanbe Tel: +992 224 67 28 e-mail: tajikistan@cesvioverseas.org www.cesvi.eu



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Delegation of the European Union To the Republic of Tajikistan 74 Adhamov Street 734013 Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan Tel: (+992 37) 221 74 07, 227 10 24 Delegation-Tajikistan-Pic@eeas.europa.eu http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/tajikistan/i ndex_en.htm. The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their knowhow, 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



Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan (UCT) Aini st. 15, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan Tel: +992 (917) 034349 e-mail: huseyngulyamov@gmail.com https://www.facebook.com/groups/1548 47428047837/



National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises of the Republic of Tajikistan (NASMB) Firdavsi st., 734003, Dushanbe, Republic of Tajikistan Tel: (+992 44) 625 00 08 e-mail: info@namsb.tj www.namsb.tj https://www.facebook.com/namsb.tj



Bishkek Business Club 245/1, Chui Street, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan Tel: (+996 312) 89 86 80 e-mail: office@bdk.kg



PromoFirenze, Special Agency of the Chamber of Commerce of Florence Via del Castello D'Altafronte, 11 - 50122 Firenze – Italy Tel. +39 055 267141 e-mail: <u>laura.tettamanti@promofirenze.it</u> <u>www.promofirenze.it</u>