



PRESS RELEASE

Nation-wide needs assessment launched by the Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan

Dushanbe, December 11, 2014 - The Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan (UCT), organization established in 2012 to bring together Tajik artisans, develop their professional skills and improve the quality of their production, launched a national insight survey aimed at identifying the priority needs in the handicraft sector.

The survey, drafted in Russian and Tajik and composed of 41 questions, was administered to a pilot group of fifty artisans at the occasion of the “Winter Handicraft Fair & International Day of Persons of Disability”, held at the Ismail Centre Dushanbe on the 6 and 7 of December. The questionnaire was developed by the UCT together with the National Association of Small and Medium Businesses of Tajikistan (NASMB) and **Cesvi**, under the auspices of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of the Republic of Tajikistan (**MEDT**).

The objective of the study is twofold: on the one hand, it will provide an accurate and up-to-date census of the artisans living and working in Tajikistan. On the other hand, the survey will identify the main needs perceived by the craftsmen and will collect recommendations to improve their working and living conditions, thus facilitating the definition by the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade of a comprehensive strategy for the development of the sector. The success of this initiative, which is born at the civil society level, is in fact mostly relying on the capacity and willingness of the responsible Government Agencies to ensure proper policy and legislative follow-up to the findings of the analysis.

The on-field campaign will begin in January, when the UCT will start distributing the survey on the national territory, at the same time informing artisans on its rationale and objectives. The first results are due by the first quarter of 2015.

This initiative is realized within the framework of the project "Handicraft and business through regional integration and fair trade market", funded by the European Union under the Central Asia Invest Programme. The project is promoting the development of Tajik and Kyrgyz handicraft SMEs through the reinforcement of sectoral Business Intermediary Organization (BIOs).

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A project implemented by



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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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