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DVV International Uzbekistan

Newsletter

Special edition:
ADULT EDUCATION VS COVID-19



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Dear colleagues, friends, partners!

The current edition of the newsletter is dedicated to the activities of DVV International in Uzbekistan within the framework of its anti-crisis programme during the ongoing quarantine.

In the conditions of pandemic, we put maximum efforts to ensure smooth functioning of our office. In accordance with the quarantine guidelines, some of our staff works remotely and others from the office, all the necessary conditions to ensure staff safety are in place. All planned projects are implemented according to alternative plan, equipment for partner organizations purchased and delivered to the project locations. Some of the project activities delivered on a distance learning format. Where it is possible, after the quarantine completion, face-to-face trainings and seminars will be held in compliance with all norms and rules of sanitary safety. We are glad that we have friendly, pro-active and positive team as well as partners who are willing to experiment, adjust and test new methods of work.

We wish success and health to everybody!

Crisis response: the role of adult learning and education against the COVID-19 pandemic



The spread of the COVID-19 and the quarantine measures have led to the necessity to review activities of DVV International Uzbekistan. Majority of staff members have moved to work from home format, and those staff members who have had to work from the office are provided with all the necessary safety working conditions in compliance with the sanitary standards. In addition, employees of DVV International

Uzbekistan transferred their one-day salary to the "Kindness and Support" Fund to provide financial assistance to socially vulnerable groups of the population.

At the same time, DVV International's head office in Bonn issued a program statement, which can be read in various languages, including Russian, on the organization website:

<https://www.dvv-international.de/en/our-work/reaction-to-corona-pandemic>

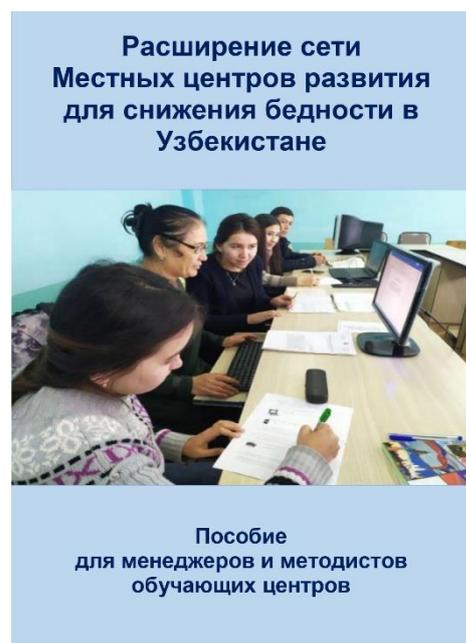
The document calls the government and international organizations to provide adult education providers the necessary resources to overcome this situation, in order to ensure availability of non-formal education services to the public. The statement proposes the concept of overcoming the crisis through adult learning and education and provides recommendations.

The DVV International Uzbekistan, in response to this statement, has reorganized its activities to face new challenges:

1. Using digital Push-learning opportunity, including the creation of platforms, developing non-formal trainings and (certified) online courses;
2. Expanding the coverage of audience by using social networks and channels;
3. Developing online capacity building opportunities for employees, managers and trainers;
4. Providing opportunities for thinking about the global responsibility, active citizenship by conducting motivational contests;
5. Investing in digital infrastructure of local ALE providers and providing digital devices for participants from vulnerable groups.

Currently, the DVV International Uzbekistan is developing the concept of digital transformation of the office in order to create a flexible, intelligent, virtual-physical environment for collaboration; to organize video conferences with local partners, participants from different countries and regions; and to conduct virtual monitoring in remote project locations.

Alternative project activities during the quarantine period



Quarantine is not time for standing idle. In March, the DVV International Uzbekistan together with its partners developed an alternative plan for implementation of the project ideas planned at the beginning of the year. It was decided to replace certain project activities, which are not allowed during the quarantine, with the activities which are safe and effective. Thus, the idea to work remotely emerged, particularly to prepare two manuals which accumulated the long-term experience of partner organizations and ways of further development of projects. The team of the Republican Socio-Economic Center "SABR" commenced to prepare the first manual, and the staff of DVV International jointly with two invited experts in the field of culture and organizational development work on the second manual.

The draft version of the Center 'SABR' manual has been completed. The main idea of the authors is to describe how poverty reduction in rural areas can be achieved through the widespread of non-formal education. A successful example of such approach is the proven model of the Local Development Center (LDC), better known abroad as the 'Community Learning Center' (CLC). The manual considers not only theoretical aspects, but also provides a detailed description of practical measures to establish the CLC and to develop their network in Uzbekistan.

The second handbook 'Cultural Centers: Learning and Development Opportunities for All', designed for the staff of cultural centers in Uzbekistan, is underway. The main objective of the manual is to familiarize cultural centers with tools to strengthen their capacity through the adaptation of the best international and local practices in providing cultural and educational services to the population. The manual will include the following topics: 'Modern local and international approaches on adult education and lifelong learning', 'Best international practices in managing cultural and educational institutions and their adaptation in Uzbekistan', 'System and opportunities for professional development', 'Modern methods and trends in education services', 'Prospects for development: commercialization and diversification of activities' and 'Innovative ideas for cultural centers'. The manual will not only strengthen the capacities of employees of partner organizations – Cultural Centers of Namangan region, Karshi district, and the city of Kuvasay – in the promotion of non-formal education, but also help to rethink the role of cultural centers in local communities and expand the target audience through innovative approaches.

On the photo:

*One of the interim working versions of the cover page of the manual developed by the Center "SABR".
The photo was provided by the Center "SABR".*

Contribution of DVV International Uzbekistan to the professionalization of ALE in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic

The distance learning platform <http://cgtvet.uz/uz>, developed for the Institute for Pedagogical Innovation, Retraining and Continuing Education of Leadership and Pedagogical Staff in Vocational Education with the support of DVV International Uzbekistan, enables employees of partner organizations to improve their skills during the COVID-19 pandemic and lock-down regime. The platform, likewise, provides the necessary supplementary literature and information on adult learning and education (ALE).

In April 2020, 32 education specialists from all regions of Uzbekistan completed the distance learning course on the first CG module. The course was divided into six stages, each lasted a week. Per stage, participants received assignments and training materials for self-studying (electronic materials, video presentations, additional materials for in-depth study on each topic). To coordinate and facilitate assignments/discussions, a special forum was opened on the platform where participants were able to interact with their tutors to comment, debate and ask questions. At certain stages, electronic surveys, Google Docs, were applied to test the degree of comprehension of e-learning content. As an additional communication tool, a messenger “Telegram” group chat was used.

After the initial group completed the course, another group of about 20 participants from partner cultural centers was gathered. From April 25 to June 15 2020 education specialists advanced not only their knowledge and skills in the contemporary approaches in adult education, but also enhanced their professional network and capacity to use online resources for teaching and learning purposes.

The course received a positive feedback from participants, also from the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Special Education and other partners. At the moment DVV International Uzbekistan is working with partners on developing the second CG module and on preparing the third group of participants. It is planned that all CG modules will be digitalized for e-learning purposes and become available in Uzbek and Russian languages across Uzbekistan. This will help to cover a larger audience with less financial expenses.



Sardor Gaziev, Freelance-trainer and the course participant shares his thoughts:

I think that the course is extremely relevant and necessary today. I like its content, format, learning materials, assignments and the procedure of their implementation. The course intends not only to advance knowledge but also to test your skills. Honestly, I always thought that “distance learning” is very difficult, that it will be difficult in this way to comprehend the material. My previous experience, gained several years ago, became the basis for this assumption, and therefore, I always refused offers on distance learning. This course not only changed my

attitude to this form of learning, but also encouraged me to take several other distance learning courses, and to organize distance learning courses on my own in order to share my knowledge and skills.

I thank the organizers of this course and those who promote this platform in Uzbekistan. It can bring many positive changes to our society!

Transition to distant learning of the partner Cultural Centers



The necessity to shifting to online education service became unexpected for many adult education providers in Uzbekistan, but they adapted to the situation, not only to "survive", but also to go further in accomplishing their mission. Since the theory of digital andragogy is not sufficiently developed yet, we have to learn everything in practice and very quickly. The technical side of this issue was easier than didactic. How to organize interactive activities, work in small groups during a video session?

How to keep the attention of participants sitting passively and watching on the screens of their computers, tablets and smartphones? These questions are only being studied and tested by the trainers during the working process. They have to learn along the way, using the advantages and disadvantages of distance learning.

The quarantine has paused the education activities of the partner Cultural Centers (Culture Center of Namangan region, Culture Center of Karshi district and Culture Center of Kuvasai city), which prior to the pandemic with the support of the DVV International Uzbekistan delivered courses for adult population: sewing, use of computer programs, crafting traditional musical instruments, modern decorative art, photo and video art, and others. In addition, seminars and training sessions were organized for the staff of cultural centers aimed at advancing their capacity on methods on working with adults, management of cultural initiatives, etc.



Taking into account new challenges, DVV International Uzbekistan strengthened material base of cultural centers and purchased smart-TVs, Wi-Fi routers, video and web-cameras, and tablets. The next step is to deliver distance learning courses for the staff of cultural centers (administrative and education specialists) as well as to the general population. All the courses are launched remotely by using the Telegram messenger as well as online consultation are provided by the specialists in this field.

On the photo:

1. Distance learning courses at the Cultural Center of Namangan region. (Photos provided by the Namangan Cultural Center). 2. The equipment for cultural centers is prepared for shipment (photo made by DVV International Uzbekistan).

New professions - new opportunities!



This year DVV International Uzbekistan has supported a project aimed at improving the quality of lives of unemployed women in the Fergana district – the idea was proposed by the Center for Social and Legal Support for Women and Children NGO "Mehrjon" (Fergana city).

The village of Yangi Yul, with circa 4,000 unemployed women (more than 75% of female population) located near the border with Kyrgyzstan, was chosen as the project

location. One of the women's main problems is the impossibility to obtain vocational trainings due to the lack of specialized training organizations in the rural areas as well as their limited financial opportunities do not allow them to study at the regional center.



The most popular profession in the district is a 'pastry chef'. There are no bakeries in the village and bakery products are brought from Fergana (about 40 km). The project aims at establishing cooking and baking training/production enterprise and attracting specialists from Fergana for providing vocational trainings for 20 local women, who will also receive basics in entrepreneurship and eventually will be employed in a small business established under the project for baking bread and confectionery products.

Furniture and premises with a zero-rent rate under the lease agreement are provided by the Makhalla and Family Support Department of the Fergana region, and bakery equipment has been purchased and delivered to the project location. Samsung TV set was purchased and delivered to the Center "Mehrjon" in order to provide video lessons during the training.



On photo:

1. Project location on the map in the Fergana region.
2. The space allocated for the project.
3. Part of the purchased and delivered bakery equipment.

Photos provided by the Center "Mehrjon".

'Adult Education against COVID-19' in Uzbekistan The contest marathon



The COVID-19 pandemic forced adult education providers to rebuild their activities in Uzbekistan. They conduct consultations by phone, organize online master classes as well as develop and adapt distance learning programmes. In order to increase their motivation in addressing the crisis, DVV International Uzbekistan announced the contests marathon 'Adult Education against COVID-19'. The purpose of the contest is to support ideas of the civil society sector in mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

The marathon consists of three stages - posters competition, video-reels contest and fair of project ideas (the most interesting idea will receive the financial support from DVV International). Each stage lasts circa a month. The posters competition ended on 10 June 2020. Ismail Umarov, a student of the Tashkent University of World Economy and Diplomacy, became a winner and received the latest smartphone model as a prize. The posters competition took place at the Facebook page of DVV International Uzbekistan. The poster-winner became a visual brand of the contest marathon and will be used at all other stages of the contest.



Winners in other nominations and holders of diplomas became: NGO 'Istiqbolli Avlod', initiative group 'Ecoland', entrepreneurs and students. Each author approached the creation of the poster based on his own vision of the topic. The result is a very interesting palette of meanings and accents of adult education during the pandemic. All posters will be used in the activities of DVV International Uzbekistan. An exhibition of posters will be organized and the best works will be the basis of desktop calendars with quotes on adult education, which will be published by DVV International Uzbekistan at the end of the year.

At the moment the video-reels competition gains its momentum and the competition participants started to send their works. It is possible to see them on the Facebook page of DVV International Uzbekistan:

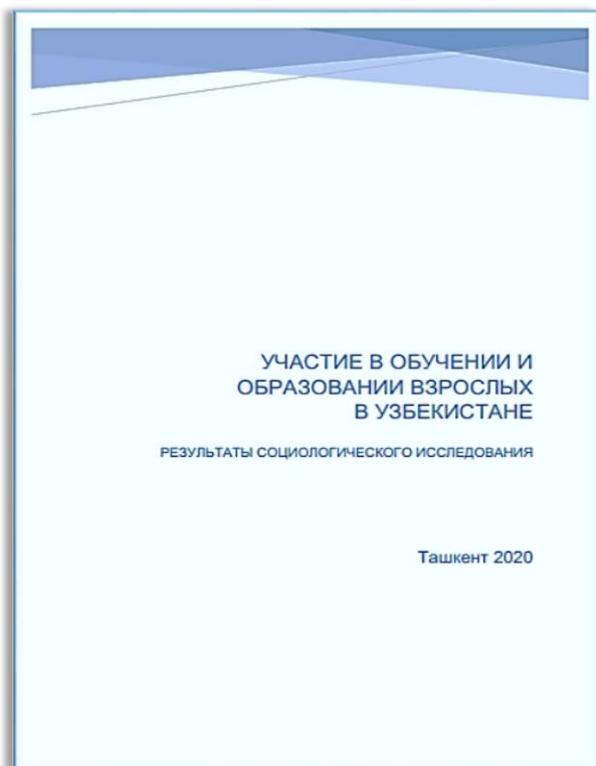
<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=922439978258353>

Each video-reel is unique. All together their cover topical themes on adult education during this difficult period. At the same time, the third stage of the contest marathon 'Fair of project ideas' was announced. Non-state non-profit organizations (NGOs) and non-government educational institutions (NGEIs), as well as state organizations which provide non-formal adult education services (cultural centers, institutes of professional development, etc) are invited for cooperation.

On the photo:

1. Collage, some of the posters from the contest.
2. The winner-poster.
3. Ismail Umarov, the winner, receives a prize – smartphone Samsung s-10

Sociological survey 'Participation in Adult Learning and Education in Uzbekistan'



At the end of 2019, the Scientific and Practical Research Center "Oila" under the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan¹ with the support of the DVV International Uzbekistan conducted an empirical study, which became the basis for the report prepared in 2020.

The principal objectives of the study focus on researching: participation of the population in formal, non-formal and informal education and learning; reasons causing barriers for education and learning; access to information on learning opportunities; financing sources, etc. The results of the study are presented in the report "Participation in Adult Learning and Education in Uzbekistan: Actual Situation and Future Perspectives". The document is designed for decision-makers, as well as a wide range of experts and stakeholders for further elaboration of the ALE promotion policy.

The survey illustrates low participation of adults in formal, non-formal and informal learning and education. 49 percent of respondents emphasized lack of opportunities for education – among them 95 percent link it to external factors (family issues, expensive education services, non-permission from employer) and not to lack of motivation from their side. Low income, considering an average family of 5.8 members with dependent pressure due to unemployed members (34,5 percent) as well as expensive education services, all together become serious barrier for participation of adults in ALE.

The report in Russian language is available here:

http://www.dvv-international-central-asia.org/fileadmin/files/central-asia/documents/Publications_and_other_media/Publications/2020_УЗБ/AES-UZ-2020_final_version.pdf

This report will become the basis for the National Report on Adult Learning and Education in Uzbekistan, which is planned to be completed by the end of this year with the involvement of interested partners.

¹ From 18 February 2020 the Scientific-Research Institute 'Mahalla and Oila' (The decree of the President of Uzbekistan №УП-5938).

NEWS FROM THE PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Marathon campaign "Istiqbolli Avlod"

From June 30 to July 30 in all regions of Uzbekistan RSIC "Istiqbolli Avlod" jointly with the National Commission on Combating Human Trafficking organizes a large-scale marathon action "30 days in partnership against human trafficking". The event is supported and funded by the USAID regional project "Combating Human Trafficking" implemented by the International Organization for Migration. July 30 - International Day against Human Trafficking, proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2013 to increase public awareness of the situation of victims of human trafficking and to protect their rights.



The aim of the marathon is to draw the attention of the public, mass media, government authorities and every member of society to the problem of human trafficking and to coordinate efforts to assist victims of this crime. During the month of the marathon various online and offline events are planned: field legal consultations, initiatives with the distribution of information materials, radio, TV and printed press speeches, contests, online quizzes for youth and online forums.



Photo made by RSIC «Istiqbolli Avlod»/

ADULT EDUCATION IN THE WORLD DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

All over the world, theorists and practitioners in adult learning and education are concerned with the impact of the pandemic on education processes at the national and regional levels. DVV International, Bonn has launched a series of podcasts in which partners from different countries talk about current issues on this topic in a format of discussion and exchange.

The host of the podcast series is Barbara Hoost, Senior Manager of DVV International's Head Office.



Below is the list of all the podcasts which have been broadcasted up to this date. You can watch them here:

<https://www.dvv-international.de/en/our-work/reaction-to-corona-pandemic/video-podcast-adult-learning-and-education-in-times-of-covid-19>

Geographical coverage, level of invited experts and discussion topics touched in the podcasts speak for themselves:



Episode 1: How should adult education organisations react to the Corona crisis
With Refat Sabbah, President of the Arab House of Adult Education and Development



Episode 2: The Corona crises and the challenges for community education in South Africa
With Farrell Hunter, DVV International Country Director for South Africa



Episode 3: New opportunities for civil society arising from the Corona pandemic
With: Ayşe Öktem, Director of the organisation beraberce (Turkey)



Episode 4: Adult education, democracy and human rights
With: Timothy Ireland, Professor of Education, Federal University of Paraíba, João Pessoa (Brazil)



Episode 5: Community development in Georgia during the Corona crisis

With: Tamar Chabukiani, Director of the Georgian Adult Education Network (GAEN)



Episode 6: Implications of the Corona crisis for youth education in Kyrgyzstan

With: Akmaral Satinbaeva, Executive Director of the youth organisation “Youth of Osh”



Episode 7: Adult education 2.0 – The German Adult Education Centres and their digital learning offers

With: Celia Sokolowsky, Project Lead at the German Adult Education Association (DVV)



Episode 8: Community development and adult education in Laos

With: Somchit Phonevilai, Academic staff, Literacy and Upgrading Education Section, Non-Formal Education Development Center
Language: English



Episode 9: La femme tunisienne en temps de crise

With: Radhia Jerbi, Präsidentin, Union Nationale de la Femme Tunisienne (National Union of Tunisian Women)
Language: French



Episode 10: India and the Corona Crisis – Lessons for Global Citizenship Education

video Podcast w/Rajesh Tandon: India & the Corona Crisis – Lessons for Global Citizenship Education



Tashkent street art, the work of the local “Banksy” – Abdurakhmon.
Source: <https://www.gazeta.uz/ru/2020/06/20/inkuzart/>

Since 2002, DVV International Uzbekistan has been operating in the country on the basis of an intergovernmental agreement between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Federal Republic of Germany. The non-formal name of the organization is DVV International Uzbekistan. DVV International is the only specialized organization in the field of adult and youth education in the world with the head office in Bonn, carrying out project activities in more than 30 countries around the world. In the Central Asian region, despite Uzbekistan, DVV International has also offices in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The regional office is located in Kyrgyzstan. Projects are financed mainly with financial support from the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), as well as with the support of other donor organizations.

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