

**14'** November  
2012

**NEWSLETTER No. 26**  
of the representative office of *dvv international*

---

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

[Foreword](#)

**NEWS**



[Learn to become younger](#)

[E-Learning in non-governmental educational institutions of Uzbekistan](#)

[New opportunities to obtain a vocation as "housing personnel"](#)

[Training of waiters and chambermaids for the Kashkadarya region](#)

[Think global, act local!](#)

[School of Eco-Tourism](#)

[Life goes on!](#)

[Lifelong Learning for all through Public Educational Centres](#)

[Leadership skills for women with disabilities](#)

[Impressions of the Adult Education Autumn Academy  
for South-Caucasus and Turkey](#)

[Opening of the Representation Office of \*dvv international\* in Kyrgyzstan](#)

[Internship at the \*dvv international\* Office in Uzbekistan](#)

**AE IN THE WORLD**



[Transforming Our Future: "Living and Learning Together",  
ASPBAE Strategic Assessment and Planning Workshop  
21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia](#)

[Announcement: 15<sup>th</sup> Forum of the German Adult Education Institute \(DIE\)  
on "Adult Education as a profession. Requirements, Trends, Models"](#)

[Announcement: Conference on "Enhancing access to education at penitentiaries"](#)

[Announcement: 6<sup>th</sup> Festival "Non-formal Education for all Generations"](#)

## Foreword



Dear colleagues, friends and partners!

I am very pleased that with every new newsletter we have an increasing number of readers in different parts of the world. This year, after two regional events, the Course on “Leadership in Adult Education Advocacy” and the VI Central Asian Summer Academy, we have found new friends from India, the Philippines, Vietnam, Mongolia, Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

In the present Newsletter, we would like to introduce to you activities carried out by our partners in Uzbekistan. This year we have new partners with new ideas and new target groups.

The project “Experience and innovation”, that is being implemented in Uzbekistan by the Non-governmental Educational Organisation (NGEO) “ATLASKO-EDU” for elderly people seems to us interesting and relevant, especially since 2012 was declared to the “Year for Active Ageing and Solidarity” in Europe and the steady trend of the “aging society” is meanwhile becoming typical for developing countries as well.

Nowadays the world is talking a lot about the possibilities of distance learning. This form of training is increasingly developing in Uzbekistan. The idea of e-learning in non-state educational institutions was proposed by our long-standing partner, the NGEO “MSDC Tashkent.”

Last year several projects in the field of ecology were conducted in the framework of the “Innovation Fund”. This topic has not been forgotten this year either. Two partner organisations - “Eco Forum” and the “Federation for extreme tourism” proposed a set of interesting educational measures. The selection of organisations with innovative ideas in 2012 was carried out by the Association for Harmonious Development of Adults and Youth in Uzbekistan (AGRVIUz). The winners of the Fund are the following organisations: NGEO “New Opportunity” and NGEO “Travel Study”. These projects will also be represented in the present issue.

Since 2003 the Representative office is supporting the project on “Adult Education in the Penitentiary System”. This year the project was developing in a new direction – multiple round tables for released women have been conducted.

In this issue you will moreover find information about a project, which aims to support women with disabilities. The NGO “Opa-singillar” consolidates the efforts of these women in evolving leadership skills.

Partners from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan will share some interesting events that took place in their countries this year with the readers.

The Newsletter will also provide information about upcoming events, which are to be attended by our partners. And, of course, they will share their experiences in the next issues of the newsletter.

Thank you all for your attention and interest in the activities of *dvv international*. We are always glad to receive your feedback, which can be sent to our email address: [info@dvv-international.uz](mailto:info@dvv-international.uz).

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter.

**Romy Lehns,**  
*Head of the dvv international Representative office  
in Uzbekistan*



## News

### [Learn to become younger](#)

*"In each age  
one can become younger"*

#### **The population of our planet is aging rapidly**

The age of people at the age of pre-retirement and retirement are being called differently - people of the third age, wise age, golden age, or in a modern way shortly: 50 + (fifty plus). At all times the elderly were treated with respect, their experience was appreciated, and ones often entrusted them important decisions as elders. In Germany, for instance, people prior to 65 years are respectfully being called "seniors", in Uzbekistan elderly men – as "aksakals". Are there many or few elderly people in the contemporary world? The amount of the elderly is growing more rapidly than of each other age group. Two thirds of all people after 60 years are living in developing countries or in countries with developing economies. According to forecasts this share will increase nearly to the four fifths until 2050 and the amount of the elderly generation will overcome that of the children within the next 15 years. The Year 2012 is declared to the "Year for Active Aging and Solidarity" in Europe.

Uzbekistan is being considered as a "youth country". The predominant age of the population is below 30 years. The shape of the elderly hereby is only 7%. However such indicators as a decrease of birthrates and a growth of the lifespan in our country are gradually conducting to the aging of the society. Over the past 20 years, life expectancy of the population in Uzbekistan increased from 67 years to 73 years (women`s up to 75 years). Although the trend of an aging society is an occasion for joy, at the same time it is a serious challenge - as it requires a completely new approach to solving several problems. According to the UN report on "Aging in the XXI century: the triumph and challenge." the first step is to provide not only life but also improve its quality, to make life diverse, fulfilling and satisfying. If no measures will be undertaken quickly, the consequences may be a surprise for unprepared countries.

#### **Learning as one of the tools for improving the life quality of elderly people**

Some contribution to improving the life quality of elderly people in our country is being made by a set of measures called "Experience and Innovation" - aimed at training for the age group 50+ and is being supported by the Representative office of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan. Germany has a wealth of experience to improve the quality of seniors' life, which make up 22% of the population. One of the tools is the training of older people in various educational fields e.g. at the "Third Age Universities". In the past few years, *dvv international* supported projects in different countries with the elderly as the main target group - and the success of these projects gave us hope that this work will be relevant in Central Asia as well.

#### **Experience and Innovation**

The idea of conducting a range of activities with the title "Experience and Innovation" was proposed by the non-governmental educational organisation (NGEO) "ATLASKO-EDU" in November 2011, and in August 2012 it became possible to start the project. "Experience and innovation" is the strong combination of existing experience of older people and innovative approaches to the presentation and transfer of this experience through computer technologies and Internet.

"ATLASKO-EDU" has many years of experience with different social and age groups. The purpose of this organisation is to create an enabling environment for personal and professional development by providing additional education. The organisation's motto is "Learning for Life". During its progress since the year 2002, the employees of "ATLASKO-EDU" implemented more than 20 social projects and have trained more than 6,000 people. The project subjects are diverse - fighting against drug abuse, inclusive education, integration of the rural youth, introduction of a new training system for young people with difficulties and many other projects aimed at the social underprivileged and vulnerable in the first place.

Organisation is collaborating with psychologists, social workers and journalists. Among the trainers are young but certified and experienced professionals in law, business, health and social pedagogy, which develop and provide trainings adapted to the characteristics of the various specific target audiences.



*The team of "ATLASKO-EDU"*

The team of this NGO has representatives speaking not only Uzbek and Russian, but also a variety of other foreign languages: English, German and Arabic. All employees are active internet users who have profiles on social networks and are highlighting activities not only on the organisations' website, but also on various online communities.

#### **"If you are not on the Internet, you're not existing" (Bill Gates)**

The question "What to teach older people in the scheduled events" almost immediately found my answer. Of course, skills in the field of

computer technology and the Internet. "In the digital age, computer literacy is a measure for the person with which his social activity is often being determined. For this reason people over 50 years sometimes lose social significance." Experts note that a lack of skills in computer technology limits not only economic opportunities of older people, but also reduces their social networks leading to isolation and decreased public activity. With retirement people have a lack of information, communication and self-realisation. According to the World Health Organisation, the termination of social activity at a mature age leads to poor physical and mental health, while regular lifelong training helps to prolong life and health. Increasing internet literacy of the seniors is one of the ways to overcome the gap between generations enabling elderly people to keep up with the time and social networking, in this case, can help to escape from their loneliness.

### **"Make a gift to your parents"**

But how should we attract elderly people to these courses? Many of them have low self-esteem, do not believe in themselves and in that they are not able to master modern technology and the Internet. To solve this problem, a wide-ranging information campaign has been implemented. Upcoming courses were announced through various media channels - newspapers, television and the Internet, where young people, children and grandchildren of the elderly people just issued a call: "Make a gift to your parents, older brothers and sisters (50 years and older) or simply friends and neighbours - computer literacy courses for FREE! Participants will be provided with psychological support and social integration through club activities." The result exceeded all expectations - there were much more interested people than expected. And when the organisers saw tears in the eyes of one of the grandmothers who have been regretfully refused to gain entry in the course - since the number of participants was limited - one of the involved trainers brought his own computer to the class. Such deeds made it possible to increase the number of participants from 40 to 48 people (classes are held in more than one group). The oldest female attendee of the courses is 75 years old. Unfortunately only three men take part at the courses. To some extent this reflects the demographics of this age group. The oldest man among the participants is 79 years old. The training started in early September and will last for three months.

### **"A man doesn't has an age, there is only a state of the soul" (Valentina Bednova)**

After the first session one of the participants said, "I want to fly next!" And later you could hear such shouts as "I became younger for 5 years now! What will happen at that?" The desire of participants to learn is so strong that young people would envy them. All of them enthusiastically began to develop skills in the unknown field achieving considerable success. Unfolded talent, which participants did not suspect was discovered. For example, on the first lesson dedicated to the graphic editor "Paint", one of the trainees beautifully painted a sunlit picture: the sea, palm trees, sailboat and sea gulls.



*Drawing of G. Tikhomirova, "Paint" software*

The discovered talents are being enhanced by the attentive trainers: their task is to explain the functions of their "new friend" - the computer - as simply as possible. After all, people of older age groups unfortunately were unable to acquire basic computer skills at school or university and therefore trainers should start at zero in their work. The trainer should not only be an expert in the field of computer technology, but has to know the principles of andragogy and gerontology. In the case of the elderly people this is particularly important. Given the specifics of this age group, it is important not only to possess the necessary methods of adult education, but also to be very patient, polite and friendly in conducting educational measures.

### **Three areas of target group involvement**

The range of activities provided by "Experience and innovation" involves three areas of target audience involvement: 1) Course on computer literacy; 2) Media education; 3) The club of social communication.

Currently participants receive basic skills in using computer programmes. The next phase, which will begin in November, is aimed at improving media literacy, internet skills such as search through engines and e-mailing. In addition, the training programme includes new software on communication to enable trainees to communicate with friends and relatives living abroad, creative work using media technologies, acquiring skills to create websites and blogs, where older people can share their experiences and knowledge with others.

What knowledge and practical skills the courses will provide to those who successfully graduated? Using a computer will be a great help in their life. First of all, they will have the opportunity to communicate, find relatives, colleagues and acquaintances and contacts that were lost over time. Using computers are going to expand their range of interests, hobbies and passions and will provide an easy access from home to all the information required - including access to the sites of public services, social protection and support. For some, this will provide the opportunity for income generation through the Internet.



*During the courses*

After completing the course, elderly people will not feel lonely, neglected and backward from modern life. Online communication in the future will complement and enrich their lives. Provided activities will improve their relationship to today's youth, as well as the courses are going to change the attitudes of young trainers and volunteers towards the older generation.

### **“Harmony” - The Club of social communication**

The third component of project activities - the Club of social communication deserves a separate discussion. All course participants speak of it with great gratitude. The first meeting of the Club took place on 17<sup>th</sup> September. It was devoted to acquaintance and turned into a fascinating conversation. Participants of the meeting came up on their own for the name of the club - “Harmony”. The second meeting was held in the Botanical Garden in Tashkent. The conducted tour was an opportunity to plunge into the world of beautiful trees and plants, enjoy the fresh air, to touch the trunks of mighty trees and feel their energy. It was found out that among the participants there were some who have never been to the Tashkent Botanical Garden. The activity was attended to only the course participants, but they also invited their friends - 46 people in total. During the excursion there was a photo session and participants had the opportunity to feel themselves as photo models. Photographers of the activity were both professional photographers and several volunteers since the tour included 46 people! The next event of the Club was the tour on “Ancient and Modern Tashkent: Ensemble Hazrat Imam.” The excursion was conducted by a course participant who is a professional guide. Elena Yarygina wanted to make a personal contribution to the Club. She accompanied her story not only with historical data, but also reading ghazals, poems and other lyrical digressions.

Another Club event has been a joint visit to a “Sabo” concert, which presented dances of the world cultures. Club members were accompanied by children, grandchildren and friends. All participants got a lot of energy from the dances, the colourful costumes and the live music.

### **Public response**

“The care and attention to elderly people - is a sacred duty, a noble thing, both for society and for each person. It testifies to the moral and spiritual maturity of the nation, which traditionally honours the humanity and human values”. (Materials of the Information Agency “Jahon”).

Computer literacy courses for the elderly are not yet complete, but we can already talk about the support and the great interest to them given by the public. Activities held under the title “Experience and Innovation” have attracted a lot of volunteers. Young people offer their help as trainers, photographers and guides. Media showed their interest as well - a radio programme dedicated its issue to the project activities and one TV-channel is preparing a programme which will be attended by the “ATLASKO-EDU” Director (“Poytaht” channel). There were also publications in Russian on the pages of an information-analytical bulletin “ICT-NEWS” (available online at <http://ictnews.uz>) and in Uzbek (at <http://fikr.uz>)

## **ICTNEWS**

Главная | Новости | Статьи | Блоги | Подписки  
События | Бизнес | IT | Электроника | Интернет | Безопасность | Спорт | Пр

Новости / IT

### **Когда компьютер становится другом для людей старше 50 лет**

02.10.2012 13:21 | Текст: Ирина Рязилова, координатор информационной деятельности проекта «Объём и инновации»



Further information on the “Experience and Innovation” project can be found at the [facebook page “Education for all”](#) (Red.: please note, the page is only in Russian “Образование для всех”) and on the website of “ATLASKO-EDU” – <http://atlascko-edu.ru>

*Irina Raziolova,  
dvv international Project Coordinator*

### [E-Learning at Non-Governmental Educational Organisations in Uzbekistan](#)

Distance Learning (DL) is being used worldwide since a long time. This form of training is becoming more developed, thanks to advantages it provides - especially to the organisation of learning for adults. Its benefits are obvious in terms of providing the

greater convenience and benefits in the first place for the learners themselves. Unlike traditional forms of education, DL allows participants to obtain the knowledge and skills at their preferential time and at any place appropriate to the listener.

The basic communication between the student and the teacher is being carried out with the use of modern information technologies through the Internet. Despite the fact that teachers and students do not see each other, the communication between them is even more intimate and personal than at the full-time training.

The benefits of distance learning, except its convenience, may include low costs compared to the traditional forms of learning, the ability to work more flexible and the use of extensive material in digital formats. But the establishment of E-learning isn't easy, because it requires a special information platform on which the learning process takes place, modern, well-designed E-learning materials, and most importantly, trained teachers who can facilitate the DL process.



*Group interviewing, Tashkent. 03.10.2012*

Having a large number of benefits DL requires us to solve many issues and challenges. In 2012, the Market Skills Development Centre (MSDC) initiated a project to promote the development of distance learning through a Non-Governmental Educational Organisation (NGEO) in Uzbekistan. The proposal found understanding and support of the Representative office of the Institute for International Cooperation of the German Adult Education Association in Uzbekistan (*dvv international*).

There is a lot to do in this regard. First of all - a conduction of a pilot study on the situation and an evaluation of the opportunities for DL-development in Uzbekistan.

The study includes a questionnaire survey of NGOs and NGEOS representatives, employers' organisations and professional associations that may act as recipients of such trainings; whose trainers and teachers could be interested to participate in DL as consumers and organisers. In addition to questionnaires, the study involves in-depth interviews, focus groups and round tables, which have been already held in Tashkent.

Participants of these activities were representatives of NGEOS and learning centres, employees of professional associations, trainers for business managers and business owners, NGO leaders, consolidating people with disabilities, employees of the Technology Transfer Agency, the youth organisation "Kamolot", representatives of international projects, in short – all those who are interested in the development of a new modern learning technology called "E-learning".



*Participants of the round table in Tashkent, 22.10.2012*

The round table organised by MSDC was attended by the representatives of such organisations as Centre for Distance Learning at the Institute for Advanced Training named after A. Avloni, "Istedod", Fund specialists and the Technology Transfer Agency. They told about their experiences and practices in the organisation of courses with a remote access to their target groups. Director of the NGEO "Korchalon" S. Bagryantseva highlighted the relevance of DL for future activities of NGEOS.

An important part for the implementation of planned activities is the development of a special platform as well as training of tutors for the establishment of DL. At the present time, work is being conducted to launch a website, on which the DL-process will be implemented in its final stage.

The selection of candidates for future tutors, who will soon be trained on the methodology of distance learning using the experience of the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin, is being implemented. In November-December of the present year the following two pilot courses will be organised by trainers on the basis of the platform developed by MSDC: "Business planning of the NGEO activities" and "Marketing of educational services". The target group for these courses will consist of the employees and teachers of educational institutions providing adult education and other categories of stakeholders.

The work on the project is in full swing, and those who are ready and willing to participate in it, can receive information on the E-learning website [www.dlm.uz](http://www.dlm.uz)

*Mikhail Khadaev,  
General Director, MSDC*

## New opportunities to obtain a vocation as “housing personnel”

In the framework of the Innovation fund of the Association for Congruous development of adults and youth of Uzbekistan with financial support of the Representative office of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan, at the present time a set of activities is being implemented in order to train unemployed women, who are related to vulnerable population groups on the vocation “housing personnel” with the aim to their further employment. These activities are being realized by the NCEO “NEW OPPORTUNITY” under the guidance of Rummy Mukhamadaliev, the Director. As the name of the organisation says – it provides unique and prospect educational services.

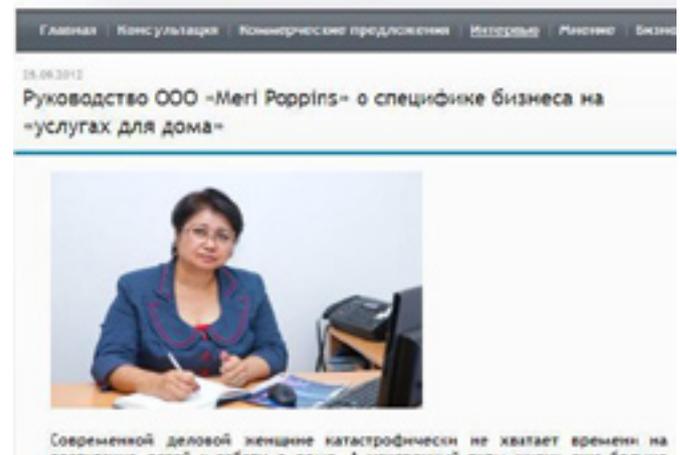
Which occupations are meant with the term “housing personnel”? Those are housing assistants, who take care on a part of the responsibilities of raising children, cleaning and creating comfort - nannies, governesses, maids, nurses, drivers, cooks, security guards. Recently, most people do it themselves: earning money, bringing up children, repairing furniture and running the household. Today, because of the accelerated life style, more people entrust housing related issues to professionals, whose services are being used not only by people with high incomes. For example, now owners with a more modest income began to invite cleaning personnel to their homes. The housing personnel could be found by a variety of ways: through friends (relatives, colleagues), through advertisements, through labour or through specialised agencies. However, the safest and most preferred way is to find a housing personnel agency. In Tashkent, one of the agencies is the LLC “Meri Poppins” - <http://meripoppins.uz>

“Meri Poppins” successfully works on the service provision market since June 2006 in the field of selection of housing personnel. Irregular working hours of both parents (main job + additional work + own businesses), working grandparents, the absence of older sisters and brothers, the mode kindergartens till 17:00, modern houses (townhouses, cottages, etc.) that require special care and attention, are the main reasons that lead people to contact the agency. The employees being employed by the agency undergo a medical examination and a psychological testing. The results of these determine the ability or inability of the candidate to work in the field of housing service. Unlike many recruitment agencies, “Meri Poppins” not only selects appropriate employees, but also trains certified professionals.

The founder of the LLC “Meri Poppins”, **Valida Tursunova**, said in one of the recent interviews for “Kommersant.uz”: **“An important field of the companies’ activity was always the training and preparation of specialists in the field of service.** This specialization became that popular, that in 2011 LLC “Merri Poppins” established the NCEO “NEW OPPORTUNITY”. For the training offered by the NCEO, candidates with medical, pedagogical and similar educations are being chosen. Future students undergo questionnaire surveys and interviews with a psychologist on the

appropriate group determination. In total the course on the housing personnel has a duration of 100 academic hours, including trainings, “case-studies” and praxis. Gained knowledge is being certified by a certificate in three languages. At the present time, with the support of *dvv international*, we are providing free courses for 150 trainees in the field of housing service”<sup>1</sup>.

### ■ Коммерсант.Уз



Courses offer the audience three occupations with an inclusion to educational programmes on:

#### 1. Nannies (House governesses) for children by birth till 5 years

- Hygiene and nursing
- Behaviour ethics
- Work and mental development
- Preschool psychology

#### 2. Governesses (House pedagogy) for children from 5 till 11 years

- Hygiene and looking after children
- Behaviour ethics
- Work and mental development
- Pedagogy/psychology

#### 3. Housemaids

- English for everyday use
- Sanitation and hygiene
- Housing
- Family psychology and behaviour ethics

In addition, course participants gain information on the establishment of professional relationships with the employer, in avoiding conflict situations and in organising working time. Obtained professional skills will be strengthened by praxis. The target group usually consists of women younger than 50 years, but there are cases existing, when clients ask the agency to provide a governor.

<sup>1</sup> [http://kommersant.uz/intervyu?mode=view&post\\_id=1172002](http://kommersant.uz/intervyu?mode=view&post_id=1172002)

Usually those are lone-parent families, where the mother is busy the most time and wants a man as a mentor (for their children).



*The training personnel of the N GEO „NEW OPPORTUNITY“*

For all employees in the housing personnel occupation sector there is a rigorous observance of the „Golden Charter“ of the agency, which is determining position duties and ethical norms of behaviour in clients' families. It is prohibited to answer the phone without permission, to intervene in family conversations and situations, asking incorrect questions (about work, income, relatives), to talk about one's previous work and personal concerns about religious beliefs and politics, to disclose secrets of the new family without the guidance of the employers, also to move furniture, rearrange items, to sit down at the common table without an invitation, to give advice on lifestyle change or view of life and so on. In the case of systematic violations of the paragraphs of the Charter, the organisation reserves the right to recall the certificate of the offender.

After the implementation of the free courses the N GEO plans to switch to self-financing through commercial courses.

*Irina Razilova,  
dvv international Project Coordinator*

### [Training of waiters and governesses for the Kashkadarya region](#)

Kashkadarya is located in the ancient agricultural region - Sogdiana, at the middle between the Amu Darya River and the two waterways - Zarafshan and Kashkadarya. This ancient area shared historical fate of whole Central Asia and has kept up many rare monuments of architecture and fine art, beautiful landscapes, unique designs and crafts, traditions and customs of the local population.

In the interest of improving tourist attraction to the region, the Cabinet of Ministers adopted a "Programme of targeted activities for the development of tourism and increase of the export potential of tourism services in the Kashkadarya region for the period of 2011-

2012" in November 2011.

Over the past year there were established 10 new hotels in Kashkadarya, nine of them are located in the city of Karshi. In the Shakhrisabz district a hotel with rooms for 80 guests was established and another hotel – the "Orient Star Shahrisabz" - was renewed. A large-scale restoration work of the historic and architectural complex Langarota, the Imam-Muyin an-Nasafi, the Sulton Mir Haidar and the Hussamota was implemented. For the future here, in the surrounding areas, services for tourists are being planned. The programme also highlights measures to create conditions for the temporary stopover of tourists. On the Guzar road, a comprehensive roadside, tourism infrastructure was built. Reconstructions of campgrounds along the highway "Bukhara - Karshi - Guzar - Termez" were implemented. At the lake Sechankul a tourist recreation complex was created.

The increase of the tourist potential of the Kashkadarya region created promising prospects in addressing the problem of unemployment, because along with the development of infrastructure and tourism industry there is an interest in attracting qualified professionals, including mid-level service workers such as governesses and waiters for hotels restaurants and cafes. In this regard, the N GEO "Travel Study" proposed the idea of organising short-term training courses in the occupations areas "restaurants waiters" and "hotel governesses" for the newly established and reconstructed tourism industry objects - involving women and young people from low-income families who are experiencing difficulties in employment.



*Hotel "Nozira-Grand", where the courses shall be conducted.*

In the framework of the Innovation Fund, the Representative office of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan supported the idea of conducting short-term courses on training of tourism service personnel conducted by experts from Tashkent, in order to address the needs of the newly established or renewed tourism objects.

The courses will be conducted in November in the "Nazira Grand" Hotel, which has a good basis for the implementation of the Curricula on "Waiter and Governess occupations". With this

objective the NCEO "Travel Study" has chosen materials for two handbooks on "Restaurant waiter" and "Hotel governess". Hand books were translated into Uzbek. Two trainers were prepared for conducting practical lessons with the course participants. Trainers are certified experts working in the field of hotel and restaurant businesses. With the support of the Mahalla committees 40 young men and women were selected for the participation in the courses.



*Manuals for course participants*

As a result of the project, a group of young men and women from low-income families will be trained in respected occupations and thus will receive a better chance to get employed and improve their life standards.

*Shakhida Kurbanbaeva,  
NCEO "Travel Study", Project Coordinator*

### Think global. act local!

Raising the standards of living is one of the priorities of the transition countries. One of its components is the creation of an enabling environment for human habitation, which directly affects their health and income.

The NGO "Eco Forum" of Uzbekistan launched the project "Think global, act local!", that is aimed at environmental education for adults with the support of *dvv international*.

State, international and civil society organisations provide various actions to address the global, regional and national environmental issues in Uzbekistan. However, the solving of the local environmental problems of the village or a city sometimes takes a back seat. Most often, this is due to the fact that the local population is not informed about possible solutions of environmental problems and generally expects external (state, international) intervention. Due to the lack of information and understanding of the local community, they do

not use a number of mechanisms, proven by international practice, which are very effective for solving environmental problems in the field. They need to be implemented with the direct involvement of local communities and through the establishment of a constructive partnership with the government and other sectors of society. Development of social partnership is now one of the priorities in Uzbekistan and a bill to regulate the activity is being prepared at the moment.

The project is aimed to train active representatives of local communities and local governments in possibilities of solving environmental problems with the help of internationally recognised mechanisms – namely the Local Action Plans on Environmental Protection (LAPEP).

The objective of the project is the training of representatives of local communities and local governments in three regions on Local Action Plans on Environmental Protection (LAPEP).

In each region 25 participants will take part in the trainings on LAPEP. In total approx. 70 trainers will be enabled to disseminate knowledge and practical skills on LAPEP-development in their regions: Tashkent, Samarkand and Fergana regions.

Beneficiaries of further achievements of the project are going to be the inhabitants of the respected regions.

*Ravshan Baratov,  
dvv international Project Coordinator,  
Public Relations Manager*

### Eco-Tourism School

The ecological tourism is supposed to stimulate and realise the will of people to interact with nature. During the walking tour the main attention will be paid to the acquaintance with the features of the nature, culture and customs of the local population in the respected regions. Ecological tourism foresees the prevention of the negative anthropogenic impact on nature and culture. Eco-Tourism also foresees the maintenance of ecological sustainability. It provides the possibility to raise additional funds for the protection of environment and for supporting local residents, it also facilitates the development of tourist regions both economically and social-cultural. Eco-Tourism is aimed at raising awareness on environmental issues and environmental education.

The Ugam-Chatkal State National Park in the Tashkent region and the Zarafshan-Urgut district in the Samarkand region have a great potential in the field of ecological tourism. The territory of these places holds a big variety of medicinal herbs and endemics stated in the Red book; it is the home of different fauna and avifauna as well as historical monuments. The nature landscape formed beautiful places, which can be used for creating walking tour routes that could be interesting for rest of the tourists.

The project objective of the Extreme and Mountain Sports Federation of Uzbekistan is to train guides/instructors on mountain eco-tourism, support of social vulnerable population groups as well as the employment of the target group in sport schools of the Tashkent and Samarkand regions. The proposed project will provide training for the interested youth engaged in mountain sport types as well as college graduates from low-income families living near the project sites: Tashkent (25 participants) and Samarkand region (25 participants). Participants will gain skills on planning routes, in leading small tourist groups, in the organisation of bivouacs and in providing security on the route.

For increasing the quality of the activities, mining, tourism and mountaineering gear will be purchased: backpacks, compasses, ropes, harnesses and other equipment, which will be used in training of the participants to acquire practical skills in providing security on the route, passing the mountain hiking trails at various reliefs, first aid and rescue measures.

The evaluation of results will be implemented by the organisation and the quality assessment through the implementation of independent routes of various difficulties and content, as well as work in a variety of children's health and educational camps.

According to the results of the activities, participants who pass the tests will receive the title of "Instructor of the initial training of mountain and Eco-Tourism", and a certificate. The best graduates will be employed in the Tashkent "Regional Junior Sports School of mountain sports and tourism" and in a similar school in Samarkand. For interested graduates recommendation letters will be given.

*Ravshan Baratov,  
dvv international Project Coordinator,  
Public Relations Manager*

## LIFE GOES ON!

*"A man values what he has,  
But most appreciates what's deprived"  
Mikhail Genin*

Serving a sentence in the form of imprisonment is connected with a number of negative factors that impede social adaptation: the longer the term is, the more difficult the process of social integration will be. Life is changing so fast that, when people spent a few years in the penitentiary, with the release they actually find themselves in a completely new environment: new laws, a different level of life, changing social values. How to find themselves after serving their sentences?

On the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> September and 6<sup>th</sup> October 2012 the LLC "AYKAN-INVEST", with the support of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan, held a series of roundtables with released women with the title "Life goes on." The average age of the participants is 40 years and many of

them spent more than 3 years in a penitentiary (mean time served in a penitentiary was 5.3 years).

The objective of the activity is the analysis of problems, which recently released women are faced with.

In the organisation process of the activities participated the representatives from the Main Department on Labour and Employment, Mahalla committees, women committees of Yakasaray and Bektemir districts of Tashkent, the Centres of Social Adaptation of Tashkent and Yangiyul district of the Tashkent region and the Charitable Fund "Mahalla" Yangiyul district of the Tashkent region.

During the implementation of the round tables participants were invited to name problems, which they will be faced with right after their release. Below you will find the main groups of these problems:

- Registration on the previous living place; (80% of the participants have a permanent residence, although the least amount has its own residence, the others are living with relatives and 20% of women rent a habitation as they do not have their own);
- the preparation and delivery of documents (passports, documents related to the divorce, the privatisation of apartments etc.);
- medical services related to paid treatment (women are not aware of the ground for free advice, for example, AIDS centre, counselling risk group, oncology);
- obtaining legal advice;
- employment; limitations due to the inability to work in the profession, low wages (52% of women have a secondary education and do not have a degree, before serving the sentence they did not work and had no information on the activities of Departments of Labour and Employment as they contribute to the training and retraining the unemployed with grants);
- psychological problems related to denying the fact of serving the sentence from their relatives, acquaintances and mahalla neighbours; inability to help families because of the work absence (after a 5 years of break often problems in relationships with relatives and especially with children appear, e.g. in cases when the woman is HIV-infected, the relationship became worse). Thus e.g. 72% of the women noted, that they feel foreign in a family, lack of finance, limited area of residence and moral fatigue affects.

The employers of the Centre for Social Adaptation of Tashkent and the Yangiyul district of the Tashkent region acquainted participants with functions and responsibilities of the Centres. They are functioning on the basis of the Charter and the Order of the Cabin of Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan N 318-φ from the 31.07.96: "Resolution of the order on maintenance of centres for social adaptation and provision with an allocation of one-time financial support to the citizens of the Republic of Uzbekistan, who returned from prison and detention centres for people with no permanent residence."

Many of the women applied to such centres in the community after the release: they were registered, had a medical examination

to obtain a one-time financial support, but they did not know that it is possible to apply for obtaining a residence permit or temporary housing, legal advice and employment.

*Comment: during the measure, the Centre for Social Adaptation of the Yangiyul district assisted two participants from the Yangiyul district on documentation for housing and employment.*

An interesting presentation was made by the Department for entrance, departing and citizenship registration of the Ministry for Internal Affairs. They provided with information on additional measures to improve the passport system in the country. Participants received information on the following topics:

- registration and ending of the registration of residence;
- obtaining a biometrical passport;
- regulations on obtaining the exit visa

The invited specialist from the Main Department on Labour and Employment of Tashkent answered questions of the participants related to employment issues (one of the most important problems, that is being faced by the released women). He told about employment opportunities through the district departments on labour and employment and the provision of free vocational courses on training, re-training and further training with provision of grants, and he also presented the website of the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population of Uzbekistan - [www.mehnat.uz](http://www.mehnat.uz).

Summing up the results of the measures, participants generally agreed that a thorough preparation for the release of women is necessary to be started already inside the penitentiary.

Perhaps the lessons should consist of several blocks: psychological issues, legal issues and employment opportunities after release. Psychological aid could be aimed at developing an appropriate mental approach to the successful resolution of post-release social and psychological problems, such as: infantilism, passivity, fear of decision-making, fear of dealing with unknown people, the fear of fighting, “knocking on doors” and being refused. After the period of serving sentences women become social infantile - job search is not necessary, cooking meals and doing clothing also isn't, and any problems are being solved by the administration of the penitentiary.

Given the special categories of the released (people with disabilities, pregnant women, women with young children, juvenile offenders, people of pre-retirement and retirement age), invited experts by the institution must inform the availability of legislative incentives, subsidies and benefits for this category of persons.

Thus, at the time of their release, women will already possess the necessary information - this can avoid wasting time, money and the fear of rejection.

The positive effect of the organisation of informal communication is the ability to discuss and solve (if necessary by inviting specialists) problems, provide informational support and share experiences on

the process of re-socialisation of women after release.

*Comment: After completion of the round tables, women continued to call the coordinator on proposals and further wishes. There were received calls from women who did not attend the measures (e.g. from other regions) requesting the conduction of similar round tables and consultations in their cities and regions.*

*Naira Mavlyanova,  
Event organizer  
LLC “AYKAN-INVEST”*

### Lifelong Learning for all through Public Education Centres

Upon the recommendation of the National Commission for UNESCO, the Association for Congruous Development of Adults and Youth of Uzbekistan became participant of the regional UNESCO Conference on “**Lifelong Learning for all through Public Education Centres**” for the first time. The Conference took place on 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> September 2012 in Bangkok, Thailand.



The Conference was organised by the UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Office in Bangkok. The sessions were attended by over 90 representatives from 25 countries of the region, as well as experts from the UK. Central Asia was represented by Uzbekistan and a delegation from Kazakhstan. Among the participants of the Conference were representatives of state and non-state organisations, heads of public education centres, representatives of public funds, international partner organisations as *dvv international*, ASPBAE and the British Council.

The conference was devoted to the activities of public educational centres, developing a common position to enhance their role in the realisation of the idea of Lifelong Learning and was held in an atmosphere of deep interest and understanding. The programme included presentations on exchange of experiences of all actors involved in adult education in different areas of activities. The Conference discussed issues and problems relating to government

employees and government agencies, representatives of foundations and associations, heads of public educational centres, experts, leading teachers and trainers.

For our organisation the most interesting issue was the experience of participating countries on lobbying the Adult Education, social partnership and the role of NGOs at promoting AE-principles. In a few countries, governments have created departments, institutions and AE-Centres at the Ministries of Education and Culture. In partnership with interested organisations, ideas of lifelong learning and Adult Education are being promoted. There are special programmes for AE-trainers, a common system of statistical reporting and coordination and an establishment of regional departments, AE-institutes or centres.

Public education centres provide commercial educational services to the public and are actively involved in social and communal projects to train vulnerable groups of the population in their countries. PEC-leaders discussed the features of educational process and participation at governmental social programmes, where students along with specialisations are taught to participate in public life.



Leaders of public education centres shared experience in involving representatives of the unemployed population in the training through the use of non-standard creative methods. An important role played hereby to identify the interests and needs of the people of different age groups and backgrounds using their passions and hobbies. For example, in Pakistan, an action to involve a large number of rural women to train them in skills related to mobile phones' maintenance was conducted. In the countries of northern Africa, it was used the mass hobby of male adolescents - football - to unite them and involve them to educational courses on computer literacy and foreign languages.

In Thailand, the Development Fund for Education established the "School of bamboo", which successfully combines the process of learning with practical skills in the agricultural sector. Hereafter the high school graduates have the opportunity to start their own businesses and become entrepreneurs.

Presentations of the conference participants emphasized that a specific role of the implementation of activities in order to influence the mentality change of people, thinking about the availability and benefits of training, is needed to improve the quality of life.

It was unanimously noted that joint efforts have achieved some

results, showing the importance and growth of the popularity of public education centres. This number is growing rapidly, improving the methods and forms of training, methods for motivation improvement and involvement of socially vulnerable groups of the population to learn. In parallel with the development of the public education centres the infrastructure in remote areas is developing and improving.

The conference participants decided to hold the next regional conference on PEC in June 2013, which will focus on strategic planning for future programme for the period until 2015.

The conference issue is relevant to our country. The project on the establishment and development of a Public Education Centre was launched in Uzbekistan in 1999 and was supported by UNESCO within the Central Asian Programme of Education for All (APPEAL). During this time, at the initiative of the National Commission of Uzbekistan for UNESCO, there were created 10 Public Educational Centres and a resource centre at the training institutions of the Project Schools Network of UNESCO in Uzbekistan. They are functioning to the present time.

In Tashkent, a number of non-governmental educational organisations (NGEO) host a variety of social education programmes. For example, the NGO "Career" and "Learning-scientific centre Korchalon" established courses for elderly people on social skills via the Internet. These courses already became popular. To support the citizens of retirement age there is a discount system on tuition. Successful NGOs increasingly perform in its practice programmes social assistance to the low-income and unemployed population. Using this experience in the implementation of social programmes work, aimed at supporting socially vulnerable groups of the population, the Association plans to disseminate among other NGOs in the country.

*Umida Maksumova,  
Association for Congruous Development of Adults and Youth of  
Uzbekistan, Executive Director*

### Leadership skills for women with disabilities

The Kibray District Society for Women with Disabilities "Opasigillar" is providing support for women with disabilities and for women having children with disabilities since the year 2000. Initiators of the organisation establishment were women with disabilities, which are striving to change their lives and intend to have a positive impact on the lives of women being in similar situations. Social and medical rehabilitation of women and children with disabilities are being conducted in the whole Kibray district, but there are cases existing, that people apply from Tashkent and Chirchik as well.

Nowadays there is a range of difficulties, which impact the effectiveness of our organisations' work, e.g.:

- the absence of information on target groups' needs as many women hide their disabilities or their children's' disabilities, what is leading to the limitation of their access to social services

- the absence or fragmentary information on benefits, regulations and rights of women with disabilities and/or mothers of children with disabilities

- the deficiency of volunteers in being able to effectively communicate with the target group, revealing their needs and defining opportunities for solving their problems

In our work, volunteers' work is playing an important role - often those are the members of the "Opa-singillar"-society - as our district is that big and it is difficult to visit every needier at home.

The necessity on permanent implementation of activities, in those we could meet with the representatives of the target group, communicate with them, study their problems and needs was always existing, but such measures demand definite costs, which the "Opa-singillar"-society is not able to cover.

The cooperation with the Representative office of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan in 2012 enabled us to conduct a number of activities.

To the moment 6 round tables were conducted and women from 12 villages participated in the measures. The round tables were called as "Opa-singillar Teahouse". During the meeting in a non-formal environment, information on our organisation was provided, participants told what they need to be happy and what obstacles they have to become happy. Exactly such simple questions and the format of discussion "with a teacup" enabled creating a dialog - as many of the target group representatives have difficulties in speaking about problems related to their disabilities. With joint efforts, this work enabled us to discuss ways of solving the existing problems. As a result of the round tables most engaged women will be offered to undergo a leadership skills training in the framework of our consultations.



Round table in Un-Kurgan, 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012

In addition to revealing leaders some other objectives were achieved. We had to answer numerous questions of the participants. Some of our answers already found their usage. For example, one of the women did not know where she could obtain a wheelchair for her mother-in-law. She told us that she has to carry the palsied woman in hands for over 20 years. Using our recommendations, she contacted three organisations and they included her application in the waiting list for obtaining a wheelchair. In another case, we were contacted

by parents of a boy with special needs. His father told us that his neighbour participated at the round table and informed him that the organisation is providing consultations for people with problems related to disabilities. Their child graduated the general education school but they did not know where to obtain further education for him. After the consultation the parents contacted related institutions and at the moment the boy is studying at a specialised college.

We hope that other activities will run successful too and will benefit people with disabilities as our organisation as well - thus after these activities we plan to establish a volunteer group, which will help us by implementing our work. We thank the Representative office of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan for their cooperation and support.

Natalya Plotnikova,  
NGO "Opa-Singillar", Chairman

### [Impressions of participation at the Adult Education Autumn Academy in the South Caucasus region and Turkey](#)

From the 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 I participated at the Adult Education Autumn Academy in the South Caucasus region and Turkey which took place in Anakliya, Georgia.

The programme of the event was very busy, with lots of participants - for this reason they were divided into two working groups: the first mostly included participants of the Adult Education Associations of Georgia, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Turkey and Tajikistan and the second consisting of the Heads of the Centres of Adult Education of the above-named countries. It is noteworthy that the representatives of *dvv international* formed the majority - each working group consisted of 6-8 *dvv international* representatives from different countries.

The first day was devoted to the evaluation of joint activities of *dvv international* and the Associations. Applied methodology enabled the assessment of efficiency of this cooperation revealing problems and achievements.

Despite the problems in cooperation, basically all the participants agreed on the point that joint activity is effective for all the countries represented.

On the second day we discussed the necessity of a unified association in the South Caucasus region, types and forms of such associations; we also discussed opportunities to attract other countries and/or regions to this Association, in particular, the possibility of Turkey's accession to the initiative was seriously debated.

The representatives of Turkey stated that the approach on solving problems of adult education is different in their country, in particular the fact that the issue of adult education has been recognised by the Turkish government as a priority since a long time. The country has a serious government programme to solve this problem. Despite this, Turkish participants expressed their interest in cooperating in this area.



*Discussions during the Adult Education Autumn Academy in the South Caucasus region and Turkey*

Some participants were questioned about the need for such a coalition at this development stage - most of the participants offered various arguments in favour of a regional representative office of adult education associations with a reference to Europe. According to the participants, in the future, this alliance should develop into a larger organisation, uniting not only countries of the South Caucasus region. The Association would be useful, first of all, in terms of experience exchange and in addition will attract larger donors to address common challenges.

The arguments in favour of the establishment of an Associations' network in the South Caucasus region were presented by the *dvv international* Regional Director Matthias Klingenberg and an expert from Germany, Ulrike Pusch, after which the participants discussed about eventual cooperation asking questions about the mechanism of such cooperation and funding.

For me, one of the most memorable moments in the Academy programme was the presentation of the Director of the Denmark Adult Education Association, the Board member of the European Association for the Education of Adults, Per Palugana Hansen.

For two days the participants learned about the Danish model of the Association, got to know its establishment history and the success components of this powerful organisation, which unites in its ranks more than 33 members consisting both of formal and informal institutions related to adult education in Denmark. Government grants are a significant factor in their activities. It is also interesting that the budget of the Association consists of funds provided by the entertainment industry (lotto, pools), based on government subsidies.

The focus of the presentation of Dr. Per Møller Hansen was paid to Adult Education lobbying. The work in small groups, each executing special tasks, enabled the participants to compare the state of adult education in their countries with Denmark, finding similarities and differences, and the most importantly - define main problems for their associations based on the theory of the Danish model. Dr. Per Møller Hansen also presented a strategy of adult education lobbying in Germany, told about successful lobbying practices of legislation related to adult education at all levels, focusing on the problems that

have accompanied this processes in Germany.

Interestingly, among the other priorities of the organisation, one of the main focuses in the future is that the Danish Association is teaching adults English. This approach seems to us correct and visionary for the European countries, since it is quite successful in its country.

The discussion on laws regarding adult education in the respected countries was of great interest. Illustrating the complexity of the entire development and of lobbying laws in the South Caucasus region, representatives of *dvv international* were concerned whether it is effective to support the lobbying of the law or if to conclude at this stage.

The framework of the programme formed a tour to the Adult Education Centre (AEC) Jvari Zugdidi. This AEC was established with the support of *dvv international* in 2010. We saw a great example of cooperation between the government, public institutions and international organisations. Supporting of AECs by *dvv international* has become a reliable tradition. In our view, the AET in Zugdidi is a very important and timely approach in solving the problems of refugees and the related unemployment. They presented a good AEC-management, which in fact is one of the main components of a successful project. Director of the AEC was able not only to consolidate the efforts of the local governmental body and donors, but actively involving the beneficiaries in the process. Young unemployed people have completely renovated the building of the Centre, where they later started to provide trainings in such fields as computer and language and administrator and hairdresser courses etc. In addition, young people have established their youth-NGO and from now lobby their interests at different levels.

In general, the participation at the AE Autumn Academy in Georgia was helpful and interesting to me; gained materials of the trainings could make up a practical interest for the Adult Education Association of Tajikistan and the Adult Education Centre.

*Manzura Juraeva,  
Public organisation "Multikid", Director*

### [Opening of the \*dvv international\* Representative office in Kyrgyzstan](#)

In September 2012 the Representative office of the German Adult Education Association was officially registered in Kyrgyzstan.

The activity of the German Adult Education Association began in the country in 2002 together with a network of Adult Education Centres and afterwards, since 2006, with the Kyrgyz Adult Education Association (KAEA) which was consolidating the efforts of 13 Adult Education Centres.

From the beginning of the year 2013 on, the network of partner organisations will expand and will be enhanced by other organisations below the KAEA partnerships. Since November 2012 small-scale projects on the programme "Peace and Tolerance" will be implemented with the youth organisations "Dignity of the Republic" (Bishkek) and "Youth of Osh" (Osh).

The activity of the Representation office will be aimed at the development of organisations who provide Adult and Youth Education, at supporting educational programmes and lobbying AE-principles and ideas at the local and governmental level.

*Nadezhda Romanenko,  
KAEA, Executive Director*

experiences that are certainly about to turn up, the ones in private life, all the enriching conversations with my colleagues and the diversified activities with our partners and the local target groups.

*Felix Knauf,  
Intern of dvv international in Uzbekistan,  
Eberhard-Karls-University student in Tübingen*

### [Internship at the dvv international Representative office in Uzbekistan](#)



My name is Felix Knauf and I am interning at *dvv international* Uzbekistan for 3 ½ months since the beginning of September 2012. I am currently studying cultural anthropology and sociology in the 6th semester at the Eberhard-Karls-University in Tübingen (approx. 40km south of Stuttgart).

The reasons why I chose to work in Tashkent are manifold: In the course of my cultural anthropology studies the students are encouraged to do an internship or one semester abroad in South Asia, The Caucasus region or in Central Asia. I decided upon Uzbekistan, because I was participating in a language course in Samarqand in 2010 and I was impressed by the country and its people. At this time I also got to know about *dvv international* and its work.

My intention is to gain knowledge about intercultural cooperation and development assistance, also to figure out whether of working in this sector or start my career in university after finishing my studies. I am sure that my internship here will provide useful experiences and acquisitions in each instance for both scopes.

In my opinion *dvv international* has a particular task in development aid worldwide, because it is cooperating with local entities that are part of the civil society, with government institutions and other international organisations. Of the utmost importance to me is the goal to reduce unemployment and destitution by implementing adult and youth education to deprived persons with due regard to the regional necessities of the local population and in sustainable cooperation with our Uzbek partners.

Meanwhile, during the first 6 weeks, I made varied experiences and learned a lot about the work of *dvv international* in Uzbekistan: I gained an in-depth look in all our projects, met various partners and was preparing a survey about the results of further educational measures on former temporary workers and their impacts upon their living conditions and also presentations for Uzbek German-Students and a dvv-organized tour group from Germany. Currently I am learning the ropes of the subject areas "Monitoring and Evaluation" to conduct an evaluation with regard to one of our projects.

I am really looking forward to the coming weeks and all the wide



## AE in the World

[“Transforming Our Future: Living and Learning Together”, ASPBAE Strategic Assessment and Planning Workshop](#)  
[21<sup>st</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> September 2012, Phnom Penh, Cambodia](#)

The ASPBAE Strategic Assessment and Planning Workshop with the subject “Transforming Our Future: Living and Learning Together” was convened on the occasion of ASPBAE’s 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly. It was organised as a membership led process of assessment, reflection and planning to inform about the future directions and work of ASPBAE. The workshop was hosted by ASPBAE member, NGO Education Partnership (NEP) Cambodia, at the Phnom Penh Hotel from 21<sup>st</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of September.

More specifically, the workshop was designed to meet the following specific objectives:

- To collectively reflect on the dominant issues in the region that impact on access to quality education and lifelong learning for all: for instance, education privatization and continued low financing priority to education, continued conflict, discrimination and marginalization of vast numbers of communities and peoples, the accelerated push for market-oriented TVET and life skills for youth and adults, and diminished visibility of education in the global policy debates on poverty, development and climate change;
- To deliberate on and recommend CSO joint responses accelerating efforts to meet the CONFINTEA 6 commitments and the EFA goals and targets by 2015; and to shape the post 2015 development agenda that better guarantees the right of all citizens to quality basic education and learning opportunities throughout life;
- To reflect on ASPBAE’s current work and craft, its future directions to best respond to the emergent education and development opportunities and challenges, mindful of an important milestone in ASPBAE’s history, its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2014; and
- To undertake the organisational processes related to the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of ASPBAE.

Over one hundred participants attended the workshop, involving voting representatives for ASPBAE’s 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and representatives of ASPBAE member organisations from as far away as Mongolia and Tonga, Executive Council members, ASPBAE partners and ASPBAE staff. Notable was the presence and active role of NeXT2 trainees of the ASPBAE mentoring programme for future adult education advocates and cadres.



*Group photo of the participants of the ASPBAE Strategic Assessment and Planning Workshop*

The Inaugural Day was marked by a Khmer traditional blessing and peace dance led by a cultural troupe of an NEP member. Ms. Chim Manavy, Board Chair of NEP Cambodia welcomed the participants and ASPBAE President Dr. Jose Roberto Guevara offered a brief background on the significance of the four-day event to ASPBAE. The State Secretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, H.E. Nath Bunreoun gave the Inaugural Speech outlining the challenges Cambodia faces in meeting the EFA goals and targets and the measures taken by government and other stakeholders in addressing these, especially in the areas of youth and adult literacy and education. Ms Carolyn Medel-Anoñuevo, Deputy Director of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL), gave the keynote address “Sharpening our tools as we Transform our Future” where she described the global landscape of education and lifelong learning and highlighted the competences needed to shape the future education agenda. Ms Anne Lemaistre, Country Director of UNESCO Cambodia offered an overview of regional trends in EFA and the UNESCO initiatives in the country - especially in adult literacy and non-formal education. NEP Executive Director In Samithry also described the different CSO initiatives in Cambodia on literacy and non-formal education.

Commemorating the UN International Day of Peace, the day of the Inaugural session, prayer flags with messages on education and peace were strung up around the hall as an inspiration for the participants and also to serve as a reminder to governments and donors to build an educated world for peace and sustainable development. Members of the press, who were invited on this day, snapped photos and rolled videos to capture the colourful images of the flags.

To further engage the media, a press conference was organised during the day where Ms Anne Lemaistre, Ms. Chim Manavy, Dr. Jose Roberto Guevara and ASPBAE Secretary General Maria Khan expounded on the value of education and lifelong learning in building a sustainable and peaceful environment. They underscored that public investments on education, especially for those who are caught in conflict situations, victims of natural disasters or those who are in fragile states have been woefully small. A woman and a youth learner shared their testimonies on how education helped them better their lives and achieve their dreams.



*Prayer flags with messages on education and peace from the representative of dvv international and participants from Nepal*

Discussions were also devoted to CONFINTEA VI where analysis on country reports for the Global Report on Adult Learning and Education (GRALE) 2012 were presented by representatives from the Philippines, Tajikistan, Indonesia and New Zealand. Workshop groups substantiated further discussions on progress regarding adult education and literacy commitments made in CONFINTEA VI and along the following areas: Policy, Governance, Financing, Participation, Quality and Gender Equality.

The outcome of the rich discussions in the Inaugural Day immensely contributed to strategic assessment and planning sessions lined up for the three days that followed thereafter. In subsequent days, the participants discussed the overall context, development trends and the implications and impacts of these on education and lifelong learning. These discussions elaborated on socio-economic, demographic (including trends in migration, ageing societies), political and environmental trends towards defining the education and development agenda civil society advocates should advance post 2015. Trends in resourcing education and lifelong learning were also discussed in a panel chaired by Jesco Weickert, the South East Asia and East Africa Desk Officer of *dvv international*.



*Group photo of the press conference participants*

Alan Tuckett, President of the International Council of Adult Education (ICAE), emphasised in his remarks on the proposed post 2015 CSO agenda, advanced by the participants, that the commitment to education is a commitment to rights, equality and sustainability. He further said that to be able to build a strong CSO agenda, participation of citizens, especially the marginalised, needs to be developed through civil society alliances.

This in effect will catalyse a critical mass that will advocate for lifelong learning as a crucial dimension for achieving social change. Maria Khan, ASPBAE Secretary General, reminded that in understanding the current challenges and defining the work ahead, it is important to recall ASPBAE's core values: a belief in the right of all citizens to education of good quality and opportunities for learning through-out life. She also reminded on ASPBAE's clear bias for marginalised groups and communities and the belief in the powerful and critical role education and life-long learning can play to enable these groups to cope, survive and transform their situations. These remain outstanding concerns for ASPBAE to attend to now and beyond 2015. Clearly, the goals and targets of EFA will not all be met by 2015 – indicating the need to push for sustained support to the EFA agenda beyond the current deadline. However, it is also obvious that the education responses needed to address the most pressing problems facing citizens all over the world today go beyond 'schooling'. The education agenda post 2015 should thus embrace a life-long learning framework and push priority to adult and lifelong learning truly for all.

Rasheda Choudhury, Executive Director of CAMPE, Bangladesh and Mohammad Muntasim Tanvir, Senior Programme Manager, Education and Youth of Action Aid International updated the participants on the global policy processes on EFA and the MDGs which civil society advocates should engage in.

A highlight for many of the participants was the panel discussion on the history of ASPBAE, in the lead up to the 50th anniversary in 2014. On the panel were Dr Rajesh Tandon, PRIA President and ASPBAE President 1991-2000, Dr Chris Duke of RMIT University, Australia and ASPBAE Secretary General (SG) 1974-1985, Ms Añoñuevo, Organising Committee member of ASPBAE's First General Assembly 1991 and ASPBAE's incumbent SG, Ms Khan, whose narrations all added to the colourful tapestry of how ASPBAE evolved over time.



*Presentation of Maria Khan*

Another highlight was the cultural evening and welcome dinner to which many participants wore their national or traditional dresses and enjoyed the night of Khmer dances and light chats with participants. The occasion was made even more memorable as ASPBAE honoured its own leaders, Dr. Guevara and Dr. Timote Vaoleti of Tonga, on their forthcoming induction to the 2012 International Adult and Continuing Education Hall of Fame. Previous Hall of Fame inductees present were also recognised: Alan Tuckett, Rajesh Tandon, Sandy Morrison, Chris Duke and Maria Khan.



*Plenary meeting for 50<sup>th</sup> ASPBAE anniversary*

In conclusion, the participants deliberated at length on proposals for ASPBAE's work in the future, identifying priority issues, strategic partnerships to strengthen and build the ASPBAE constituencies and membership strategies to pursue, and recommendations to strengthen ASPBAE's work on advocacy and leadership and capacity-building. These will provide the elements for ASPBAE's strategic plan for 2013-2016. These were discussed alongside the Report of the ASPBAE Secretary General, situating ASPBAE's future directions within its current achievements and identified gaps in its work.

The Election Officer for the 6<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, Sandy Morrison, led the briefing on the voting procedures and introduced the 2 candidates for the South Asia Male representative position in the ASPBAE Executive Council: Dominic D'Souza of Laya, India and Rama Kant Rai of the National Coalition for Education (NCE) India.

In the afternoon of the last day many participants were able to enjoy sightseeing and shopping while the Staff and Executive Council members met to assess the last few days and to discuss some of the upcoming activities.

For more information, please write to the ASPBAE Secretariat at [aspbae@gmail.com](mailto:aspbae@gmail.com) or to Ms Claudine Claridad Tanvir at [claudine.aspbae@gmail.com](mailto:claudine.aspbae@gmail.com)

*Claudine Claridad,  
ASPBAE Secretariat*

### Announcement:

### The 15<sup>th</sup> Forum of the German Adult Education Institute (DIE) on "Adult Education as a profession: Requirements, Trends, Models"

With the growing importance of Adult Education and Lifelong Learning, expectations related to the "quality" began to spread on this field as well. Quality, as the working experience and the results of researches conducted have demonstrated, is an issue of professionalism of the experts involved. In recent years, their working conditions have changed, as the requirements they have to meet.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Forum of the German AE-Institute further directs his attention therefore on different aspects of occupational activity in further education and asks: What requirements must comply with training providers and teachers today, if they want to work professionally and teach? What ideas for the development of the profession have not yet been implemented? What models for developing professionalism could possibly be outgoing?

The Forum will take place in Bonn on 3<sup>rd</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> December. During the two days participants united in working groups, will consider such issues as:

- Working conditions and personnel policies and vocational education (further training)
- Challenge - a generational change in educational institutions on skills improvement
- A retrospective look forward - the current challenges in the field of quality management
- Selection of trainers: Challenges for staff in educational institutions on skills improvement
- Key competencies of trainers of further training
- Working processes and models of skills balancing in the field of learning
- Formal and informal training of trainers in the field of further training

The perspective will be enhanced by an international workshop on "International key programmes for trainers in the field of Adult Education", which will take place during the Forum. It is planned to end the measure with a plenary session on "Recognition and further development of trainers' competencies".

The measure will be conducted with the financial support of *dvv international* and the Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

For further information please visit the official website of DIE: <http://www.die-bonn.de/institut/die-forum/2012/default.aspx>

### Announcement: Conference on “Enhancing access to education at penitentiaries”

Today more often attention will be paid to the access to education, and providing access to places of detention will be seen as an example of increased access.

A number of organisations, the Representative office of *dvv international* in Belarus, the Penitentiary Department of the Ministry for Internal Affairs of the Gomel region of Belarus, the Gomel regional NGO “Social Projects”, Gomel State University named after F. Skorina, are planning to conduct a Conference on “Increasing the access to education in prison” on the 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup> November in Gomel (Belarus).

The purpose of this event is to discuss the development prospects of vocational and further education for inmates and the personnel of the penitentiary system.

It is planned to invite about 60 experts from various government agencies, ministries and departments as well as international experts and representatives of public organisations.

In addition to the plenary sessions work in sections, where participants will have the opportunity to discuss current issues in the field, will be implemented. Conclusions of the Conference will be made during the final session with the provision of the workshop results.

### Announcement: 6<sup>th</sup> Festival “Non-formal Education for all Generations”

The presentation of results and “best practices” of the project “TOLLAS – towards an active society in each age” will be a part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Festival of non-formal education. The action will take place on the 7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> December 2012 in the International Educational Centre named after Johannes Rau in Minsk, Belarus.

Particular attention at the Festival will be paid to the issues of intergenerational interaction and the access of non-formal education for elderly people. Joining the “Year of Active Aging” and the “Dialog between Generations”, organisers formulated the title of the 6<sup>th</sup> Festival as “Non-formal Education for all Generations”.

For the participation at the Festival experts from various organisations, interested in non-formal education development for the elderly, the representatives of local and regional governments, activists of public coalitions and various initiative groups as well as active participants are being invited.

Further information on the Festival can be obtained at:  
<http://adukatar.net>.