



PRESS-RELEASE

Networking Intermediaries & Competitive Enterprises in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan (NICE-TAK)

19 May 2017, Dushanbe – The project “**Networking Intermediaries & Competitive Enterprises in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan**” (NICE-TAK) started in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan in the ranks of the European Union programme Central Asia Invest IV. This project is the continuation of the projects “**Handicraft and Business through Regional Integration and Fair Trade Market**” and “**Tajik Women Economic Empowerment**” that have been successfully implemented in the previous years.

NICE-TAK overall objective is to promote private sector development in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan, and to facilitate the GDP of the two countries to substantially increase from 2016 to 2019.

NICE-TAK will pursue this aim by means of assisting local Business Intermediary Organizations to develop their capacities of supporting the development of Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in three key areas: advocacy, developing needed services for SMEs and competitiveness on domestic and international markets. NICE-TAK targets any Business Intermediary Organization in the two countries that have a high potential for reaching out to SMEs, but a special attention is focused on competitiveness of the Handicraft sector.

It should be pointed out that NICE-TAK project is implemented by an international consortium including International NGO CESVI (Italy) in Tajikistan, National Association of Small and Medium Business of Tajikistan (NASMB), Bishkek Business Club (BBC), National Association of Business Women of Tajikistan (NABWT), Union of Craftsmen of Tajikistan (UCT); the consortium is led by Sequa GmbH (Germany).

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The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. To this end the EU is active in Tajikistan since 1992 and provides approximately EUR 35 million annually in development assistance.