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The European Union

“The **European Union** is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders”.
The **European Commission** is the EU’s executive body.

The **European Commission** cooperates with five Central Asian countries: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan both, on bilateral and regional level.

The «**Central Asia - Invest**» programme was adopted in 2007 within the Regional Strategy of the European Commission for Central Asia for 2007 – 2013.

The **purpose of the “Central Asia – Invest” programme** is poverty alleviation in Central Asian countries through private sector development.

Special attention is paid to the development of small and medium sized businesses and facilitation of their gradual integration into the global economy.

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European Union Programme
“Central Asia – Invest IV”

CANDY - IV

**Advanced Support Programme to Central Asian
Business Intermediary Organizations -
Specialized and Integrated Services for
Export Oriented Food Processing SMEs**



This project is implemented in a consortium led by
Hilfswerk International

THE PROJECT

Hilfswerk International – in cooperation with its partners AFVE, ASTI, NASMB, TES, AgroLead, MIS, Neksigol Mushovir and WIFI implements the project “Advanced Support Programme to Central Asian Business Intermediary Organizations - Specialized and Integrated Services for Export Oriented Food Processing SMEs”. The project is financed by the **European Union** within the program “Central Asia Invest IV”.

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the growth and development of export – oriented SMEs through improving the capacity of business intermediary organizations (BIO) and reinforcing their role as business advisors and service providers.

Target group:

Food processing SMEs specialised BIOs, suppliers of agricultural products, consumers, professional associations, farm unions, association of processors and sellers in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.

Target area:

Kyrgyzstan: Southern Kyrgyzstan;

Tajikistan: Sughd and Khatlon provinces.



The project contributes to increasing the role and competency of Central Asian BIOs with the aim of further development of and support to food processing SMEs on **product promotion, innovative methods of production and diversification, quality improvement, international food safety standards, organic farming** and principles of **Fair trade**.



Strengthened capacity of the CA BIOs will enable them to provide high-quality, demand-based and specialized business development services throughout the value chain for meeting the required supply volumes, promoting services for entering new markets, providing consultations on investment in processing technology, researching markets, providing legal consultations.

Special attention is paid to formation of scientific – entrepreneurial councils to foster cooperation among research institutions and entrepreneurs to build a coordinated vision of scientific and technological future.

Along with other components/activities, the project will contribute to **internal and external economical integration of Central Asia** countries by increasing cooperation between regional BIOs and food processors.

The project promotes the establishment of close **cooperation** between trade representatives of the **European Union** and **Central Asia** opening more profitable markets for the processors.

PARTNERS

The project is implemented in cooperation with international and regional partners:



ASTI – Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia



NASMB – National Association of Small and Medium Business of the Republic of Tajikistan



TES – Centre, Kyrgyzstan Training & Extension System



AFVE – Association of Fruit and Vegetable Enterprises, Kyrgyzstan



WIFI – Institute for Economic Promotion at the Austrian Federal Economic Chamber



AgroLead – Public Association Kyrgyzstan



MIS – Markazi Idorakunii Sifat Tajikistan



Neksigol Mushovir - Public Organization Tajikistan

Hilfswerk International is one of Austria's leading non-profit organizations for development cooperation and humanitarian aid. All our activities are designed according to the principles of sustainable development and the Universal Human Rights. **Hilfswerk Austria International** works in Central Asia since 2001.

This project is part of the **Hilfswerk International** programme on the integration of **Central Asia** countries into the global economy.

