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“The **European Union** is made up of 27 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 at bilateral and regional levels.

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

The **purpose of “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 businesses and facilitation of their gradual integration into the global economy.

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CANDY



Integrated approach towards promoting Central Asia nuts, dried fruits and honey processing SMEs



The project is funded by the European Union



The project implemented by Hilfswerk Austria International

Contribution to inclusive growth of food processing sector in Central Asia

PROJECT

Hilfswerk Austria International in cooperation with Central Asia partners implements the project «Integrated approach towards promoting Central Asian nuts, dried fruits and honey processing SMEs». The project is financed by **European Union** within the program “Central Asia Invest II”.

The overall objective of the project is inclusive development of processing sector in Central Asia through strengthening the capacity of specialized business intermediary organizations to improve the quality of services, offered by SME and promoting regional integration of Central Asia into the global market.

TARGET GROUP: Sector **SME**, suppliers of agricultural products, consumers, professional associations, farm unions, association of processors and sellers.

TARGET AREA

Tajikistan: Soghd Province;
Kyrgyzstan: Batken and Osh Provinces;
Networking:
Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan



Number of manuals and training materials are developed within the project frame together with partners:

- **Import/export procedures** for fresh and processed food;
- **Short information** brochures on access to regional and EC markets;
- **Market structure** and product management for food processing SMEs;
- Feasibility study of opportunities for growing organic products;
- Information brochure on support centres and forwarding companies in Soghd, having quality mark;
- Training program and materials for managers on Food Safety;
- Manual on **Global GAP** for farmers, growing apricots, plums, grapes and nuts.



The effective safety and quality standards for target food products will be implemented within the frame of project activity.

The standards will be based on Global GAP, HACCP and ISO 22000 to protect the consumers and promote high quality products, opening more profitable markets in near and far foreign countries for the processors of dried fruits, nuts and honey.

The project promotes the establishment of close cooperation between trade representatives of the European Union and Central Asia.

We believe that food processing industry is one of the most important sectors in Central Asia and has high potential for employment in rural areas.

PARTNERS

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

ASTI – Association of Scientific and Technical Intelligentsia



NASME – National Association of Small and Medium Enterprises of The Republic of Tajikistan



TES – Center, Kyrgyzstan



AFVPEK – Association of Fruit and Vegetable Processing Enterprises, Kyrgyzstan



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



BWAU “Tadbirkor ayol” – Business Women's Association of Uzbekistan



NAP – Independent Association of Entrepreneurs of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan



The project is co-financed by Austrian Development Cooperation - **ADA**



Hilfswerk Austria International -

Hilfswerk Austria International is a non-profit, cross-denominational and non-partisan organisation providing both international and humanitarian aid for victims of war and environmental disasters as well as long-term development assistance.

Hilfswerk Austria International has been working in Tajikistan since 2001.

