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

The EU programme „Support to Civil Society initiatives in the Kyrgyz Republic“ aims at strengthening local NGOs and civil society organizations (CSOs) to promote human rights, peacebuilding, youth empowerment, and democratic governance. This program provides grants for specific projects, often focusing on areas like preventing violence in the Fergana Valley, supporting marginalized youth (girls, disabled youth), digital skills, and entrepreneurship.

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## AUSTRIAN DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, ADA

The ADA is co-funding the project EMPATY as part of International Partnerships Austria. The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) is Austria's federal agency for development cooperation and humanitarian aid. It collaborates with international organisations, public authorities, civil society, educational institutions and businesses across Africa, Asia, SouthEast and Eastern Europe.

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## EMPOWERED CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS AND MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS FOR ACTIVE AND PROSPEROUS CIVIL SOCIETY AND YOUNG GENERATION IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

01/01/2026 - 30/06/2028



[hilfswerk.tj/empaty](http://hilfswerk.tj/empaty)



## OVERALL OBJECTIVE

To contribute to strengthening Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as competent and reliable actors to operate sustainably and promote an inclusive dialogue and active citizens' participation in social and economic life in the Kyrgyz Republic (KR), with a focus on young women and men in rural areas.

By strengthening CSOs, fostering inclusive dialogue, and promoting active civic participation, the project aims to address poverty and unemployment. The action is designed to build capacity, enhance collaboration, and promote sustainable development, with a strong emphasis on the empowerment of young women and men. By building capacity of CSOs the project enhances their ability to foster impactful initiatives and create an enabling environment for active participation. By supporting them to implement community events the project contributes to increased youth civic engagement and encourage them to take action in their communities. By establishing new and supporting existing multi-stakeholder approaches and platforms, the project promotes inclusive policy and decision-making. This and the tailor-made capacity building module for young women and men fosters employability, active civic participation, gender equality, and environmental protection. An inclusive dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment will be furthermore achieved through a special capacity building on gender equality.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE(S)

Civil society in 14 districts in 4 regions (Issyk-Kul, Naryn, Osh & Jalal-Abad) and Bishkek is empowered to promote dialogue, build, and sustain networks, and provide demanded services to sustainably improve social and economic development of young women and men thus addressing poverty and unemployment (focussing on rural young women and men).

## EXPECTED OUTPUTS

- 1: Selected CSOs has strengthened their capacity in providing demanded services and fostering enabling environment for active participation in social and economic life of young women and men.
- 2: Strengthened and collaborating CSOs implement social and business-oriented community activities aiming at inciting youth civic engagement and fostering entrepreneurial opportunities for young women and men.
- 3: Effective and innovative multi-stakeholder approaches and platforms among state stakeholders, CSOs, private sector and education institutions promote inclusive policy and decision-making and foster employability, active civic participation, gender equality and environmental protection.
- 4: A tailor-made capacity building module has enhanced employability, civic participation, and social responsibility of active young women and men, focusing on those in rural areas.
- 5: Selected CSOs strengthened their capacity to promote inclusive dialogue on gender equality and women's empowerment by involving women in social businesses and supporting them in applying innovative/digital tools to develop and present their sustainable ideas.



## TARGET GROUP

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and/or grass root organizations, primarily working in rural and/or remote areas; young women and men, who face one or more of the following obstacles: economic, gender, social; volunteers (most active young women and men); representatives of national, regional and districts authorities; 5 universities; target communities' members and local population of target districts

## TARGET REGIONS

The project is implemented in 14 districts of Issyk Kul, Naryn, Jalal-Abad and Osh regions, as well as in Bishkek city.

## PARTNERS

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