

SIDP Projects

In Spring & Summer 2021, the SIDP supported 8 student projects (5 local and 3 international):

- "Not an object, but a human being" by Alzada Almazbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- "Ready for Reality" by Elnura Rysbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- "The Young Entrepreneurs Program" by Masooma Hasanazada, Afghanistan
- "WE (Women Entrepreneur)" by Maryam Mohammadi, Afghanistan
- "Girls in STEM" by Nargis Raffie, Afghanistan
- "Advanced Training in Digital Literacy for Regional School Teachers" by Adina Sulumbekova, Kyrgyzstan
- "Digital Literacy" by Sezim Kanatova, Kyrgyzstan
- "Informative message to eliminate doubts about the seismic hazards of the Yssyk-Ata fault" by Aliskar Mamбетov, Kyrgyzstan



STUDENT INITIATIVE
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Not an object, but a human being

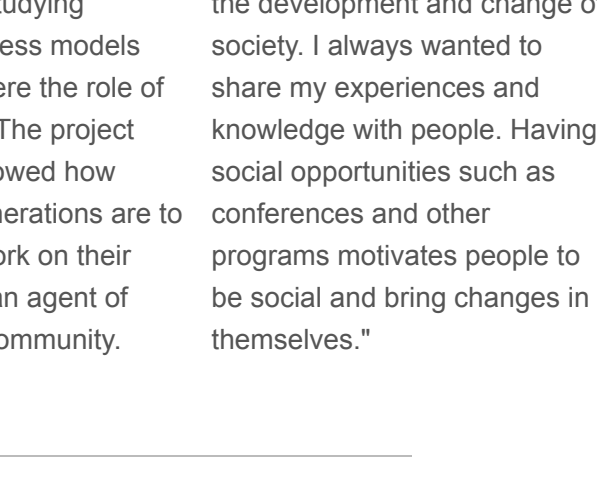
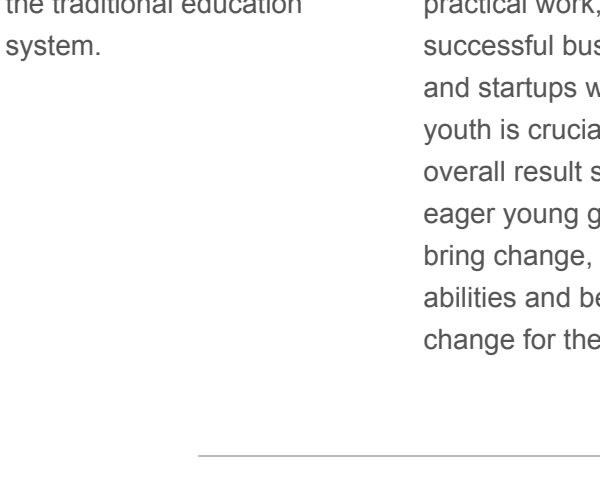


Project Goals: To create a professional team of volunteer-trainers coming from Osh, Jalal-Abad and Batken regions with expertise in the forms of violence, its manifestations, prevention and protection measures. This team is further supposed to share the acquired knowledge with young girls across the regions.

Project Results: In June 19-20, 16 volunteers participated in the camp, after which they organized mini-sessions in their villages for 100 students (aged 12-17). Furthermore, in September, they will be distributed to certain schools where they will have to conduct informational sessions for their peers and schoolmates.

Project Leader: Alzada Almazbekova, ANTH-119
"I always work for the society and its improvement. Therefore, having successfully completed my first project by SIDP, I want to continue it and share knowledge and information with people."

Ready for Reality

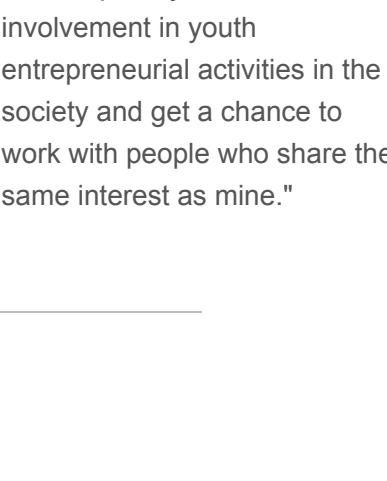
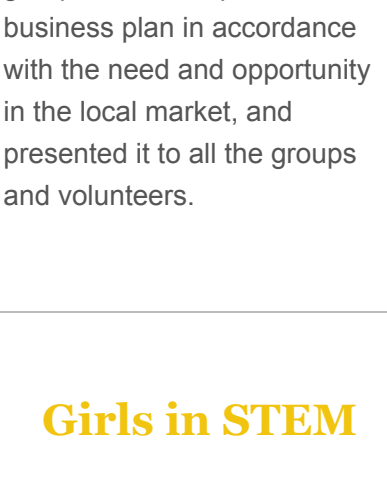


Project Goals: To enhance school students' knowledge about soft skills (e.g., leadership, problem solving and goal setting) to be ready for reality, to set goals, face obstacles to solve them by being innovative and creative.

Project Results: In June 2-4, 20 school students learnt about leadership skills, time management and financial literacy. In addition, they improved their English skills, communication skills, overcame the fear of public speaking and enlarged their networks.

Project Leader: Elnura Rysbekova, BA-119
"Through this opportunity, I would like to contribute my knowledge and experience to make my community better."

The Young Entrepreneurs Program



Project Goals: To promote entrepreneurship or business networking culture among the young generation to be agents of change for the community and especially bring change in the traditional education system.

Project Results: In July 3-9, 34 high school students participated in the capacity building program that promoted entrepreneurship through a series of leadership training, practical work, studying successful business models and startups where the role of youth is crucial. The project overall result showed how eager young generations are to bring change, work on their abilities and be an agent of change for the community.

Project Leader: Masooma Hasanazada, BA-118
"I want to learn more about and work more on the issue of Afghan women involvement in economic activities of the country. [...] I want to work on a research to reveal the factors preventing women from being active in the economy of the country as equally as men. I want to put my efforts on involvement in youth entrepreneurial activities in the society and get a chance to work with people who share the same interest as mine."

WE (Women Entrepreneur)

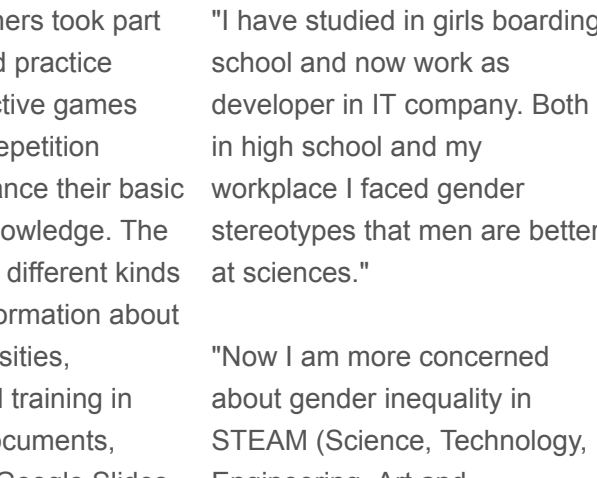
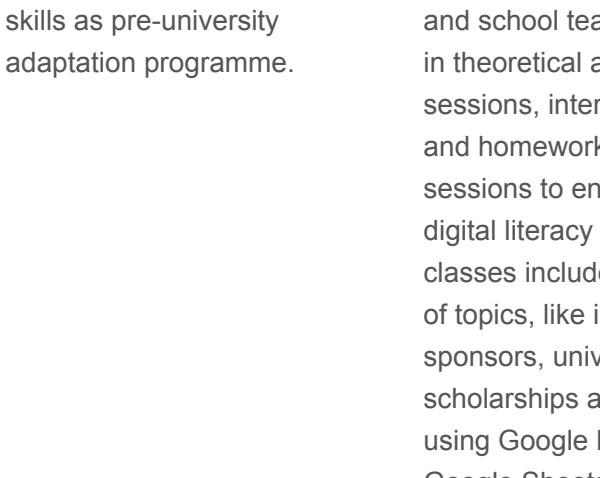


Project Goals: To help the young generation of girls to formulate a more clear version of their dream business and feel strong enough to envision themselves as an independent person with as equal rights as men in the society.

Project Results: In July 11-16, 22 students learnt about entrepreneurship, opportunity finding, customer need, business plan writing, team work and presentation or pitching of their business idea. The participants worked in the groups where they had the opportunity to develop business ideas and business management. At the end, each group had developed a business plan in accordance with the need and opportunity in the local market, and presented it to all the groups and volunteers.

Project Leader: Maryam Mohammadi, BA-118
"I want to learn more about and work more on the issue of Afghan women involvement in economic activities of the country. [...] I want to work on a research to reveal the factors preventing women from being active in the economy of the country as equally as men. I want to put my efforts on involvement in youth entrepreneurial activities in the society and get a chance to work with people who share the same interest as mine."

Girls in STEM

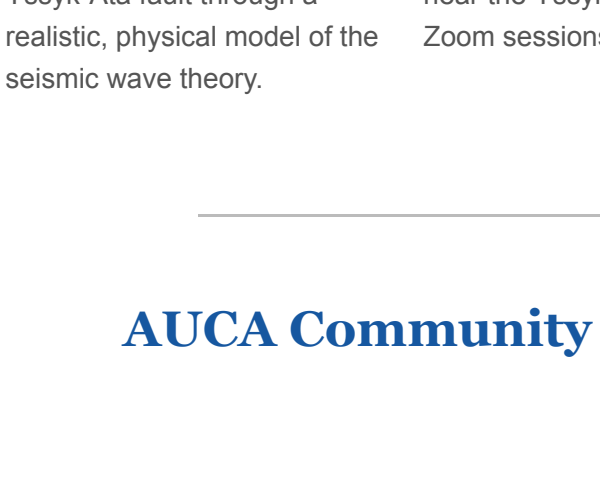


Project Goals: To foster interest and remove barriers for Afghan college girls to access & thrive in STEM fields.

Project Results: In July 10-13, 12 female undergrads students learned Git and Github, made games on Scratch MIT, worked in groups on coding projects and presented their projects. They were taught by five guest speakers who attended the programs in Albania, China, USA, and India virtually.

Project Leader: Nargis Raffie, SFW-119
"I want to build a positive and mutual bond with them [Afghan female fellows] to learn more about their struggles and problems and use the American University of Central Asia's opportunities to support and educate them."

Advanced Training in Digital Literacy for Regional School Teachers

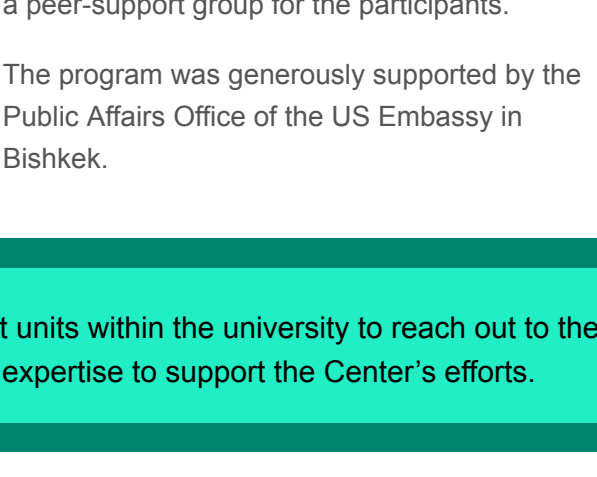
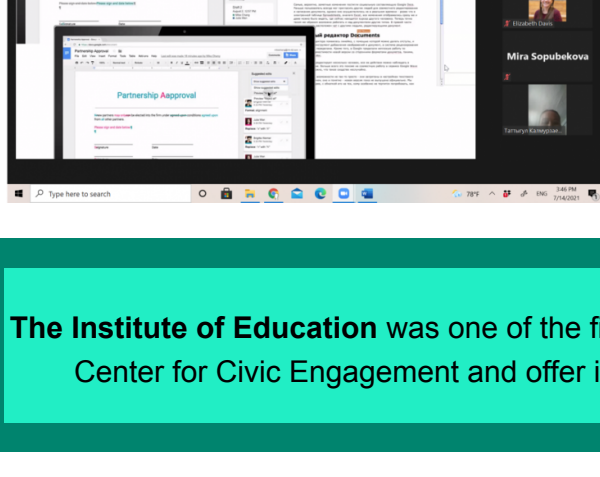


Project Goals: To conduct quality training on digital literacy for teachers of remote villages so that school students can get quality education during online form of teaching.

Project Results: In June 28-30, 20 teachers from Arkyt village of Jalal-Abad region received 3-day training on video-teaching, team works, brainstorming, mini-lectures, discussions, visual explanations, and practice.

Project Leader: Adina Sulumbekova, LAS-118
"As a practicing teacher I want to manage the ability to be never afraid to take responsibility for any kind of situations."

Digital Literacy



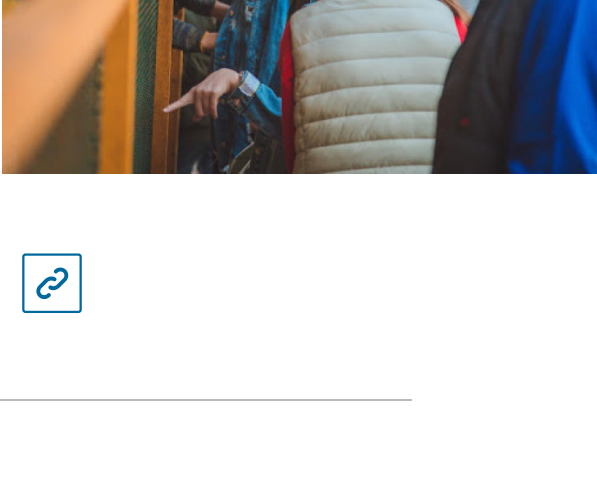
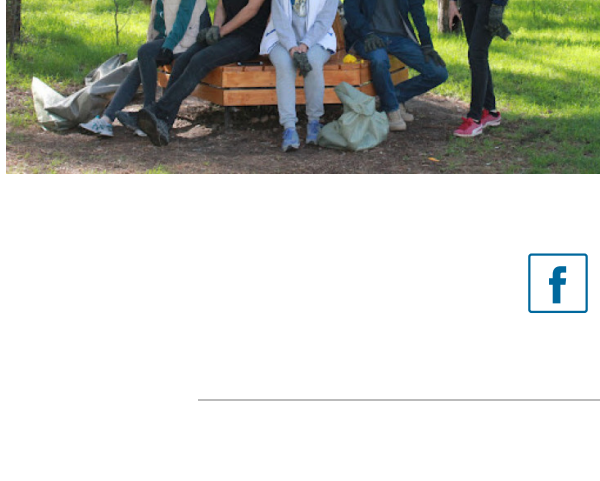
Project Goals: To teach 14-18 years-old schoolgirls in remote Kochkor region digital literacy skills as pre-university adaptation programme.

Project Results: In June 21-26, 30 high school and university students, parents and school teachers took part in theoretical and practice sessions, interactive games and homework repetition sessions to enhance their basic digital literacy knowledge. The classes included different kinds of topics, like information about sponsors, universities, scholarships and training in using Google Documents, Google Sheets, Google Slides, Google Classroom and Canva platform.

Project Leader: Sezim Kanatova, BA-118
"I have studied in girls boarding school and now work as developer in IT company. Both in high school and my workplace I faced gender stereotypes that men are better at sciences."

"Now I am more concerned about gender inequality in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) areas in education and workplace."

Informative message to eliminate doubts about the seismic hazards of the Yssyk-Ata fault



Project Goals: The project's goal was informative to decrease the doubts about the seismic intensity zoning of the Yssyk-Ata fault for 250 residents of the region near the Yssyk-Ata fault through a realistic, physical model of the seismic wave theory.

Project Results: During the month of July 2021, small maquettes for P and S waves and for resonance effect of buildings were constructed and presented to 250 people living near the Yssyk-Ata fault via Zoom sessions.

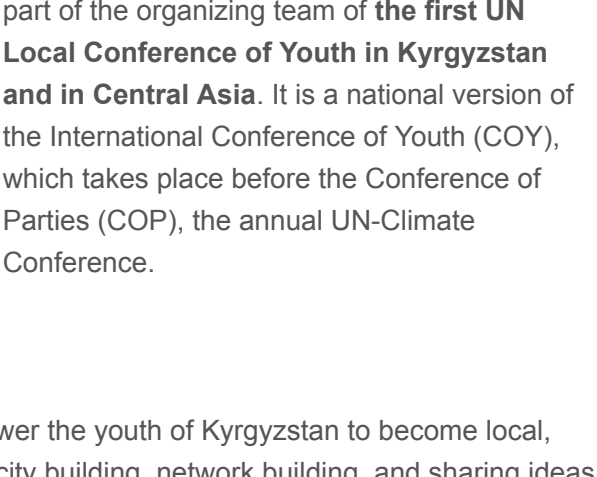
Project Leader: Aliskar Mamбетov, GEO-119
"There is an incorrect idea among the local population about the seismic hazard of this project. Hence, the idea of this project is to fix this misunderstanding."

AUCA Community & Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement is deeply rooted within the values of AUCA as it strives to prepare future leaders of the Central Asian region.

Our students, faculty, staff, and alumni are among active participants in their communities. Serving the community, knowledge sharing, giving back to society are instilled through the spirit of our academic institution.

Faculty Civic Engagement: The Digital Pedagogy Program

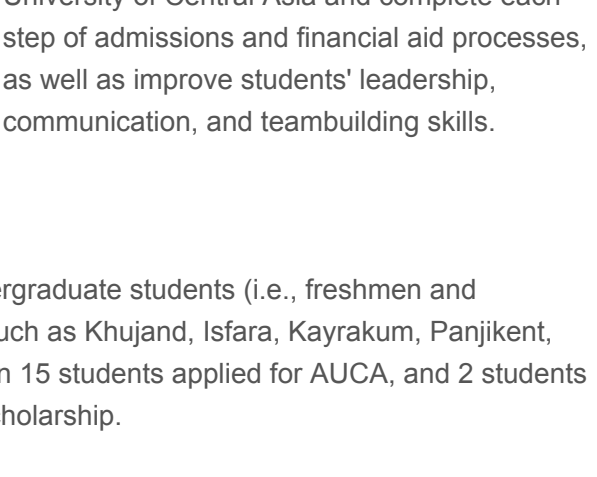
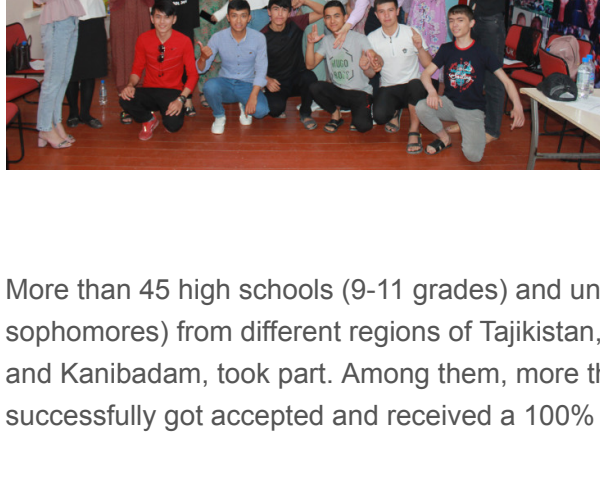


The Digital Pedagogy program for public school teachers is part of the outreach efforts of the Institute of Education (IOE) at AUCA to the Kyrgyz Education System. It was conceived by IOE at the height of the COVID pandemic last summer (2020) as a year-long outreach (September 2020 - June 2021), whereby small groups of public school teachers from around the country would undergo monthly workshops led by Professor Elizabeth Davila Alibeva and supported by MAT students who acted as part of a peer-support group for the participants.

The program was generously supported by the Public Affairs Office of the US Embassy in Bishkek.

The Institute of Education was one of the first units within the university to reach out to the Center for Civic Engagement and offer its expertise to support the Center's efforts.

Faculty Civic Engagement: The EcoPark Project

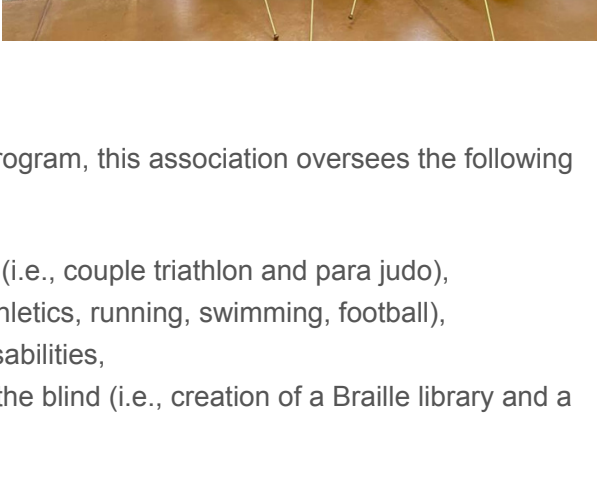
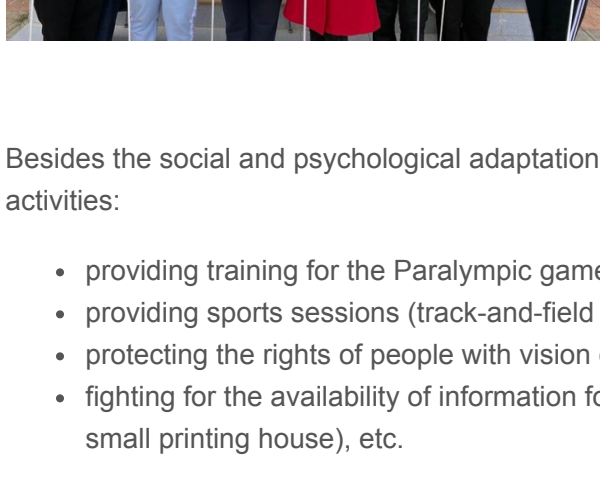


The "EcoPark" is a joint project between the American University of Central Asia (AUCA) and the French-Kyrgyz Ecosystem Association (Association Franco-Kirghize d'Ecotourisme - AFKE) in cooperation with the Town Hall of Bishkek. It aimed at the rehabilitation of 41,1 hectares of the Elm Grove of Bishkek. This Elm Grove is unique and is one of the biggest and oldest urban forests in Central Asia.

Due to illegal cutting, settlements, grazing, and car circulation in the grove since Kyrgyz independence in 1991, the area of the grove has significantly decreased from the original 216 hectares to the current 123 hectares. In order to prevent the total destruction of the grove and create conditions for its regeneration, the "EcoPark" project was initiated.

In 2015, this initiative received a certification COP21 from the French Ministry of the Environment for its interest in the fight against climate change.

To date, about 10,000 trees over 10 cm in diameter have been protected, as well as numerous activities for the students of the ESCS program have been organized.

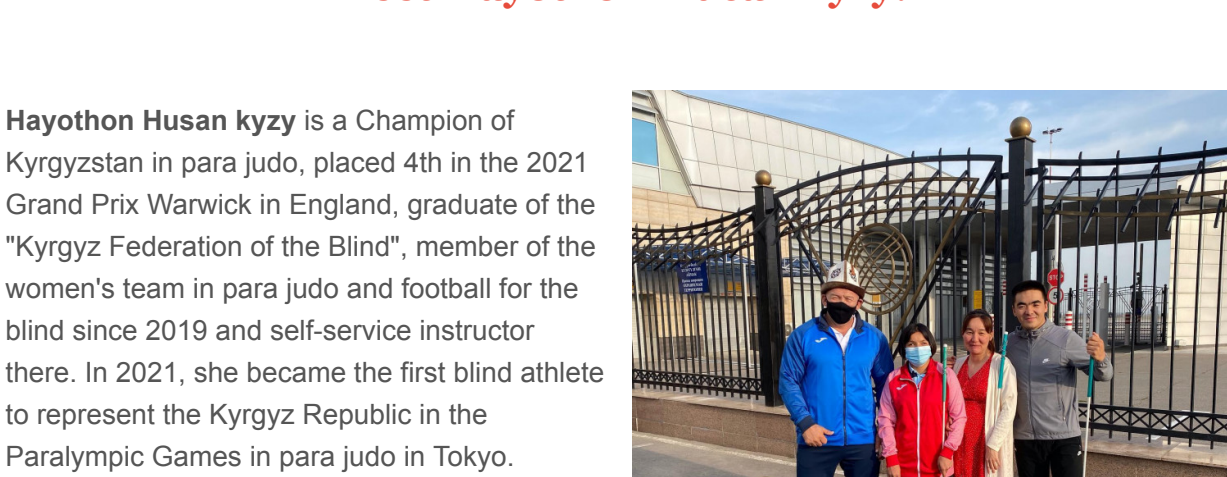


Staff Civic Engagement: On the edge of Bishkek



In the months of April and June, 2021, Mingoim Nishonova (NGA Administrative Assistant, AUCA) together with NGA students organized an ecological project in the Bishkek city dump. The goal of this project was to highlight ecological issues in the Bishkek city dump through short stories and photography art directed to all Bishkek citizens.

"On the edge of Bishkek" project was supported by the AUCA Presidential Research and Education Fund (PREF) 2020-2021 funding.



"On the edge of Bishkek" Project
Project Title: "On the edge of Bishkek" Project Leader: Mingoim Nishonova, NGA Administrative Assistant at AUCA Project Overview: In the months of April and ...
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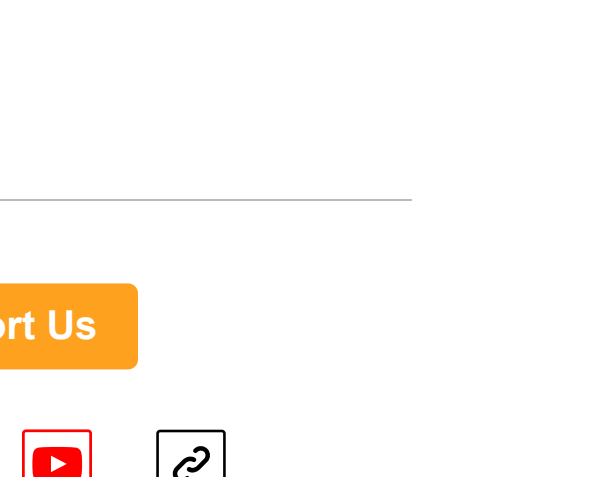
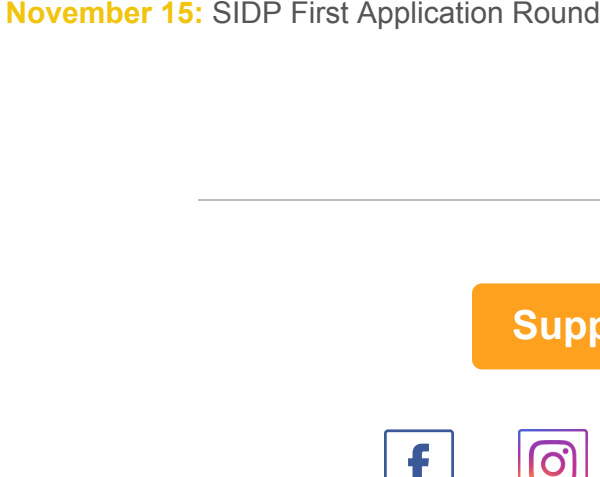
Student Civic Engagement: Uniting the youth of Kyrgyzstan for climate action



In May 2021, Samar Kanatov (ECO-120), Svatoslav Lykhin (ES-119), and Mira Zhakhtylykova (LAS-EMSD/CIP-117) became a part of the organizing team of the **first UN Local Conference of Youth in Kyrgyzstan and in Central Asia**. It is a national version of the International Conference of Youth (ICY), which takes place before the Conference of Parties (COP), the annual UN-Climate Conference.

The mission of LCY Kyrgyzstan 2021 is to empower the youth of Kyrgyzstan to become local, regional, and global climate activists through capacity building, network building, and sharing ideas and knowledge for better climate solutions and action.

About 500+ representatives from youth in Kyrgyzstan were expected to learn about climate change, global regulation processes, climate science and the opportunities that climate action brings for supporting regional cooperation, social and economic prosperity, and sustainable development.



Student Civic Engagement: LEAP (Leadership and Educative Avail Project)

In November 11-13th, 2020, and June 10-11th, 2021, Nilufar Homidova (CIP-119) organized a **"LEAP"** project that aimed at assisting the youth of Tajikistan to enter the American University of Central Asia and complete each step of admissions and financial aid processes, as well as improve students' leadership, communication, and teambuilding skills.

More than 45 high schools (9-11 grades) and under-graduate students (i.e., freshmen and sophomores) from different regions of Tajikistan, such as Khujand, Isfara, Koyrumkum, Panjikent, and Kanibodan, took part. Among them, more than 15 students applied for AUCA, and 2 students successfully got accepted and received a 100% scholarship.

The Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind

The "Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind" is a group of active young blind people, who help other blind people to live a normal life.

For seven years now, the organization has been working on a project for the social adaptation of blind people to independent life. Currently, there are about 70 blind participants who successfully graduated from their trainings in Kyrgyzstan.

"Since 2017, we have been cooperating with AUCA. We are very grateful to the leadership and the large staff of the university for the opportunity to conduct our program within the facilities of the campus. This is a huge support for the blind people of our country in their rehabilitation, adaptation and integration into society."

Gulnaz Juzbaeva, founder of the "Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind"

Besides the social and psychological adaptation program, this association oversees the following activities:

- providing training for the Paralympic games (i.e., couple triathlon and para judo),
- providing sports sessions (track-and-field athletics, running, swimming, football),
- protecting the rights of people with vision disabilities,
- fighting for the availability of information for the blind (i.e., creation of a Braille library and a small printing house), etc.

AUCA Center for Civic Engagement aims to support the "Kyrgyz Federation for the Blind" and collaborate on the joint projects between organizations.

Meet Gulnaz Juzbaeva!

Gulnaz Juzbaeva is an activist for people with disabilities and the founder of the "Kyrgyz Federation for the Blind".

Despite the challenged experienced due to visual impairments from an early age, Gulnaz became an inspirational leader. She organized multiple programs for social adaptation of blind, graduated from MBA program at AUCA, as well as several other institutions, and was featured on the BBC's list of the 100 Most Influential and Inspirational Women in the World in 2020.

She has a lot of plans for improving lives of blind people in the Kyrgyz Republic, like establishing a resource center for blind students that would provide them with educational materials in an accessible format, opening a department for teaching visual impairment specialists in order to introduce inclusive education in schools and universities and conducting a rehabilitation and sports complex for the development of Paralympic sports.

Gulnaz Juzbaeva's life goal is to "always do good deeds for those who need it, and change our world for the better."

Meet Haythoon Husan kyzy!

Haythoon Husan kyzy is a Champion of Kyrgyzstan in para judo, placed 4th in the 2021 Grand Prix Warwick in England, graduate of the "Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind" member of the women's team in para judo and football for the blind since 2019 and self-service instructor there. In 2021, she became the first blind athlete to represent the Kyrgyz Republic in the Paralympic Games in para judo in Tokyo.

Being born blind into a large family of 6 children, Haythoon never imagined that it would be possible to reach such results. However, joining "Kyrgyz Federation of the Blind" was a life-changing experience for her.

Now, Haythoon Husan kyzy wants to become a role model for "other blind children, who stay at home and cannot live on their own, to help them live free from their families".

She also dreams of going to the next Paralympic Games in Paris and winning the gold medal in para judo in her category.

Certificate in Civic Engagement: OSUN Program

Freshmen, sophomore and junior students, who have some experience in the field of civic engagement, are eligible to apply for the Certificate in Civic Engagement offered by the Open Society University Network (OSUN) & Bard College!

Deadline: 30 September, 2021

Certificate in Civic Engagement | Open Society University Network
Certificate in Civic Engagement at OSUN
osuncenter.org

Important Deadlines for Fall 2021

September 17: "Fatima" Club Grand Reopening

October 26: "Empowering Parents of Children with Special Needs" Project's First Workshop

Mid-October/Mid-November: "Garden of Fatima" Establishment & Tree Planting in Elm Grove

November 15: SIDP First Application Round

Support Us

