



PRESS RELEASE

Bishkek, 17 June 2014

The European Union supports prevention of torture via projects with the Tian Shan Policy Center and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights

The Tian Shan Policy Center (TSPC) of the American University of Central Asia marks the end of the EU-funded “Program to enhance the capacity of NGOs and institutions to advocate for implementation of human rights decisions and standards to prevent torture”.

During its implementation phase, the TSPC carried out field and desk research to document international legal and institutional best practices to prevent torture and abuse in detention, share with and train advocates and public officials on the model reforms and facilitate a dialogue on the best ways to replicate or adapt elements from those models in the Kyrgyz Republic, and publish and disseminate those models to support more effective advocacy and on going legislative reforms. Experts from Jamaica, Canada, and Northern Ireland and the TSPC presented the final report and their experiences during a conference in April 2014 in Bishkek to an audience composed by Kyrgyz authorities, the recently established National Preventive Mechanisms (NPM), Ombudsperson, civil society, international organizations, and media.

In order to achieve these goals, the European Union provided a total budget of **EUR 157,827.00**.

To follow up and capitalize on the these activities and achievements, the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights in partnership with the TSPC have started the implementation of another EU-funded project on “Strengthening the fight against torture and impunity in Kyrgyzstan: Prevention, Accountability, Remedy and Reparation”.

The European Union extended its support by providing a total budget for the implementation of this second project of **EUR 356.977,83**.

The 20 months long project aims at advancing legal and institutional reforms based on internationally recognized best practices, supporting the Anti-Torture Coalition composed of NGOs... in setting up a durable and sustainable civil society anti-torture network, and increasing awareness of international standards of remedy and reparation with both State and non-State actors. It shall also provide technical support and expertise to the recently established NPM. A first capacity-building workshop for the staff of the NPM will take place on June 19 – 20, 2014 near Bishkek. The aim of the workshop is to consolidate the NPM’s expertise in the areas of monitoring, international standards on the protection of people deprived of their liberty, including vulnerable groups, and legal analysis.

All media are invited to the press conference for end of the first program and the launching of the activities of the second program on Tuesday 17 June at 12:00 at the AKI press premises.

For more information, please contact Andrea Schuechner, andrea.schuechner@univie.ac.at or Daniele Rumolo, Rumolo_d@mail.auca.kg. Please visit the website of the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute of Human Rights at: <http://bim.lbg.ac.at/en> and the website of TSPC at: <https://www.auca.kg/en/tspc/>.



A project implemented
By the Tian Shan Policy
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The European Commission is the EU’s executive body.

“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”.