



КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДА ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРДЫК ТУТУМДУН РЕФОРМАСЫН КОЛДОО ПОДДЕРЖКА РЕФОРМЫ ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ SUPPORT TO PRISON REFORM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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PRESS RELEASE

KYRGYZ PRISON STAFF TRAINED ON MANAGEMENT OF INCOME GENERATING ACTIVITIES

Bishkek. June 13. Staff from two Kyrgyz prison colonies gained practical knowledge and skills on the management of income generating activities in prisons during a seminar held in Bishkek from 5 to 7 June 2012. The aim of the seminar was to support efforts under way to establish facilities for the production of bread and textile in selected prisons within the framework of the European Union/United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic'.

"This is the first practical training for our staff on handling productive work in prisons", noted Viktor Jakovlev, Head of the Department for Income Generating Activities of the State Service for the Execution of Punishments (GSIN). The seminar was organized with the support of the University for Central Asia, a leading provider of short-cycle education, offering people vocational training in a flexible learning format aimed at improving employment opportunities.

Experts from the University of Central Asia presented a range of theoretical aspects related to the production of bread and textiles. These included safety on the work floor, supply and distribution networks, managing the production process, and quality assurance. The participants also engaged in practical work focusing on the use of equipment, production, packing and testing.

The seminar is part of a series of activities designed to generate additional income for the prison service and to increase the social integration prospects of prisoners in pilot colonies. "The practical skills acquired during this seminar will contribute to increasing the prison service's potential to manage income generating activities based on market needs", said Shayik Sulaimanov, Engineer of the GSIN's Department for Income Generating Activities

In 2010, the EU/UNODC project facilitated the establishment of an Expert Group on Prison Income Generating Activities to coordinate the development of policies and strategies in this area. In 2011 and 2012, the Expert Group approved four business plans on the production of bread, textile, soya milk and macaroni in three different prisons with a total budget of 11 million Som.

Construction materials, furniture and equipment have been procured for the creation of three out of the planned four production facilities. These will be functional by the end of June 2012 when an official launch of the income generating activities is planned in female prison No. 2 and prison No.3, both located in the Chui region.

The project "Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic" aims to assist the Kyrgyz Government to reform its penitentiary system at legislative, policy and management levels, so as to improve the treatment of prisoners and contribute to their social reintegration. The project is funded by the European Union and implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Kyrgyzstan.

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