

Participants and partners

PARTICIPANTS

- * Volunteer organizations working with the population
- * Health care professionals
- * Teachers and students
- * Media
- * Local authorities and politicians

PARTNERS

- * The Republican Center for Health Promotion is the main project partner in Kyrgyzstan. The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education and Science are collaborating partners in Kyrgyzstan.
- * The National Association of Family Medicine Workers is the main project partner in Tajikistan

FINNISH PARTNERS

- * Finnish Lung Health Association (Filha) provides project management and is responsible for technical assistance, guidance and training.

Contact persons:

Project manager Patrick Sandström,
patrick.sandstrom@filha.fi (en),
Project coordinator Anara Kalieva,
a.d.kalieva@gmail.com (ru)



Community-based Action to Promote Lung Health in Central Asia



Finnish Lung Health Association
www.filha.fi/en



Project

- ✦ The *Community-based Action to Promote Lung Health in Central Asia* project is based on a model combining a public health and prevention methods with the health sector's disease centric approach to tobacco control.
- ✦ The third phase of the Kyrgyz part of the project (2017–2020) will complete the project activities in Kyrgyzstan by including the three provinces in the south and by ensuring sustainability nationwide.
- ✦ The community-based model developed in Kyrgyzstan could easily be duplicated and adapted to local conditions in neighbouring Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- ✦ The project reaches the community by training key target groups to ensure that the same knowledge and message about tobacco is communicated through different channels.
- ✦ The key target groups are: Health care professionals, teachers and students, volunteer organisations working with the population, local authorities, politicians, and media.
- ✦ The project is financed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Expected results

- ✦ A better understanding of and change in attitude towards tobacco products (cigarettes, nasvai) in population.
- ✦ Improvement of skills and knowledge and a better approach towards tobacco among trained family doctors, volunteer organizations working with the population, school teachers and journalists.
- ✦ Decrease in tobacco use (cigarettes and nasvai) in population.



Background

- ✦ The combined population of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan is about 43 500 000 people.
- ✦ Difficult economic conditions associated with poor health are widely spread especially in rural areas in all three countries.
- ✦ Tobacco use including traditional cigarettes and oral tobacco (nasvai) is common in Central Asia while awareness about negative health effects is low.
- ✦ Morbidity and mortality rates of non-communicable diseases (NCD) are increasing while the prevalence of communicable diseases remains high.
- ✦ Smoking is the most important preventable cause of disease and premature death globally and affects nearly every organ of the body.
- ✦ In Kyrgyzstan more than 60 percent of men and approximately 20 percent of women use tobacco products.
- ✦ According to a study conducted in Kyrgyzstan about 90 percent of smokers would like to stop using tobacco products, nevertheless 93 percent have made no attempt to quit.

Tobacco policy

- ✦ Tobacco control activities are one of the priorities of the health sector in Central Asian countries.
- ✦ All Central Asian countries have signed the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and are in the process of strengthening legislation regulating tobacco.
- ✦ Related acts and decrees have been drafted in order to regulate e.g. smoking in public places as well as prohibiting cigarette sales to minors.
- ✦ Filha's community-based project assists the countries in implementing FCTC on practical level.