

## Template for providing information on:

### Good practices and success stories on mainstreaming gender equality in education and/or ESD

1.	Name of country:	Kyrgyzstan
2.	Name of organization/ project/programme	Public Association Regional Centre of Expertise for Education for Sustainable Development of Kyrgyzstan (RCE KG)
3.	Good practice (title)	<b>«GENDER SENSITIVITY TO DEMOCRATIC VALUES OF RURAL POPULATION OF ISSYK-KUL REGION THROUGH ESD PRINCIPLES »</b>
4.	Target group	<b>Rural population of Issyk-Kul region of Kyrgyzstan</b>  <b>GENERAL FOCUS OF THE INITIATIVE:</b> Election Policy, governance, Learning for sustainability in non-formal and informal settings Education of educators. <b>THEMES:</b> Overcoming poverty, quality, Peace, human rights and security, Environment, natural resource management, Economy, Democracy, Governance, Responsibility in local and global contexts, Rural development, Sustainable urbanization <b>Partners/stakeholders involved:</b> Government (State/provincial/district), Local authorities, Schools, Non-governmental organizations, Community organizations, Private sector
5.	Brief description of good practice	<p>Kyrgyz Republic is the only Central Asian State population of which voted for parliamentary form of government during referendum that took place on June 27, 2010.</p> <p>Gender inequality became one of the characteristics of Kyrgyz Republic in post-soviet period causing degradation of social infrastructure, including, for instance, worsening of quality of education, shutdown of kindergartens and child protection services, decrease in quality of medical services, etc. Gender equality is improving role of gender equality and women empowering.</p> <p>Situation analysis revealed that although gender</p>

sensitivity issues are the matter of attention, country population of lack knowledge on gender issues, sustainable development in sphere of human rights and women participation in election process. As a result, only 13% of women represented in Jogorku Kenesh of KR (Parliament). Men and women under 60 years' old, young people and school students participated in the survey, 200 people altogether. Social survey analysis indicated general preferences of population of Issyk-Kul oblast's two districts:

Men and women to be equally represented in local governance bodies of Issyk-Kul oblast'.

Gender assignment of roles in local governance bodies to promote sustainable development as follows:

- Governance system - men;
- Education system-women;
- Business system and life quality – equally men and women.

Men and women that are to participate in election process as candidates should fall under the criteria:

- Be of age of 26 and older;
- Possess degree or secondary education or specialized secondary education;
- Possess management experience;
- Be honest and responsible for the words and actions taken.

Based on conducted survey, RCE KG in partnership with State Agency on Environment Protection initiated "Gender sensitivity towards democratic values of rural population of Issyk-Kul oblast" in 2012 that was supported by US Embassy in Kyrgyzstan.

Project activities were aimed at improving capacity of local communities in sphere of democratic values, gender sensitivity for equal participation of men and women in the decision-making process and ensuring sustainable development through improving quality of life of rural population.

Main project goal – forming critical mass of gender-sensitive men and women to introduce core topics of Education of Sustainable Development in small and medium-sized business, governance and education of local community.

Issues of rural population awareness in sphere of democracy and sustainable development were studied during project implementation: human rights, electivity of governance bodies, tolerance, freedom, etc. Women and

men were selecting to be trained on democratic values based on core topics of sustainable development together with the participants of our focus group discussions. Young leaders preparing for elections to local governance-bodies (kenesh), local administration staff and rayon level management, local forest establishments, teachers, local community activists, NGOs became project participants, 126 altogether, 53 men and 73 women.

We developed and delivered a training course on introducing democratic values in three main spheres: small-scale and medium-sized business, governance and education spheres to form gender sensitive critical mass of women and men through Education for Sustainable Development in Kyrgyz Republic.

RCE KG developed partner relationship and signed memos on collaboration with local governance bodies, heads of ayil okmotu, local communities and private entrepreneurs, forest establishments in two districts of Issyk-Kul oblast'.

Project participants acquired new knowledge on work of mechanisms ensuring participation of population in decision-making process to promote principles of sustainable development at local level. Issues of implementation of freedom and tolerance principles through ESD were discussing.

Issues of gender equality implementation to build sustainable community were looking at through world experience examples. Gender roles in life of local communities were discussing.

Special attention in frames of trainings was giving to value approach, what competencies should men and women possess to build sustainable community with appropriate level of life. In particular, ESD principles reflecting strategic settings of SD:

- Overrepresentation of values;
- Understanding of complexity of occurrences/situations and comprehensive approach;
- Reflexity and mentality aimed at future;
- Contextuality;
- Multilateral partnership.

Project participants opened new possibilities in establishing cooperation between rural entrepreneurs and local administration of Issyk-Kul Oblast to attract rural women in creating sustainable micro, small and middle size businesses.

Project participants noted that low professional and

intellectual level of decision makers is directly affecting the quality of decisions made. They also mentioned that existing personnel policy is unpredictable, there is frequent staff turnover, often, high level governmental officials have low professional level, unable to solve problems and reluctant to take responsibility. Considering existing problems, experts and trainers concentrated participants' attention on main principles and competence of ESD that would allow building human potential for those eager to change existing situation. Among presented competences project participants marked out skills and ESD competences that a leader should have:

- Learning (self-education) in various life situations;
- Decision making in uncertain situations;
- Ability to make a decision;
- Ability to manage crises and risky situations;
- Responsibility;
- Actions that would remain self-esteem;
- Purposive action;
- Ability to formulate research tasks / critical thinking;
- Understanding of multitasking (complexity, manysidedness) situations and problems / systematic thinking
- Initiating and managing changes / identification and foresight of problems
- Obstacle and problem solving ability;
- Managing changes / goal setting;
- Creative, future oriented thinking;
- Understanding of correlations and holistic approach.

RCE KG together with project participants elaborated main directions for future cooperation:

- Conduct trainings on a regular basis with support of local administrations.
- Initiate informational campaign on ESD promotion and adaptation of best practices with efforts of local communities and expert support of RCE KG and State Agency on Environmental Protection and Forestry.
- Actively involve youth and women in decision making process on local level, using ESD instruments;
- Adopt ESD Programs for rural schools and kinder gardens;
- Promote "greening" of micro and small businesses at local level.

Within the framework of the project, two publications

were developed and published: «Gender and democracy in management » in Russian language and « Ethnopedagogics of Kyrgyz» in Kyrgyz language.

Project results received good rating among experts and donors community.

6. Useful links [www.rce-kg.org](http://www.rce-kg.org)

7. Useful contacts Chinara Sadykova RCE KG Director,  
e-mail: [rcekgz@gmail.com](mailto:rcekgz@gmail.com)

8. Comments During the project, implementation critical mass of gender sensitive men and women was build, who then become engage in the process of promotion of sustainable development principles in to daily life, each in their working place. In total, the project educated 47 people in Ton rayon 27 women and 20 men. In Issyk-Kul rayon, the project educated 79 people, 26 women and 53 men. Among trained young leaders 3 men and 2 women from Ton rayon and 1 women and 2 men from Chonsaryoi aiyl okmotu participated in elections to local governance bodies (Kenesh).