

Project Description

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Support Programme:	Higher Education Excellence in Development Cooperation – exceed
Ziele des Programms¹:	
Goal 1	German universities have acquired expertise in development cooperation
Goal 2	Development-relevant networks are established with the involvement of non-university actors
Goal 3	Research priorities based on the 2030 UN-Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals have been established at the participating universities
Goal 4	Graduates are adequately integrated into the job market

Projektdaten

Project Title	"SOLID - Social work and strengthening of NGOs in development cooperation to treat drug addiction"			
Applicant Institution	Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences			
Project Officer	Prof. Dr. Heino Stöver			
Foreign Project Officer (Scientific Coordinator)	Nurgul Musaeva			
Foreign Partnerinstitution	Bishkek State University			
Partner Countries	Kyrgyz Republic, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, PR China			

Short Summary and content - description of the project

¹ Die übergeordneten Ziele sind maximal zu erreichende Programmziele, die nicht zwangsläufig alle in einem Projekt angestrebt werden müssen.

Introduction

The countries of the Central Asian region- Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - have become a key region for international activities to deal with the growing drug problem. The neighbouring region to Afghanistan is increasingly confronted with the smuggling of opium, heroin and cannabis and more recently New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) and with an increasing number of drug addicts, especially injecting heroin addicts. The drug problem is not just a health problem, it is also a metaphor for growing political instability, corruption and undermining economic stability. The "Central Asia Drug Action Program" (CADAP) project, which is funded by the EU and BMZ (carried out by GIZ), is intended to consolidate the successes achieved so far in improving the data situation on the drug problem, in introducing modern and effective prevention strategies and in developing psychosocial and other drug treatment methods (including the still controversially discussed but scientifically recognized and practiced buprenorphine substitution treatment for opioid addicted people in Central Asia). The project has been implemented by a European consortium (with partners from the Netherlands, the Czech Republic, Poland and Germany) in the 6th phase from 2015 -2019. The Frankfurt University of Applied Science was responsible for the "Treatment" component and organized training courses with experts from the Central Asian region.

History

In the course of CADAP VI, contacts were made to 3 Central Asian universities that train social workers (as being done at the Frankfurt University), including as part of CADAP and a DAAD Fact Finding Mission. In addition, the Ministry of Research and Education has funded the program "InBeAIDS- Infection Prevention and Treatment of HIV / AIDS and Hepatitis among Injecting Drug Users in Central Asia and the Share of Social Work in Addiction Aid". Existing contacts have been expanded into an university partnership (with Bishkek State University, Department of Social Work and Practical Psychology (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan); Tajik National University, Department of Social Work (Dushanbe, Tajikistan); Eurasian National University Gumilyov, Department of Sociology (Astana / Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan); Human Research and Development Center (Inson Tadqiqoti va Taraqqiyoti Markazi) (Bukhara, Uzbekistan) and Mental Health Center, Jiao Tong University School of Medicine (Shanghai, PR China) with a jointly developed research program on the influence of social work on the prevention and treatment of drug / opioid addiction as well as the development of study programs / training curricula for social work with drug consuming and addicted people (who also live with HIV / hepatitis) and the exchange of German and Central Asian scientists and students for research stays in Frankfurt / M. and Central Asia. The English skills of the local scientists are also to be promoted, since communication has so far been carried out almost exclusively in Russian and European and international research literature in English is only communicated incompletely. It is also being considered to implement the program with the Shanghai East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST), Faculty of Social Work at the Sociological Institute, which held an international conference on social work with representatives of the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences in 2007 (Prof. Volker Happel, Prof. Ingrid Vogt, both retired) and where Dr. Ingo Ilja Michels (from the Institute for Addiction Research at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences) conducted a series of lectures in 2007 as a visiting professor on social work with drug users.

The program is also part of the "EU- Central Asia Strategy" (the European Union has released an update, moving from a "strategy for a new partnership" to "new opportunities for a stronger partnership." published in July 2019 and supported by the German Federal Government

The objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 2030) should serve as a benchmark in the planned program, in particular



Goal: 3 Health and Wellbeing

"Health is the goal, prerequisite and result of sustainable development, its promotion is a requirement of humanity and part of responsible government policy (...). The challenges in the health sector are still huge."

In Central Asia, the prevalence of opioid use is twice as high as in Europe, in China there are almost 5 million opioid users, still a small number in relation to the total population, but an enormous problem for the healthcare system. There are too few offers for help. The staff is qualified and highly motivated, but consists almost entirely of medical doctors - social work as a central component of the services (in Germany) is neither offered at university education nor in practice. The well-being of those affected also depends on the offers of help and the reduction of stigmatization and marginalization.



Goal 4: quality education

"Education is a human right - it empowers people to improve their political, social, cultural, and economic situation." In post-Soviet Central Asia, as well as in China, high-quality education is an important socio-political concern. However, there are too few specific training opportunities for the prevention and treatment of addictions.



Goal 5: Gender equality

Gender equality and self-determination for all women and girls are a principle of German development policy. In Central Asia and China, women have equal rights under the constitutions, but still not in social reality, they earn less, they mostly have a double burden on family and work and only play a "minority role" at the political level. Medical professions and social work (except in Tajikistan) have a "female" dominance, but the management structures are male.



Goal: 10 Reduce inequality within and between countries

Social and economic inequality is a major challenge for the development of stability and wellbeing. Addiction is (also) a phenomenon of social inequalities and poverty, i.e. the proportion of people with social and economic problems among addicted people is disproportionately high.



Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, give everyone access to justice and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.

Drug addiction is still seen in both Central Asia and the People's Republic of China as more of a "social deviation" problem, than as a treatable disease ; repressive drug laws mean that many of those affected have to face long prison terms and that the police and judiciary are not cooperating well with health services. This promotes the social exclusion of those affected.

The program is compatible with the "Central Asian Drug Action Program" (CADAP), which the EU will implement also in a 7th phase from 2020 to 2024. It is about "the establishment of functional and effective treatment and harm reduction programs based on EU and international standards (which are essential to provide the best and cutting-edge health responses, programs and models to CA countries' populations. This output will focus on strengthening demand reduction models on the basis of best EU and international practices for harm reduction, rehabilitation and social reintegration, and therapeutic communities." (Annual Action Document 2019 for the program in favour of the Central Asia region; July 2019). It is of central importance to support the training of social work in the Central Asian countries, which plays a central role in Europe and especially in Germany in the prevention and treatment of drug addiction and its health and social consequences. But social work as a means of reducing these problems is still in its infancy both in Central Asia and in China. Adequate job descriptions and job offers are still scarce, although the positive role of social work is now increasingly recognized at socio-political level.

The Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences has accumulated decades of competence in the training of social work in Department 4 "Social Work and Health" (Bachelor, also a course "Social Work: transnational" as well as the master's program "Addiction Therapy and Social Management in Addiction Help" and in practical research, in particular through numerous research projects by the project manager Prof. Dr. Stöver and the research stay of Dr. Ingo Ilja Michels from 2006 and 2008 in the PR China to accompany and support the establishment of an opiate substitution program including social work (especially with a pilot character in Shanghai) ,

Action Planning

Action 1 :	Establishment of a university network of joint research activities on the role of social work /assistance in drug / addiction aid
Description :	15 young researchers (3 in each of the 5 partner countries) are funded, who in their dissertation describe and analyze the role of social work in drug assistance in their country of origin (Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and PR China). In addition, 1 post-doctoral position is to be created in each country involved (i.e. a total of 5), which will work on in-depth curricular topics in the context of the master course "social

	<p>work and drug addiction / therapy" at the Frankfurt University . These 15 scientists and 5 post -doc positions are supervised by the scientific coordinators in each country under the overall direction of the Project officer and the international scientific coordinator . Common research topics are identified among these 20 researcher s in total, divided into several sections and where there will be exchange meetings in each participating country. These meetings will take place alternately in the 6 countries (including Germany) . These meetings will take place over 5 days (4 nights). In a ddition, the respective scientific coordinators will attend there. The meetings will be held in English language in order to increase the language skills of the scientists.</p> <p>Translations into Russian and Mandarin might be necessary , and should be covered by the partner universities . The aim is to create joint reports and publications (at least 15 publications in peer -review journals (open access) of the 15 researchers in English language .</p> <p>A doctoral program at the FRA -UAS (3 places) and a post -doc position are also to be set up. The topics of the scientific work should include the above -mentioned SDG goals and take into account the development in the partner countries and enrich them with research results. The applicant fullfills all requirements to supervise doctoral studies . The applicant will also take on the role of project coordinator.</p> <p>All doctoral candidates and postdocs receive a scholarship /salary at the respective universities/ research institutions in the other 5 participating countries , funded by the project .</p>
Assignment to goals	Development of relevant research networks involving non -university actors (NGOs of former drug users)
Action 2:	Development of an e -learning platform / courses for social work with drug addict ed people
Description :	<p>E-learning tools on various aspects of counsel ling and treatment of drug addiction / substance use disorders and measures for prevention and therapy are being developed. Examples include modern consulting methods (e.g. motivational interviewin g / MI) and short interventions (e.g. such as cognitive -behavioral therapy / CBT) that can be manualized or operationalized for e -learning courses. A total of 5 e -learning courses are to be developed, tested and optimized in the first 3 years. For this pur pose, a toolbox with method cases is to be developed, both in English and Russian and Mandarin .</p>
Assignment to goals	Acquisition of practice -relevant knowledge in the prevention and treatment of drug addiction (or substance use disorders , according to DS M5) under development -relevant aspects and inclusion of the SDG focus on health, gender equality .
Action 3:	Development of a curriculum for a course "Social work and addiction therapy and social management in addiction support"
Beschreibung:	<p>Adaptation, design and implementation of a master's program developed at FRA -UAS that has implemented international standards of therapy for drug addicts in a curricular manner. Such a degree has so far been completely lacking in Central Asia and China , and there would also be an adaptation to the socio -cultural conditions in the five partner countries. The curriculum (100 pages) is currently only available in German and should be translated into Russian and Mandarin in advance. The 5 scientific coordinato rs are invited to FRA -UAS to use this curriculum and its potential for adaptations in a five -day workshop and to conduct the resulting discussions. FRA -UAS organizes and leads this workshop , and is also responsible for the overall follow -up. The Postdocs are responsible</p>

	for adapting and implementing the curriculum in the respective countries and the follow -up at their universities.
Assignment to goals	Research and training courses on topics of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development are established at the participating universities
Action 4:	Study and research stays by young researchers at the Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences and field research on social work in drug and addiction aid in Frankfurt and Berlin
Description :	The 18 young researchers (3 from all 6 participating countries) - as a fixed research group, quasi as participants in the doctoral colloquium, will carry out substantial field research for their dissertations during a one - month research stay in Frankfurt and Berlin in the second year of the project and exchange their experiences with the project leader (Prof. Dr . Stöver)
Action 5 :	Participation of the 15 young scientists and post -docs and the three German doctoral students and the post -doc in international conferences (a total of 2 meetings during the term, i.e. 48 conference visits).
Assignment to goals	Research priorities on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development will be implemented
Action 6:	Organization of 10 joint specialist events
Beschreibung:	Specialist events on the role of social work in drug / addiction aid in the broadest sense are carried out at the participating universities / research institutions. These events are designed in a specialist manner and address key issues such as Infectious diseases and intravenous drug use, drug addiction in prisons, gender aspects of drug addiction and therapy / counselling, role and strengthening of NGOs, poverty and health. These specialist events are held alternately at the universities, which make the premises available free of charge.
Assignment to goals	The Frankfurt University of Applied Sciences is strengthening its expertise in development cooperation and developing research and practice networks relevant to development issues.
Action 7:	The (young) scientists and post -docs hold courses at their universities.
Description	The participating universities establish master's courses in social work in drug and addiction aid in close cooperation with NGOs of former drug users. The resulting material costs for teaching materials are paid from project funds. The teaching obligation is laid down in the respective employment contracts.
Assignment to goals	Development -relevant networks are established with the involvement of non-university actors .

b. Time Schedule of Actions

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
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Action 1: Establishment of a university network of joint research activities on the role of social work in drug / addiction aid	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action 2: Development of an e-learning platform for social work with drug addicts / addicts	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action 3: Development of a curriculum for a course in social work and addiction therapy and social management in addiction support	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action 4: Implementation of joint specialist events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Action 5: Scholarships for doctoral students will be awarded on site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Action 6: The (young) scientists conduct further education and training measures at their universities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>