

For more information

Gustav-Stresemann-Institut e.V.

Langer Grabenweg 68
53175 Bonn-Bad Godesberg

Mr. Dr. Jan Clauss – GSI Director Strategies

Mr. Hans Born – Project Supervisor

E-Mail: projects@gsi-projects.eu

Project office

6/2, Turusbekova st.
720033 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Tel./Fax: +996 (312) 455657

**Ms. Jyldyz Iskakova –
local Project Coordinator**

E-mail: jyldyz.iskakova@gsi-projects.eu

Website: www.gsi-projects.eu/public-councils

Human Rights Advisory Board (HRAB)

114, office 302, Chuy ave.
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
Tel./Fax: +996 (312) 665396

E-mail: hrab.kg@gmail.com

Website: www.hrab.kg

This programme is implemented by Gustav Stresemann Institute – European Academy, Bonn (Germany) and Human Rights Advisory Board, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan).

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“The European Union is made up of 28 Member States which have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 60 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”.

Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic

21, Erkindik Boulevard,
Business Center “Orion”, 5th floor,
720040 Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

Tel.: +996-312-261002 (ext.122);

Fax: +996-312-261007

E-mail: delegation-kyrgyzstan@eeas.europa.eu

<http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/kyrgyzstan>

www.facebook.com/eudelkg



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THE EUROPEAN UNION'S
Rule of Law - Civil Society and Media Programme for Kyrgyzstan

Strengthening Civil Society Participation in Public Councils in Kyrgyzstan



The project is implemented by Gustav Stresemann Institute – European Academy, Bonn (Germany) and Human Rights Advisory Board, Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan)

Strengthening Civil Society participation in Public Councils in Kyrgyzstan

The project partner organisations



The **Gustav-Stresemann-Institut e.V. (GSI)** was founded in 1951 as independent institute for trans-national training and European co-operation. GSI European Conference & Training Centre Bonn is an independent, non-party and non-profit institution of citizens' training. The institute annually offers over 2.000 seminars, workshops & conferences, followed by 100.000 participants from all over the world.

The **Human Rights Advisory Board (HRAB)** was founded in 2005 by the Ombudsman and the Supreme Court of KR and the Danish Institute for Human Rights with the aim of creating a national dialogue platform between state and civil society to promote human rights and rule of law and raise awareness of human rights among the population.



Collection of feedback from citizens (Naryn, March 2017)

The objectives

The overall objective of the action is to assist in strengthening the respect of the Rule of Law in the Kyrgyz Republic by promoting transparency and accountability measures leading to a more sustainable and inclusive performance of Public Councils.



Forum of Public Councils (Bishkek, December 2016)

The action will initiate and support public-private partnership initiatives, to reach better public understanding about the role of Public Councils, and to create opportunities for citizens to interact with Public Councils.

The aim is to promote a culture of responsibility and civic engagement and hereby improve the interaction of Public Councils with civil society organizations and media. By doing so the project increases credibility and ability of the Public Councils to act as *"citizens' ambassadors"*.



Conference in Bishkek (June 2017)

Main activities

The project was started in September 2016 and will last for 24 months and has the following components:

- 1. Preparation phase:** mobilization, partner planning meeting, coordination with 4 ongoing Rule of Law projects, meetings with stakeholders, project implementation plan, kick-off meeting, inception report.
- 2. Surveys in regions** (country-wide) & analysis of Public Councils' functionalities on central and regional levels; interviews with citizens, Public Council members and state body representatives in order to collect feedback and recommendations.
- 3. Legal component:** Lawyers working group; revision of existing legislation related to Public Councils and other civil initiatives, drafting of legal regulations, dialogue with stakeholders, lobby for ratification.
- 4. Training and consultation programme, dialogue platforms** for Public Councils on central & regional levels, central/ regional/ municipal authorities, local self-government bodies, CSOs & media (country-wide).
- 5. Public relation component;** training of media (journalists), media training for CSOs, visibility actions (press conferences, radio/ TV broadcastings, online, incl. the project website www.gsi-projects.eu/public-councils).
- 6. Sub-granting component;** up-to 10 projects of Public Councils in partnership with CSO and/or media financed, public-private partnership supported.
- 7. Co-Organizing 2 forums for Public Councils** (one in December 2016, one at the end of the project).