



## The voice of a woman

UNION  
"CENTRS MARTA"



WOMEN – LEADERS AND POLITICIANS



Participants of the training meet each other and share ideas about the necessary actions for protecting their interests in each of their communities.

Nowadays the involvement of women in democratic and administrative processes in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan is very limited because of different social, economic and cultural reasons. In Kyrgyzstan, despite a 30% quota system, participation of women in political processes is decreasing and there are only 23 women (19,2%) in the government, which gives it the 96th place in the world according to this indicator. The activities of the civic society are also limited, because people lack the experience, knowledge and resources. Even though both Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan are member states of the UN conventions of protection of children's and women's rights and fairly recently there have been progressive improvements to their laws and regulations, discrimination and often even violence are still problems within the societies of these countries – there are still such phenomena as stealing brides, premature marriages, violence in families etc.

In our project we strengthened the abilities of women politicians and women leaders to take part in democratic and administrative processes, as well as supported non-governmental organizations, which deal with promoting gender equality.

We organized two days of practical training in each of the countries. In Tajikistan 18 leaders took part



“ Latvia has grown so much, that it is able to provide help to others. The trip, financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Latvia and organized by the excellent team of “Centrs MARTA”, was very awaited in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and our inspiration, knowledge and ability to persuade that even small change is in our own hands was appreciated. At the beginning of 1990’s I worked as an interpreter for Swedish organizations that helped us. Now I can help, where we are very awaited.

— LOLITA ČIGĀNE



A workshop for creating cooperation networks between activists and politicians, representatives from local governments and NGO's to raise the working capacities of NGO's – to generate ideas for cooperation projects.



Participants of the training present their views about how a successful women politician should be, compare these impressions to impressions of a successful male politician.

and in Kyrgyzstan – 27 politicians. During the training they gained the necessary argumentation, communication and presentation skills.

Women politicians in Kyrgyzstan created individual campaign plans as well as completed different interactive assignments, for example, took to the streets to question their potential voters about which topics, in their opinion, should the candidates prioritise. The participants of the activities explored fund-raising and administration when advancing the protection of their interests and political careers. Also an informal network for women cooperation was created, in which representatives from NGO's, state and local governments took part in. This raised awareness about gender equality issues and promoted the making of political decisions that would be beneficial to the opportunities of women. The representatives of the cooperation network establishment workshops presented initiatives, which they plan to implement to protect the interests of women and to advance political processes.

For the 2020 election in Kyrgyzstan we have begun work on a pre-election campaign “Vote for a woman” to support involvement of woman in democratic and administrative processes. Latvian experts not only shared successful examples of voting campaigns, in which voters were invited to choose women politicians, but also together with a local partner organization fund “DIA” came up with ideas for the content of the Kyrgyzstan campaign, types of funding for the involvement of local government level organizations.

In the long term it is predicted that a higher proportion of women in state administration will promote the making of such legal regulation and political decisions, that will recognize the issues concerning discrimination and violence and more effectively resolve these issues.