

KEY ISSUES AND OBJECTIVES

- Build capacity and redouble the effectiveness of local civil society organizations
- Provide tools for the development of viable community-oriented networks

OVERVIEW

- Free services in 40 cities throughout Eurasia, nearly all hosted by local partners
- Every year 700,000 visits are logged at IATP centers
- Every year 50,000 users are trained in IT skills
- Host of 8,000 local-language websites



IATP in Turkmenistan

IATP began operating in Turkmenistan in the year 2000. At present there are four Information Resource Centers (IRCs) operating throughout the country with over 16 000 users. From June 2007 to May 2008, nearly 10 498 citizens of Turkmenistan visited IRCs and 841 people attended training courses. The IATP server in Ashgabat hosts 216 non-commercial websites, which is more than half of all websites hosted in Turkmenistan.

IREX and ICT4D in Eurasia

Initially launched in 1995, IATP now operates in 10 countries in Western Eurasia, the Caucasus, and Central Asia. The program strengthens NGOs, media outlets, government institutions, political parties, universities, schools, libraries and other community stakeholders.

IATP is one of several IREX programs that use cutting-edge technologies to provide technical assistance and resources for local citizen and organization-based initiatives.

IREX is an international nonprofit organization which delivers cross-cutting programs to strengthen civil society, education, and media independence in more than 50 countries.

TOOLS FOR CIVIL SOCIETY DEVELOPMENT

From the American people, IATP provides civil society organizations (CSOs) and community leaders with five essential tools that are otherwise largely inaccessible in the region. The resulting assistance and collaboration redoubles the effectiveness of local civil society initiatives, expanding their reach on local, national, and regional levels.

- **Internet Access** –Free computer and Internet access available at IATP centers helps bridge the digital divide and provides new sources of information and knowledge.
- **Technical Training** – A cache of over a dozen training modules, including computer basics, Web design, Internet research, blogging, and wiki creation can be tailored to meet the institutional needs of organizations and professionals attending courses.
- **Web Content Development** –CSOs and individuals create websites and resources after completing IATP courses. New Web resources increase local-language content, making the Internet more accessible and useful within each of the countries.
- **Online Forums** –Stakeholders, experts, and decision makers unite online in virtual exchanges of ideas that bridge the technology gap between regions and capital cities, and formerly integrated countries.
- **Community Events** – Citizens utilize the centers as neutral meeting places to organize their initiatives and use IATP-provided technology and expertise to strengthen their projects.

IATP Administration

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IATP Centers in Turkmenistan

Information Resource Center/ IREX

City: Ashgabat
Address: Gorogly St., 48A, 3rd floor
Telephone: +993 (12) 33-08-10
Contact Person: Ahmed Rahmanov
E-mail: arahmanov@iatp.edu.tm

Information Resource Center

City: Turkmenabat
Partner Organization: Economic Association "Hemayat"
Address: PMK# 71, Goroglybek St.4
Telephone: +993 (422) 6-05-69, 6-34-14
Contact Person: Alina Litvinova
E-mail: alitinova@iatp.edu.tm

Information Resource Center

City: Balkanabat
Partner Organization: Turkmen Society for the Blind & Deaf
Address: Block 136, house 11
Telephone: +993 (222) 6-09-48, 6-01-32
Contact Person: Dasha Chikaidze
E-mail: dchikaidze@iatp.edu.tm

Information Resource Center

City: Dashoguz
Partner Organization: Individual Enterprise "Bilgirje"
Address: "10 year Independence" St., #30
Telephone: +993 (322) 2-04-51/52
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PROJECTS and ACTIVITIES IN TURKMENISTAN

- Two blind trainers are conducting computer courses for four of their female peers under a pilot project of IATP in partnership with the Turkmen Society for the Blind and Deaf (TSBD). **Sense Online Turkmenistan** is a collaborative project which aims to teach computer literacy and Internet basics to visually impaired people in order to afford them additional work and networking opportunities. The project has already taught over 15 members to use in Ashgabat and Balkanabat to use computers with the help of special voicing software. The program is mutually beneficial for trainers and trainees alike, as trainers receive honoraria and job experience, and trainees learn skills useful in both their personal and professional lives. TSBD intends to expand the project to reach participants from all regions of Turkmenistan, continuing the project as a sustainable arm of their activities. Already, TSBD has undertaken a similar initiative in the city of Bayramaly.
- Government employees are learning to utilize technology at IATP centers in order to work more efficiently. Department heads at the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights, construction department employees, trainers at an Ashgabat center for youth, and journalists from the Galkynish newspaper have all learned computer skills in the past six months.
- Unemployed and struggling with the confines of cerebral paralysis, Lachin Yagshyeva began offering private word processing services upon completing IATP's computer productivity training. Yagshyeva mastered computer technology and fast typing skills using Solo Keyboard software during a series of ICT training courses for seven disabled citizens at the IATP center in Turkmenabat, Turkmenistan. Yagshyeva's newly gained skills enabled her to offer private word processing services at home.
- In January, the IATP cooperated with USAID – funded Project Hope to contribute to raising the level ICT skills among doctors of the Tuberculosis Prophylaxis Center (TPC) in Ashgabat. Eighteen doctors of the TPC participated in IATP training for doctors on using the Internet to find resources on Tuberculosis treatment and research.