

# UZBEKISTAN

## Promoting the Role of Women Entrepreneurs in Local Economic Development

The project aims at strengthening the Business Women Association of Uzbekistan "Tadbirkor ayol" (BWA) as a key player and facilitator of SMEs in the country. Specific focus will be given to the capacity of BWA to offer demand-driven business services, reinforcing the network with European Business Intermediaries and supporting women entrepreneurship at local level.



EuropeAid

Lead Partner

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### Project Background

Notwithstanding the progress on the way of its integration in the world economy, Uzbekistan still needs to face some important challenges, as for example the inclusion of rural areas in the economic transition and a more active participation of women in the economy. With its 9.000 members, BWA supports especially women in poor areas who engage in part-time economic activities and sustain in this way their families. They play very often a vital role for the economic well-being and the cohesion of entire communities.

### Project Objectives

The project aims at strengthening the Business Women Association as key player and facilitator of micro, small and medium-enterprise in the five selected Uzbek regions (Tashkent, Andijan, Ferghana, Syrdarya, Khorezm, Surkhandarya).

### Project Activities

- Training and coaching for BWA´s staff ;
- Improvement of existing Business Development Services, in order to better meet specific women entrepreneurs' needs, with special reference to start-ups and to micro and small companies in rural areas ;
- Participatory rapid appraisals to identify 5 pilot projects for local economic development ;
- Implementation of the 5 pilot projects identified ;
- Visibility and public relations actions.

### Facts and figures

Total budget: € 385 000 (EU contribution: 85%)

Duration of the project: 24 Months, December 2008 - December 2010

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/trade-business/ca\\_invest\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/asia/regional-cooperation/trade-business/ca_invest_en.htm)