

National Qualifications Frameworks for Lifelong Learning and Skills Development in Uzbekistan

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Since adoption of new Law on Education in Uzbekistan in 1997, the principles of continuous and lifelong education have been put in practice in accordance with the National Programme for Personnel Training. Bearing in mind almost 100% coverage of population by formal education (primary, secondary and secondary specialized/vocational education), the role of non-formal education has been highlighted as supplementary opportunity for empowerment of learners. The project on establishing of CLC in Uzbekistan was started with support of UNESCO in 1998. Based on Concept Paper “Family-Community-School” elaborated by the Ministry of Public Education in 1994, first CLC’s were established within existing ASPnet schools in rural areas of Uzbekistan. Pilot experience of CLC’s demonstrated its effectiveness of delivery of various flexible learning programmes not only for students of the schools but also for representatives of local community on demand. Skills development programs were mainly focused on development of generic skills (active citizenship). It is important to outline that new legal framework created favorable conditions for NGO’s to establish various non-formal learning centers for particular target groups of population.

The year 2010 was proclaimed in Uzbekistan as the Year of Harmoniously Developed Generation. Proclamation was followed up by elaboration of long-term state plan on further development of non-formal education in the country. As a result, the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution on “Further development of the non-formal education system” in 2011. Key essence of the resolution is to establish youth learning centers “Barkamol avlod” (Harmoniously Developed Generation) in every district of Uzbekistan. The main objective of the “Barkamol avlod” Centers is to

provide supplementary learning programs, including in remote and densely populated regions. “Barkamol avlod” centers are non-formal educational institutions where all appropriate conditions for youth have been created to realize their potential on basic sciences, environmental sciences and culture studies. Formal system of education provides cognitive skills for students in accordance with state educational standards. The main tasks of the “Barkamol avlod” centers are to develop creative and psychological skills based on needs of youth.

According to the resolution, “Barkamol avlod” centers have been created on the base of existing non-formal education establishments. Overall, some 211 centers were created across Uzbekistan. Largest number of centers was established in Tashkent (21), Ferghana Region (19) and Andijan Region (18). Such approach was introduced on the basis of demographical situation of the country (more centers in densely populated areas). Nowadays, these centres encompass more than 100 thousand children, who attend different programs and clubs according to their interests.

For instance, at the “Barkamol avlod” Republican Youth Scientists’ Center following non-formal educational projects are being implemented:

- Computer Design and Graphics, Software Development;
- Craftsmen and traditional applied arts;
- Painting and Art Designers;
- Foreign Language Club;
- Folk Dance;
- Aircraft and Car Modeling;
- Photography Art.

“Barkamol avlod” Regional Ecology Center organizes learning programs on ecotourism, environment protection, flora and fauna conservation programs.

Running costs of the “Barkamol avlod” Centers are covered from budget of the Ministry of Public Education. However, there is a tuition fee for learners, which is different depending on the statute:

- 10% of minimal salary per month for regional centers, Nukus and Tashkent.
- 5% – for other districts and cities of Uzbekistan.

Accumulated funds are used only for production of learning materials.

Year: 2013

CLC		Other learning or non-formal education centers (with multiple learning programmes)		Adult literacy Centers	
Government	NGO/others	Government	NGO/others	Government	NGO/others
211	0	0	327	0	0

Formal education system is based on state educational standards, while non-formal learning programs are based on state educational requirements. State requirements are a basis for equivalence mechanism between formal and non-formal education and it is a necessary prerequisite for recognition of qualifications received after graduation of the non-formal learning programs. Therefore, training programs of the non-formal learning centers are subject for licensing by State Testing Center (independent governmental body for accreditation of any type of educational organizations and attestation of teaching staff of such bodies).

All graduates of the training programs of the “Barkamol avlod” Centers receive certificates on completion of the course. The certificates awarded are supplementary support document for continuation of education in formal secondary specialized/vocational institutions (academic lyceums or professional colleges), which is compulsory and free for all graduates of the secondary schools.

Nowadays, the Government of Uzbekistan initiated work-oriented training programs in order to develop skills of young unemployed people. For instance, the Center on Assistance for Youth Employment was established under “Kelajak ovozi” Youth Initiatives’ Center in 2008. This center is directed to stimulation of professional and carrier growth of young talents, providing information about opportunities of volunteer activities, internships and further employment in order to disclose the potential of young people. Youth Employment Center assists the process of providing job places for young people and guarantees professional training and employment of youth. Activity of the Center is aimed at development effective cooperation between

employers and universities, providing graduate students with information about job vacancies, volunteer and internship opportunities. Furthermore, each year in Uzbekistan, more than 30 thousands of unemployed youth are trained for new occupations by the order of enterprises to the territorial Centers of Employment Support and Social Protection of Population. For this purpose, features of 217 colleges and centers of professional training are exploited.