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## SUPPORTING UZBEKISTAN'S MEDIA

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**Mainly six international foundations and organizations are involved in Uzbekistan's media projects: TACIC, Konrad Adenauer Foundation, Eurasia Foundation, Soros Foundation, Internews Network and Counterpart Consortium.**

Under a common aim, they nevertheless act in different ways in accordance with their specificities. For example, TACIC trains journalists, increase their awareness and teaches them practical skills within the framework of the Market Skills Development Center project. In early 1997 radio and video studios were equipped to train the journalists. The project was supported by *BBC*. As per the agreement signed by the *Uzteleradio* (Uzbek State Broadcasting Company) and the Business Skills Development Center 10 radio broadcasts on the small and mid-size business development have been made and aired by the Uzbek radio. Social poll has revealed these programmes to be highly rated. Also four students' video documentaries on small and mid-size businesses have been shot in Uzbek and Russian, named *Business-Doctor*. The movies enjoyed success, so the work to make similar students' documentaries is going on.

### **CHANGE SOCIAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE MEDIA**

The Konrad Adenauer Foundation in Uzbekistan will hold discussions, conferences and seminars to help journalists, politicians and scientists understand the values of the modern world and possibilities of the lawful democratic society. In 1996, the Foundation embarked on its project upon *The Role of Journalism in the Development of the Republic of Uzbekistan* followed up with the help of the International In-service Training of Journalists. The project aimed to change social attitudes towards the essence of the press, television and radio; their roles and influence international society; and relations with power structures. Two seminar sets have been held: *Democracy and the Lawful State* and *Uzbekistan Pending the Elections*. The journalists generally believe these to have been useful and achieved their aims. Eurasia Foundation is engaged in providing funds to purchase new equipment and to use new technology in editorial offices. As A part of this foundation's different projects, some periodicals in Uzbekistan have received tangible financial aid. Thus, funds have been allocated to *Kashkadaryo Hakikati*, *Bankovskiye Vedomosti*, *Yangier Tongi*, *Samarkand* and *Chirchik* editions to buy computers and to teach journalists computer skills. Also an Information press center has been established in Samarkand; a specialized library has been established; access to the Internet has been provided. Seminars have been held for editorial staff in Havast, Bayaut and Mirzaabad districts and Shirin and Yangier towns.

### **INTERNATIONAL JOURNALISM STANDARDS**

The Internews Network office in Tashkent collaborates with more than 25 private TV stations in Uzbekistan. These include: *STV* station in Samarkand and *MTV* in Andijan; *Vita-TV* in Tashkent; *Orbita* in the capital district's Yangiabad; *Bahtiyor* in Jizak; *Aloka AK* in Gulistan; *Orbita-Angren*, *Karshi-TV*, *Kaldirgoch* in Guzar (Kashkadarya District) and others. Local TV

stations' camera crews have undergone professional training and familiarized themselves with international journalism standards and traditions during the seminars in Tashkent, Samarkand, Andijan and other towns of the republic. Supporting non-state TV and radio companies is an important aspect in Soros Foundation's activities. The foundation has become one of those to organize the republic's first TV news competition. Journalists from the country's different towns and regions participated. Noteworthy is another project by Soros Foundation, Journalists' Club, aimed to facilitate free exchange of information and the formation of new independent democratic thinking, to expand bonds between the Uzbekistan journalists and the world community. A library and a computer room connected with Internet have been created as part of this project. Counterpart Consortium supports the growth of democratic and viable non-governmental non-profit organizations (NGOs). This defines the field of its media activities. Counterpart Consortium has developed a number of seminars to meet specific needs of NGOs in their work with the media including news conferences, round table meetings, news bulletins and the use of Internet and e-mail.