

## Successful Start of a New Stage of Cooperation

The first year of the project "Development of a Master Programme in the Management of Industrial Entrepreneurship for Transition Countries" (MIETC) of the European Commission Programme Erasmus+ is coming to an end. In the implementation of this project initiative, employees of the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, the Centre of Technologies under it and representatives of two higher educational institutions, the Turkmen State Institute of Economics and Management and the Turkmen State Institute of Finance, are involved from the Turkmen party. The Project Coordinator from European party is the University of Santiago de Compostela (Kingdom of Spain), and from the Turkmen side, it is the Academy of Sciences Turkmenistan.

The aim of the project is to strengthen the academic potential of higher educational institutions in the field of industrial entrepreneurship in Central Asia by developing and implementing an interdisciplinary Master's programme and establishing sustainable cooperation among partner universities. Other important directions are increasing the level of competencies and skills of students and young lecturers by developing innovative curricula in accordance with international standards, improving quality of higher education and increasing its relevance for labour market and society.

The results of a three-year MIETC project will facilitate the modernisation of curricula and syllabi in the field of industrial entrepreneurship, the growth in the level of professional training of students, the mastering of modern methods of small and medium-sized businesses and the study of the world experience in the development of market relations.

To date, issues related to the cooperation of universities, the establishment of branches of departments at small and medium-sized businesses, the attraction of students and young lecturers to work in the field entrepreneurship and the employment of university graduates have been considered. A strategy for disseminating the experience gained in the course of realisation of the project has been developed. Within its framework, a website, which is localised on the partner's web server from Italy (University of Naples Federico II) has been launched. The information portal broadly covers the activities of the project participants. Its news page provides reports on the work done for the year.

As it was told at the Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, the development of methodological recommendations for educational directions had also been completed, to which contributed the survey of target groups that included students, lecturers and university staff. Online seminars on market demands analysis have been held. For the implementation of Master's programmes of study, European partners have carried out an analysis of needs and competencies. Working groups have been formed, they are mainly involved in the dissemination of project achievements, the Academic Council and the Council for entrepreneurial activities have been established and a plan and methodology for sustainable development have been developed.

At the first stage of the project, its Turkmen participants in targeted sessions studied English in depth, upon completion of training they were awarded relevant certificates. Recently, online coordination meetings have been held, the agenda of which included tasks for the new year, 2021, and beyond.

The Erasmus+ Programme of the European Union has been providing support to partner countries in the education field directed at increasing competencies and degree of demand for highly qualified specialists in labour market, encouraging relevant ideas of the project participants and stimulating them to new forms of cooperation.

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NT

**HANDMADE TURKMEN CARPETS ARE KNOWN FOR THEIR BEAUTY, GREAT TECHNIQUE OF EXECUTION AND RICH VARIETY OF ORNAMENTS. IT IS INTERESTING TO WATCH HOW THE CARPET IS CREATED. SOMETIMES WORKING TOGETHER, THE CRAFTSWOMEN ACT HARMONIOUSLY, ALMOST SYNCHRONOUSLY; OCCASIONALLY CHECKING WITH THE LAYOUT LYING AT A DISTANCE, THEY MAKE A CANVAS WITH A SYMMETRICAL PATTERN, WITHOUT FOREIGN PARTS OR DISTORTION OF THE LAYOUT, AS IF THE CANVAS WERE WOVEN BY A MACHINE CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING IMAGES WITH MATHEMATICAL PRECISION. THIS IS A TRUE CLASSIC OF FOLK ART WITH A CENTURIES-OLD HISTORY. ACCORDING TO SCIENTIFIC SOURCES, IT IS KNOWN THAT THE CARPET WAS INVENTED BY NOMADIC PEOPLES WHO WERE ENGAGED IN CATTLE BREEDING. THIS CONTRIBUTED TO THE CREATION OF A VARIETY OF SHAPES AND SIZES OF WOVEN PRODUCTS REQUIRED IN THE FIELD CONDITIONS. RUGS WERE PERFECT FOR THE CAMP LIFESTYLE AS THEY WERE WARM, SOFT AND EASY TO CARRY.**

Turkmen women wove haly for warming floors, and for storing things, dishes and household utensils carpet containers they made large and small bags – chivals, torbas and horjuns. These products performed not only a utilitarian, a social, but also an aesthetic function, creating comfort at home. The wellbeing of the family was determined by the number of such items. Sheep's wool was and remains the main material for their manufacture. For this purpose, the best long fleece of the lowland Saraja sheep of spring shearing was chosen. Yarn dyes were obtained from fruit and leaves of plants. The common madder gave basic dark red tones, larkspur from the family Ranunculaceae gave yellow. Grey, brown, black and white threads were spun from undyed sheep wool of natural shades. Indigo blue dye was brought from neighbouring countries.

It is extremely interesting to study the peculiarities of such a tradition, because separate centres of this art had their own style.



In their variety, carpets were subdivided into types that differ in the nature of the ornament. This can be seen especially vividly in the varieties of the carpet pattern, göl. So, each modern administrative region, which designated the boundaries of residence in the past, as was customary to say, of a tribal group, develops its own direction through its own original göl, similar to a medallion. The sign itself could be a kind of totem symbolism in the past. In Turkmen carpet weaving, art critics typolo-

gically distinguish several leading groups, within which there are several subgroups. These are Teke and Ahal groups with the use of such patterns as gushli and pendi; Yomud and Chovdyr ones (gabsa and ortmen); Ersari one (gulli). And in the past, countrymen and buyers, amateurs and connoisseurs could easily determine where the carpet had been woven.

Amudarya, tortoises, fish and terfowl. They are characterised by greater freedom in composition and ornament. In some carpets plant forms prevail – almond, red pepper, jagged wide leaves, a profile image of flowers, others, geometric patterns dominate. In some carpets, there is an image of a flying bird. The pattern can be based on images of

## BESHIR:

### SUBCULTURE IN TURKMEN CARPET WEAVING



and small snakes. This motif is called yilan beshir. According to culturologists, this element is an ancient sign, tamga, which has a protective meaning. Even the border of the carpet is decorated with figures based on elements of nature – plants and animals, even insects. For example, there are stylised images of a crab, a scorpion. Such a carpet stands out for its enchanting beauty and compositional originality; its color scheme is dominated by red and yellow colours. Ethnographers note one more feature – the background is sharply opposed to the ornament and is almost never repeated in the patterns. For example, against the indigo background yellow-gold tones and red-racotta shades can be used.

The name of the carpet comes from the village of Beshir, which today administratively belongs to the gengeshlik of the same name of the Hojambaz etrap. The carpet tradition of the middle Amudarya valley can be traced back to the beginning of the early 17th century. The museum depository contains several copies of Beshir carpets, the centre of which, there are five terms with such names as byas, which means "five moons" (there are five ornaments in the center field, respectively), perre göl – "flaming leaves or a pattern of leaves" and gurbaga – "frog". They attract attention with their technique of execution and ornamental richness.

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Photo: the author