

National Report to the International Development in Eurasia Committee, IDEAC

Kazakhstan

Name of Association: Kazakhstan Reading Association (KazRA)

Activities Report 2024

KazRA was established in July 2002 and was chartered as an IRA affiliate in April 2003. To date, KazRA has 90 members forming three legal entities of KazRA all over the country. Members are teachers of all levels, teacher educators, researchers, and librarians. KazRA conducts its activities through three legal entities with their own locally elected boards. The national board members have been nominated by the local legal entities and elected at the annual meeting, which is usually held virtually.

Our goals are

- To improve the quality of instruction at all levels by introducing progressive pedagogical and methodological philosophy in teaching and carrying out workshops and consultations online and offline
- To develop an awareness of the impact of critical thinking and ongoing learning among teachers
- To encourage teacher reflection and self-reflection and promote monitoring of classroom practice at all levels
- To set up conditions for the exchange of pedagogical experiences through professional journals and books, annual conferences, and meetings online and offline

During the reporting period, KazRA tried to continue its usual activities: seminars, conferences, meetings and/or organization of international-level seminars.

Today, KazRA's trainers and teachers hold RWCT (Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking) workshops and lessons in their classes and across the country.

The Day of Reading is held on International Reading Day.

The most active cities send their works for publishing.

During this time, more than 65 teachers and educators across the country received online training on the topic of "Practical Inquiry in the Classroom." The seminar was conducted by the Global Center for Innovation and Learning (GCFIL, USA) in May 2024. The seminar continues; the next group will take part in the seminar in October.

Kazakhstan took part in the online meeting of Eurasia committee, which was held in January 2024.

Teachers published their research in the educational and methodical newspaper of the Eurasian Committee of the International Literacy Association. Three issues of the newspaper have been published. Published teachers include Zeinegul Kopbayeva, Altyn Momynkulova, and Mayrash Mukhamediyarova.

Kazakhstan took part in the reporting meeting held by the International Literacy Association. They touched on topics such as opportunities, advantages, and disadvantages of distance learning, and about internet platforms. Meetings of KazRA's leadership are being held. We discuss current topics in education.

In January 2025, we plan to hold an online conference for all regions of Kazakhstan.

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Georgia

Name of Association: School-Family-Society Association (SFSA)

Activities Report 2024

Digital Literacy Project

School-Family-Society Association coordinated and carried out the following activities planned within the framework of this Eurasian Committee project:

- As part of the Digital Literacy Project, the association organized meetings with the participation of representatives of five countries (Georgia, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan) of the Eurasian Committee of the International Literacy Association. At the meetings, each country presented activities already implemented within the framework of the Digital Literacy Project. Activities that will be implemented as part of the future project were also discussed at the meetings.
- The School-Family-Society Association coordinated the translation of materials that will be distributed for webinars and consultations from English into Georgian and Russian as part of the project.
- Three webinars were held in Georgia:
 - Development of Critical Thinking and Individual Training Programs
 - How to Create an eBook
 - Creation of eBooks and Educational Resources in the Programs iSpring Suite, eBook Maestro, and Flipsnack
- Three group consultations were also held to discuss problems encountered during the implementation process and ways to solve them.
- During the project, the association reviewed articles by teachers participating in the project from member countries of the Eurasian Committee. Relevant, interesting articles were selected by the editorial board, processed by the editor, and published in three issues of the electronic journal.
- The School-Family-Society Association, within the framework of the project, created the first part of a methodological manual on the topic “Didactic Foundations of Formative Assessment of Students’ Knowledge and Skills.” Its electronic version is located on the Flipsnack platform.
- The representatives of the country of Georgia underwent online training on the topic “Practical Research in the Classroom.” The workshop was conducted by the Center for Global Innovation and Learning (GCFIL, USA).

Civil Society Development

- We are participating in the EU-funded project “Civil Society Development” as a partner organization of the Civic Integration Fund (CIF).

- Within the framework of the mentioned project, we conducted trainings on the following topics in youth centers of different districts of the Kvemo Kartli region:
 - Project Management
 - Effective Communication
 - Preparation of Effective Presentations
 - Advocacy

Commercial Services

- **Reading and Writing for Critical Thinking Program:** Implementation of eight-day programs in schools. Programs are namely on reading, writing, collaborative learning methods, class management, development of social projects, evaluation of the learning process, parental communication, involvement in school activities, and inclusive education.
- **Teacher Assistance in Professional Development and Career Advancement Scheme in Designing a Professional Portfolio:** The SFSA trainers have individually assisted teachers in carrying out the activities below to be implemented within the framework of the Professional Development and Career Advancement Scheme and prepare the necessary documentation for confirmation.
 - Model Lesson Planning
 - Planning an Observation Lesson
 - Development of Social and Educational Projects
 - Development of Individual Curriculum Plans

Public Activity

In 2023–2024, the School-Family-Society Association actively participated in various events (seminars, discussions, consultations, and protests) that were held against the “Russian law” (on the transparency of foreign influence) with the aim of stopping activities that undermine democratic processes and freedom of speech.

Uzbekistan

Name of Association: Uzbek Reading Association (UzRA)

2024 Activity Report

The Uzbek Reading Association was established in 2006 and was chartered as an IRA affiliate in 2012. To date, UzRA has 25 members from Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara, and Urgench. Members are higher education faculty, school teachers, researchers, librarians, and psychologists.

Goals of Our Association

- Consolidation of innovation and technological capacity of the Republic of Uzbekistan, and further organization of interaction of association members with the representatives of venture funds in order to provide financing of innovative projects
- Forming a social, economic, and technological environment, promoting development and improvement of the innovation technologies sector in the Republic of Uzbekistan
- Assistance in elaboration of policy by the representative and executive bodies of the Republic of Uzbekistan with regard to innovations and technologies development corresponding to the interests of association members and further assistance in its successful implementation

Achievements During the Reporting Period

- Conduct Literacy Days (library activities): September and November (presentations of importance of reading for school and college teachers and students)
- IDEAC joint project on digital literacy
- Development of educational materials, conducting trainings and mentoring support to primary and foreign language teachers (ongoing) in the framework of the ESN: STT project (USAID)
- Introduction of support and art therapy approach during lessons
- Cooperation with UNICEF on introduction of life skills program into schools of Uzbekistan (critical thinking skills are included as essential skills) (ongoing)
- Parental academy on how to develop essential skills of their children (social-emotional intelligence)
- Trainings for private schools on methodology of work with children
- Action research training for university representatives from Afghanistan
- Action research training for school teachers from Kazakhstan (joint project with KazRA)
- Publications in 2023:
 - Trainers' and students' workbook on life skills
 - Articles on children's development for the *Anatomica* journal
 - Articles for the newspaper on the framework of the Digital Literacy Project

Tajikistan

Name of Association: Tajik Association of Critical Thinking

2024 Activity Report

ILA Membership from Tajikistan

- Number of members – 24
- Number of full members – 20

Affiliation to ILA – 08/09/2010

Purposes

- To give opportunities for professional growth to teachers at all levels, aspiring to bring up formed and worthy citizens in a modern society
- Assistance in updating and developing education systems
- Recommendations and introduction of innovative training methods
- Cooperation with teachers who wish to help pupils develop the basic skills of critical and creative thinking
- Assistance in the democratization of the educational process
- Critical thinking and creative thinking in IT and digital systems

Achievements in the Reporting Period

- 2024, April 26–27: Roundtable on the theme “Critical Skills IT and Digital Systems” in Dushanbe with teachers and specialists of higher education institutes
- A second roundtable on the same topic was held in Dushanbe with teachers and specialists of higher education institutes in August 2024.
- Competence-Based Approach and Information Technologies in Training Exact Disciplines in the RT Cooperation With UNESCO Program “Competency-Based Education in Tajikistan” in 2024
- Online and offline seminars for school teachers in the subjects of physics, biology, and chemistry within the framework of the Digital Literacy Project
- Publications:
 - Mukhtorov Z. (2023). Evaluation and development of critical thinking. *Educational and Methodological Newspaper of the Eurasian Committee of the International Literacy Association*. flipsnack.com/EB8AC7FF8D6/3.html