

FATER Foundation

(**F**ree **A**ccess **T**o **E**ducational **R**esources Foundation)



LIBERTAS – European Institute is proud to have had among its staff at the end of 2003 Ms. Shahida Yusupova from Bishkek/Kyrgyzstan, still today in vivid connection to LIBERTAS. She not only wrote a book on European Affairs in Russian language to be published in Kyrgyzstan, but also started soon after her return to her home country FATER Foundation. What this means is described in a Kyrgyz text hereafter. This is an excellent possibility for sponsoring, donations and other kinds of cooperation also for Europeans who want to have a direct feedback and minimal overhead costs.

Please write directly to Shahida Yusupova with your proposals: shahidaneews@yahoo.com, and please send us a copy for information. We also would like to ask our business partners if they could think about a donation, e.g. for next Christmas, instead of Christmas cards or a part of it, or by circulating an old hat after a conference or seminar. Shahida is always prepared to give you ad hoc reports on FATER's activities. Any progress will be reported on this homepage.

And this is FATER Foundation:

History

FATER Foundation stands for **F**ree **A**ccess **T**o **E**ducational **R**esources Foundation. This new Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) was established in spring 2004 as an initiative of students, a faculty and businesspersons. The idea of contributing something for improvement of our community and world society came in Germany - in the small but beautiful city of Sindelfingen - where two of the founders met each other during their trips to Europe. One of the founders, Shahida Yusupova, was busy with her book "European Union: Institutions – Economy – Business – Law – Policy", another was participating in SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) World Cup 2003.

They had discussions concerning higher education in Europe and at home, in Kyrgyzstan, and they had an objective: to improve higher education and help high school students who have the desire to get higher education, but have not enough financial resources for this purpose. The only problem was that the faculty and student had no financial resources to help. However when they came home they were lucky

enough to meet local businessmen who have high moral standards, understanding what social responsibility and business ethics means in the real world of business. So these parts of Kyrgyz business accepted their social responsibility and decided to support this initiative.

The main aim

The aim of the foundation is to provide free access to educational resources, to improve the level of higher education and by this mean to help to change the conditions in which people of Kyrgyzstan live.

We believe that education improves economic, moral, political and other aspects of life. Moreover we do believe that education is the only way to any sustainable development and higher standards of living.

The first project

The aim of the first project was to find smart high school children who cannot afford higher education and find ways how to finance them. The project started in May 2004: We negotiated with universities that we are running this project and asked them to make some discount for children who came from our foundation. Then we started searching high school students with bad economic conditions at home. After that we brought them to university where they were tested, and after this test the first 7 students were qualified to study.