

Opening Conference in Tajikistan for EU-SWITCH project RUTSIS

For the EU funded project RUTSIS a conference was held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan where representatives from the EU Delegation, the Tajik and Uzbek government as well as project partners contributed to the event. RUTSIS aims to revive and upgrade sustainable silk and Ikat value chains in Central Asia.

“Developing new sustainable products – but always considering the tradition” – with these words the representative of the EU Delegation of Tajikistan concluded his speech at the official kick-off conference for a EU funded project under the name RUTSIS. Numerous speakers agreed that introducing sustainability aspects while preserving traditional values of sericulture is the balancing act on which the project’s success depends. RUTSIS stands for Reviving Uzbekistan’s and Tajikistan’s sustainable Ikat and Silk. It is an EU-funded project under the SWITCH Asia Grant programme and aims to promote sustainable manufacturing of silk products in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. The event was held on the 26th of November 2020 in the Hilton Hotel in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Due to travel restrictions under the Covid-19 pandemic many participants were unable to attend in person but instead were present online.

Moderated by Dilshod Mirsaidov, the conference was opened with welcoming speeches by representatives from the Ministry of Industry, Technology and Innovations of the Republic of Tajikistan, the Ministry of Agriculture of the Republic of Tajikistan as well as the Chambers of Commerce and Industry of both countries. Representatives from the European Union Delegation of both Uzbekistan and Tajikistan held their speeches, both highlighting the relevance of the project for the cooperation between the EU and the two Central Asian countries. The challenges which the current pandemic poses to the project were also affirmed multiple times. An official photo of all conference participants rounded off the first part of the event.

More specific project insights were shared with conference participants in the second part of the event. While adelphi presented the project achievements of the last months as well as the upcoming activities, the two Chambers of Commerce and Industry shared insights on their research on Laws and certification as well as a survey, which was conducted among silk value chain stakeholders. BURG University finally explained their vision of a textile database, which they aim to establish throughout and beyond the project. After some closing remarks by Dr. Azkar Bazarovich of the Technological University in Dushanbe, who again underlined the importance of the modernization along silk value chains in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan for increasing the production volume of silk, the conference came to its end with a press conference.

More information and updates on RUTSIS can be found at [adelphi](#) and [SWITCH Asia](#).