

## Policy roundtables and B2B fair on sustainable silk value chain organized in Tajikistan

*Woven ikat textiles made of silk are a cultural heritage in Central Asia, but current market forces are putting the craft at risk. Co-organized by adelphi, a three-day event was kicked-off in Dushanbe on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June dedicated to reviving ikat fabrics in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.*

As part of the activities under the adelphi project “Reviving Uzbekistan's and Tajikistan's sustainable Ikat and Silk (RUTSIS)”, supported by the SWITCH-Asia Grant Programme, the Ministry of Industry and New Technologies of the Republic of Tajikistan together with the team from adelphi, UNIDO and other partners organized the “Atlas” Festival in Tajikistan between the 6<sup>th</sup> and the 8<sup>th</sup> of June 2021.

The festival programme of the first day included a display of silk clothes from leading designers of Tajikistan and invited designers of Uzbekistan. In the afternoon, a B2B meeting of silk and ikat producers from Tajikistan and Uzbekistan was taking place. In this way, sector stakeholders were able to connect and extend their business networks.

During the second day the RUTSIS project had organized a discussion on geographical indications (GI) for ikat- and sericulture products from the region, where sector representatives of Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took part. A working group was established in the meeting to develop the GI concept further in four several meetings until 2023. During the afternoon session a second round of B2B meetings between producers of both countries took place.

A roundtable on policies in the sericulture sector as well as potentials for ecolabelling silk products made in Tajikistan and Uzbekistan took place with selected policy makers on the third day in the conference hall of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Republic of Tajikistan. A main goal of this session was to engage policymakers to take part in a Group of Interest which meets continuously to discuss policy measures that could strengthen the silk sector and facilitate access to global markets.

Besides adelphi, the Burg Giebichenstein Kunsthochschule Halle who is also part of the project consortium also joined the event online, while the local project partners were present in Dushanbe including the Tourism Development Center and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry from the Tajik side as well as the Uzbek Margilan Crafts Development Center and Uzbekistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry. The EU-funded project RUTSIS aims to support global market access and promote sustainable manufacturing concepts for silk products made in Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

More information and updates on RUTSIS can be found on the [project webpage](#) and [SWITCH Asia](#).