

Life in the Kyrgyz Republic: A Survey

AUCA and CASE Kyrgyzstan, in partnership with the Humboldt University and DIW Berlin, released the first results from their three-year project "Economic Transformation, Household Behavior and Well-Being in Central Asia: the Case of the Kyrgyz Republic." The international research project, funded by the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and the Volkswagen Stiftung, is meant to significantly enrich the household data already collected by the National Statistics Committee of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Researchers from the Kyrgyz Republic, Uzbekistan and Germany completed the first wave of research in 2010, surveying over 3,000 households throughout the Kyrgyz Republic. Two more waves of surveys will be conducted, which will create the most comprehensive data set available on changes in household living, and hopefully provide insights to Kyrgyz policy makers.

The chair of the AUCA Economics Department and presidential candidate, Zarylbek Kudabaev, said that the purpose of the survey was not to displace or cast doubt on statistics collected by the national government, but to complement them with a more comprehensive look at households, and specifically how they change over time.

DIW doctoral candidate Damir Esenaliev presented his working paper on intergenerational migration in the Kyrgyz Republic, and Aibek Baibagysh uulu, a World Bank poverty economist, showed his initial results from his working research project on the Kyrgyz social safety net and its ability to protect the poor.

The day-long conference attracted over 40 participants from Bishkek and abroad. The survey questionnaires can be found at the DIW [website](#), and more information can be had by contacting the AUCA Economics Department at econ@mail.auca.kg.

ANNUAL ECONOMICS STUDENTS CONFERENCE

Key to Prosperity



American University of Central Asia (AUCA) hosted the first inter-university economic conference entitled "Competitiveness of the Economy - the Key to Future Prosperity of the Country".

The conference was organized by AUCA Economics Program jointly with the Ministry of Economic Regulations and the GIZ Program "Promoting Sustainable Economic Growth".

"This is the first such event attended by students from all higher education institutions of the capital. A contest for the best research project was announced in the media and on the websites of the organizers. Over 20 papers were received, and a special evaluation committee was set up, headed by Professor Charles Becker from Duke University, USA," shares Rahat Sabyrbekov of Economics Department.

The winning project was submitted by Aykanysh Ataknova, AUCA student, and dealt with the textile industry. Second place winner was a student from the Kyrgyz-Russian Slavic University Asel Umarova, and the third place went to Azamat Sulaimanov from the Kyrgyz National University.