

## КЫРГЫЗ РЕСПУБЛИКАСЫНДА ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРДЫК ТУТУМДУН РЕФОРМАСЫН КОЛДОО ПОДДЕРЖКА РЕФОРМЫ ПЕНИТЕНЦИАРНОЙ СИСТЕМЫ В КЫРГЫЗСКОЙ РЕСПУБЛИКЕ SUPPORT TO PRISON REFORM IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

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## PRESS RELEASE

## MODERNIZED BAKERY TO BOOST BREAD PRODUCTION IN KYRGYZ PRISON SYSTEM

*Bishkek.* 28 August 2012. The Kyrgyz Prison Service is opening a newly renovated bakery in Prison No. 3 in Novo Pokrovka village outside Bishkek. With this modernized bakery, the Prison Service will be able to provide bread for nearly 1,000 prisoners housed in this colony and cater for the needs of surrounding prisons in the Chui region.

"Recent launch of a soya milk production line and a sewing workshop in female prison and the opening of this bakery serves as a solid basis for further development of income generating activities and social rehabilitation of prisoners in the penitentiary system", said Mr. Kuanyshbek Kenebaev, First Deputy Chairperson of the Kyrgyz Prison Service.

The bakery has been renovated with financial assistance provided by the European Union within the framework of the EU/UNODC project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic'. "By producing bread for internal consumption and possibly selling on the open market in the future, this bakery has the potential to increase the Kyrgyz Prison Service's capacity to sustain itself", noted Mr. Tom Massie, First Counselor, Head of Operations Section of the Delegation of the European Union to the Kyrgyz Republic. "The European Union fully supports these efforts, which have the additional benefit of promoting social rehabilitation of prisoners", she added.

In total, 44,146 Euro or 2,838,607 Kyrgyz Som have been allocated for repair work and procurement of new equipment for the bakery, including a delivery van. A classroom has also been created so that prisoner employment can be combined with vocational training to enhance prisoners' chances of finding work following their release. Developing such income generating activities and promoting the social reintegration prospects of prisoners are among the key objectives of the EU/UNODC project 'Support to Prison Reform in the Kyrgyz Republic'.

The official opening of the modernized bakery will take place on 29 August 2012 at 11:00 am in prison No. 3, Novo Pokrovka village.

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