

**Europa House**

Liaison Office of the  
European Commission in Uzbekistan



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To whom it may concern

Europa House in Uzbekistan hereby confirms that in the framework of European Union's Cooperation with Uzbekistan, education and support to vulnerable populations has always been one of the top priorities, and European Commission consistently includes actions aimed at supporting these sectors in its annual Action Programmes

In this context, we would like to especially note the role of the National Centre for Social Adaptation of Children established and operating at the personal initiative of its Director, Mrs. Lola Karimova.

Since its establishment, the NCSAC has been actively involved in EU-Uzbek cooperation actions. Namely, the NCSAC has recently finalised implementation of the small project "Improving Inclusion for Disabled Young People through Environmental Education" in the framework of Institution Building and Partnership Programme. The project was amongst the seven proposals selected under the IBPP Call for Proposals organised in 2008 by the European Commission. The project team successfully accomplished the main objectives such as promoting the inclusion of disabled young people and raising the quality of learning by both disabled and able young people through developing and implementing an inclusive approach to formal and non-formal environmental education in Uzbekistan. This and other initiatives lead by the NCSAC will undoubtedly create necessary conditions for successful implementation of the forthcoming mainstream project outlined below.

During the past 2-3 years, the NCSAC has been actively promoting a major project on Inclusive Education of Children with Special Needs in Uzbekistan aimed at creating institutional, legal and social conditions enabling children with disabilities to study in mainstream schools as opposed to traditional 'special institution' based education. The project has been approved by the European Union for funding under the Action Programme 2011 with a budget of 3.7 mln. euros and is due to start later this year. The project is expected to help improve the situation in the sector using best EU practices adapted to the Uzbek social, historical and traditional context, and to produce comprehensive draft legislation supported by specific actions to demonstrate viability of the proposed reforms.

We are looking forward to starting implementation of this very important initiative which should contribute to further improvement of the conditions for children with special needs in Uzbekistan.

Sincerely,

Pierre-Paul Antheurissens  
Coordinator

