

Brief

Network Community Creation in Kazakhstan

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The internet is a social phenomenon. Research on a social aspect of the internet known as Network Communities is one of the newest trends in Western sociology. Though the CIS countries have yet to enter the era of widespread internet use, this research brief gives preliminary evidence of interest in Network Communities development in Kazakhstan. During an internship in the USA in 2000, I put together a presentation on "Distance Learning in Kazakhstan" (<<http://www.elenag.freenet.kz/>>). My professional activities are now closely connected with the creation and development of Network Communities in Kazakhstan as Coordinator of Internet Access and Training Program (IATP) in Kazakhstan.

As part of the research on distance learning, IATP organized educational events for school

students (Summer Internet Camp) and alumni of the US government programs (First Kazakhstani Virtual Conference). One example of an IATP project related to Network Communities is the "Girls Leading Our World" (GLOW) Camp in the city of Qaraghandı (known as Karaganda in Russian). The camp endeavored to teach the girls many different life skills, with internet skills being among those emphasized. After receiving training from IATP, the campers created their own website (<<http://www.geocities.com/glowcamp>>) which highlighted Camp GLOW's activities. If you are interested in information about IATP Community activities, please find it at the following addresses: <<http://www.iatp.kz>> and <<http://www.freenet.kz>>