



Shamil Ibragimov

Scholar-In-Residence

Shamil Ibragimov is a highly experienced professional with over 20 years of expertise in the fields of international development, social innovation, education, and media development. He previously served as the Executive Director of Soros Foundation Kyrgyzstan, an affiliate of the Open Society Foundations, where he became a prominent

figure in civil society development, systemic change, community mobilization, and social justice. He is a co-founder of the Ilim Educational Complex, the oldest private school in Kyrgyzstan, and holds the position of Director for International Programs and Development. Shamil also founded Ilim GameDev College, an innovative professional education institution preparing students for the modern job market. As the author and initiator of UrbanEyes, a virtual platform visualizing urban data to promote data-driven civic engagement and municipal accountability, he contributes significantly to urban development. Shamil also initiated and leads SILK, the Social Innovation Lab at the American University of Central Asia.

A thought leader in governance and civic engagement, Shamil regularly contributes to Project Syndicate and Medium, discussing topics like political history, innovation, data-driven governance, urban innovation, and civic engagement. He co-authored the "Income Generation Handbook," published in 2010. Before joining the Open Society Foundation, he was the Executive Director of the Eurasia Foundation of Central Asia, a leading project management organization in the region.

Shamil holds an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, specializing in urban innovation, adaptive leadership, and problem-driven iterative adaptation in development. He is an Edward S. Mason Fellow, recipient of the Mary and David Boies scholarship, and a Fulbright Scholar. Additionally, Shamil has served as an Advisor to the Minister of Education of the Kyrgyz Republic and sits on the board of various organizations, including the Kyrgyz E-commerce Association, the Creative Industry Park, and the Teach for Kyrgyzstan Foundation. Recently, he was appointed as the High Technology Park Kyrgyzstan Ambassador for Academic Affairs. His research focuses on analyzing the ecosystem for innovative entrepreneurship in Central Asia, with a mission to build bridges between MIT and Central Asian entrepreneurial and academic communities.

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