



EU cooperation with Central Asia

Overview of development cooperation activities with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Tajikistan



Central Asia matters for the EU

Central Asia increasingly matters to the European Union and this is reflected in our development allocation for our partners in the region up to 2020. We are ready to further deepen our relations with Central Asia.

The European Union particularly wants to support regional integration in Central Asia and to put more emphasis on the areas of private sector development, job creation, investment, security and connectivity.

We also encourage and support reform efforts and greater openness of societies in Central Asia.



EU Cooperation Portfolio for Central Asia

Main objectives in Central Asia: long-term stability and its economic and inclusive development.

For the period 2014-2020, the EU's total financial support for Central Asia is approximately EUR 1,1 billion.

Of this amount, EUR 360 million are allocated to regional cooperation in Central Asia, in 2014-2020 (before MTR!)

*Our cooperation portfolio consists of **bilateral & regional** programmes.*



EU Bilateral Programmes

There are three main EU bilateral recipient countries. The initial allocations for the period 2014-2020 were:

Uzbekistan (EUR 168 million)

Tajikistan (EUR 251 million)

Kyrgyzstan (EUR 184 million)

Turkmenistan (EUR 65 million) *as an exceptional measure given that Turkmenistan is an upper middle income country)*

Kazakhstan *is not eligible any longer for bilateral development cooperation but remains eligible under the DCI regional and thematic programmes*



EU Bilateral: Focal Sectors

*The EU develops programmes via focal sectors identified as priority areas to achieve inclusive and sustainable growth.
These are:*

Kyrgyzstan: *Integrated Rural Development, Education and the Rule of Law.*

Tajikistan: *Rural Development, Health and Education*

Uzbekistan: *Rural Development*

MTR proposal: No change of focal sectors



EU Bilateral: MTR proposal

Part of the bilateral allocations are foreseen to be transferred to the regional envelope as follows:

*An investment allocation of **45 MEUR** earmarked as: Kyrgyzstan (10 MEUR), Tajikistan (20 MEUR) Uzbekistan (15 MEUR). These funds are foreseen to remain earmarked until 31 December 2019.*

*No continuation of the exception measure for Turkmenistan: **50 MEUR** foreseen to be transferred to the regional envelope (of which 22 MEUR earmarked for TKM).*



Regional Cooperation with Central Asia

Alongside our bilateral support, the EU's regional programme for Central Asia deals with key challenges such as border management, drug trafficking, rule of law, climate change and environment and private sector development.

Following MTR proposal, the regional programme will be adjusted to ensure a stronger focus on investment, job creation and private sector development

Regional Indicative Programme (RIP) MTR proposal

Million EUR	Initial Allocation (2014-2020)	Committed at the end of 2017	Revised Allocation after MTR	Available Funds (2018-2020)
Sustainable Development	170	102.9	275	172.1
Security and Stability	37.5	3.2	47	43.8
Policy Dialogue and TA	35	-	15	15
Support Measures	2.5	2.2	3	0.8
Total regional CA RIP	245	108.3	340	231.7
Erasmus +	115		115	
Grand Total	360		455	



RIP: Sustainable Development

Sustainable Development

Areas of Intervention:

- The ***Investment Facility for Central Asia (IFCA)*** adds EU grants to loans provided by European Financial Institutions, in order to leverage investments in regional priorities such as SME development, infrastructure for waste management and water supply in urban areas, or energy efficiency.
- ***Central Asia Invest*** contributes to OECD led Eurasia Competitiveness Programme and to capacity building of Business Intermediary Organisations to assist local SMEs



- Support to the management of natural resources is delivered via the **EU-Central Asia Water and Environment Platform**, as well as the Global Public Goods and Challenges (GPGC) Programme and Environmental Natural Resources Technology Programme (ENRTP).



Security and Stability

*Areas of Intervention: Actions on drug trafficking, prevention and other transboundary crimes, addressed through '**Central Asia Drug Action Programme**' (CADAP)*

*Support for more effective Border Management via the '**Border Management in Central Asia**' (BOMCA) programme.*

*Regional policy dialogue on rule of law is supported via the '**Rule of Law platform**.'*

*Regional policy dialogue on Higher Education and VET is supported via the '**Central Asia Education Platform**' (CAEP).*

***The Central Asia Research and Education Network.** (CAREN) sets out to create a high-capacity data-communications network for researchers, academics and students.*



Other instruments

*Environmental remediation of the uranium legacy and management of other chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (**CBRN**) risks is supported via the EU Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation (**INSC**) and the Instrument Contribution to Stability and Peace (**IcSP**).*

*The European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights (**EIDHR**) is another important thematic financing instruments that support programmes at the regional level.*



Planning New Regional Programmes

Possible areas of intervention in 2018:

Rule of Law

Investment/ Private Sector Development/Trade

Water and Environment

Disaster Risk Reduction



Planning New Regional Programmes

Possible areas of intervention in 2019:

Connectivity

Migration

Border Management

Fight against drugs



Future of EU Development Cooperation with Central Asia

Overall development assistance to Central Asia will be maintained at current levels (EUR 1.1 billion)

The regional programme will be adapted to include a stronger focus on investment, growth and private sector development

Key areas where we see cooperation intensifying are: gender, migration and connectivity

The EU will adopt a new Central Asia Strategy in 2019 which will provide the priorities for the next programming cycle.