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ПОЛИТИЧЕСКИЕ НАКОН

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SOCIO-POLITICAL TRANSFORMATION IN CENTRAL ASIA

Summary: The following article provides a cross-country analysis of the democratic activities in the countries of the Central Asia (CA). It was revealed that the immense amounts of the technical and financial assistance was offered to the enterprises in the region including private and public. A new study identifies challenges and opportunities to help CA countries to diversify their economy and boost their infrastructural capabilities. As a sample the activities of the EU, EBRD, GIZ, ACTED, ICARDA are reassessed.

Objective and methods: This study provides a primary analysis of data and follows the actualities of the work of organizations dealing with the human development issues in the CA countries following the path laid in the framework of activities of international organizations. Author uses the achieved model (composed of several factors: Development, promotion, strategy, legal, human rights, environment, assistance, project, dialogue, cooperation, sustainable).

Keywords: Development, promotion, strategy, legal, human, climate, environment, assistance, project, dialogue, cooperation, sustainable, Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

Formulation of the problem. Central Asia has a centuries-old tradition of bringing Europe and Asia together. Situated at the crossroads between the two continents and the states of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have renewed this role for the region. Important international organizations are conducting cooperation with the countries of the region: most important of them being the EU, EBRD, GIZ, ACTED. Following European organizations are also conducting partnership in CA: Aga Khan Foundation, Aide aux enfants démunis, Association Kareem Mane, Creative Learning, European Foundation, Hevelas Swiss Intercooperation, International Fund for Agricultural Development, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. 2018 was a crucial year for boosting democratic tendencies in CA, taking stock of the experience to deliver a contribution to implementing the European Union - CA Strategy.

Analysis of latest researches and publications. Different organizations are engaged in the international aid programs in the countries of CA. The sample comprised the 223 projects conducted in the Central Asian countries with an average sum of 56.5 million USD. Most projects are directed at the sustainable development (117-52.4%). More than quarter of the projects are intended for the environment issues (77-28.9%). Following the recent developments in Uzbekistan the EBRD opened a new office in Tashkent in 2017. In Uzbekistan EBRD focuses on identifying potential new projects in areas set out in a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the authorities in March 2017. In Tajikistan EBRD focuses on stabilizing and rebuilding

trust in the banking sector, developing private enterprises and agribusiness, improving their liability, quality of municipal services and improving the quality of energy supply, regulation and energy efficiency. In the Kyrgyz Republic it focuses on fostering sustainable growth; promoting the sustainability of public utilities; and supporting critical infrastructure. A landmark renewable energy project in Kazakhstan was co-financed by the EBRD and the Clean Technology Fund with loans of well over €80 million. EBRD is expanding its presence in the agribusiness sector in Kazakhstan with a local currency loan equivalent to US\$ 49.2 million to RG Brands. According to the Memorandum of Understanding, signed between the EBRD and the Ministry for Investment and Development of Kazakhstan, the Bank supports national economic policy known as *Nury Zhol*. The EBRD is setting up a fund to deal with the legacy of Soviet-era uranium mining in the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is reengaging in Uzbekistan with the provision of a financial package of up to US\$ 30 million to JSCB Hamkorbank, the country's privately-owned bank. EBRD provided US\$ 100 million to Uzbekistan's leading bank NBU.

Explanation of the priority unsettled parts of the general issue. In September 2017, in his inaugural address to the UN General Assembly, Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev used the global stage to pledge to protect human rights – a promise that has been transformed into real actions. During 2017-2018, Uzbekistan has increased the accountability of government institutions to citizens. It has banned the forced mobilization of teachers, doctors, and college students

- 1 <http://www.ebrd.com/news/2015/ebird-government-agree-to-boost-investment-in-road-sector-in-kazakhstan.html>.
- 2 EBRD(2015), 'EBRD sets up new fund for Central Asia's uranium mining legacy', <http://www.ebrd.com/news/2015/ebird-sets-up-new-fund-for-central-asias-uranium-mining-legacy.html>. Accessed 17 June 2015.
- 3 EBRD (2017), 'EBRD in US\$ 30 million facility to Uzbekistan's Hamkorbank', <http://www.ebrd.com/news/2017/ebird-in-us-30-million-facility-to-uzbekistans-hamkorbank.html>. Accessed 21 December 2017.
- 4 EBRD (2017), 'EBRD First Vice President Bennett to visit Uzbekistan', <http://www.ebrd.com/news/2017/ebird-first-vice-president-bennett-to-visit-uzbekistan.html>. Accessed 06 November 2017.

agreement in CA, CA Drug Action Program German bi-
in CA, Fund for development projects with civil society
partners, especially in disadvantaged regions.

Main body. The CA countries had diverged more
and more in terms of their legal and economic develop-
ment. The fundamental problem at the root of the weak
economic development was the insufficiently devel-
oped frameworks, in particular the lack of transpar-
ency. The projects in CA supports legal and judicial
reforms in the area of civil and commercial law, pro-
vides assistance to the institutions monitoring govern-
ment activities. GIZ supports in achieving objectives in
the field of international cooperation for sustainable de-
velopment, facilitates change, empowers people to take
sustainable development processes. GIZ operates in
many fields: economic development and employment
promotion; governance and democracy; security, re-
construction, peacebuilding and civil conflict transfor-
mation; food security, health and basic education; and
environmental protection, resource conservation, tour-
ism and climate change mitigation.

ACTED launched EU-funded DIPCHO X pro-
moting integrated Watershed Management between
Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. ACTED has been espe-
cially active in building the capacity of rural communi-
ties to prevent natural disasters through the improved
management of natural resources¹⁰. The following pro-
jects are in process in Tajikistan: Learning and Support-
ing: Two EU Aid Volunteers working on sustainable
development in Tajikistan, Community-based anticipa-
tion strategies to save lives. ACTED in 2016 run 20
projects in total projects 20 having 70 509 direct bene-
ficiaries.

Uzbekistan is a resource-rich, doubly landlocked
country, strategically located in the heart of Central
Asia. Governance at central and local levels is needed
to improve participatory decision-making, transpar-
ency, and the openness of government bodies. The
number of women in the Parliament of Uzbekistan has
increased from 6% in 1994 to 16% in 2015.
ACTED has started developing its activities in Uz-
bekistan in 1999. It is leveraging long-lasting experi-
ence in the framework of a five-fold mandate: Public
health, agricultural activity, environmental protection,
preparedness and liquidation of emergency situations,
water sanitation and hygiene are the main directions of
the ACTED. The purpose of the Uzbekistan's Strategy
of Actions for 2017-2021 is raising the efficiency of re-
forms, creation of conditions to ensure comprehensive
and accelerated development of the state and society.

⁷ 13th European Union-Central Asia ministerial meeting
https://ceas.europa.eu/delegations/turkmenistan/36074/13th-
european-union-central-asia-ministerial-meeting_en. Ac-
cessed 23 November 2017.
⁸ GIZ (2018b), https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/356.html.
Accessed 07 May 2018.
⁹ GIZ (2018c), 'Promotion of the rule of law in Central Asia',
https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/14355.html.
¹⁰ ACTED(2018a), http://www.acted.org/en/tajikistan.
Accessed 27 March 2018.

to labor in fields for the annual cotton-picking season.
These moves—coupled with currency reforms and a for-
eign policy focused on repairing relations with Uzbek-
istan's immediate neighbors have contributed to a hope
in Uzbekistan. On the eve of the 25th anniversary of the
adoption of the Constitution, Sh. Mirziyoyev signed a
Decree on pardoning 2,700 convicts. It is important that
Uzbekistan took to improve the judicial system, labor
conditions and the fight against corruption. EU is con-
sidering two new projects within the European Instru-
ment for Democracy and Human Rights⁵. During the
last two years the reforms facilitated to more than 2528
new citizens were granted the citizenship of the Repub-
lic of Uzbekistan which was almost impossible before.
The EU announced that a new EU Strategy for
Central Asia should be adopted in 2019, taking into ac-
count the changing political and socio-economic re-
gional environment. The Foreign Ministers of the CA
countries, the EU's High Representative for Foreign
Affairs and Security Policy and Vice-President of the
European Commission, and the European Commis-
sioner for International Cooperation and Development
met on 10 November 2017 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan,
for the 13th EU-Central Asia Ministerial Meeting⁶.

The GIZ ("Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internatio-
nale Zusammenarbeit GmbH") has been implementing
sustainable development projects, programs in Kazakh-
stan. Kyrgyzstan being Germany's partner countries in
the context of its international cooperation. GIZ has
been implementing projects in this country since the
1990s. GIZ is implementing projects in CA countries
on a regional, transnational basis. Cooperation in the
health system focuses on reproductive health and
rights, the introduction of development partnerships
with the private sector, and quality improvements in
health services, particularly in the regions. GIZ's pro-
grams support health system development and the fight
against drug use and drug trafficking⁸; GIZ's other ar-
eas of activity in Kyrgyzstan are: 1) improving primary
and secondary education, reform of vocational training,
training of managers, 2) legal and judicial reform, 3)
transboundary dialogue on water resources manage-
ment; support for sustainable natural resource manage-
ment 4) assisting the Ministry of Youth Affairs to im-
prove the prospects for young people in disadvantaged
and conflict-prone areas, 4) promoting civil society or-
ganizations through a fund for small-scale development
projects.

**Aim of our research is stipulated by the follow-
ing criteria:** Transparency, Transboundary water man-
agement

⁵ EEAS(2017), 'EU Ambassador delivered speech on the oc-
casion of the Human Rights Day Celebration', Speech by Am-
bassador Eduardas Štirašis, Head of the EU Delegation to Uz-
bekistan, on the occasion of the 2017 Human Rights Day Cel-
ebration. https://ceas.europa.eu/headquarters/headquarters-
homepage/37888/eu-ambassador-delivered-speech-occa-
sion-human-rights-day-celebration_en. Accessed 25 Decem-
ber 2017.
⁶ The speech by the president of the Republic of Uzbekistan,
Uza.uz/oz/politics/bilimni-avlod-buyuk-keclazhakning-tad-
birkor-khal-farvon-ayt-08-12-2018

region (namely composed of several factors: Development, promotion, strategy, legal, human, climate, environment, assistance, project, dialogue, cooperation, sustainable).

The following projects are in process in Tajikistan: Learning and Supporting: Two EU Aid Volunteers working on sustainable development in Tajikistan, Alleviating energy poverty in Tajikistan, Supporting Pasture Users Unions to prevent pasture degradation in Tajikistan, Community-based anticipation strategies to save lives, Water in Tajikistan, abundant yet challenging. Recent developments indicate that CA countries are all collaborating in all fields. Opening of check points, visa-free movement of people between the countries facilitate the harmonization of the relations among the CA.

The following steps are stipulated by the Strategy of Actions of the Uzbekistan intended for the years 2017-2021. Parliamentary control is enhanced started, **E-government (2017 4th trimester)**, Intended promulgation of **Law on Public services**, decreasing the level of the participation the state (2nd trimester of 2017), **Public control (2017 3rd trimester)**, **Peoples' reception halls** started to operate from 1 of January 2017 at regional and district level processing the addresses, complaints of the people, physical and legal entities. The conduct of the **administrative reforms** and the maintenance of their efficiency. In addition, the state launched the initiative such as the **state-private sector partnership** laying the fundamentals of the legal framework 3rd trimester of 2017. One of these reforms is widening the role of citizens and mass media in the socio-economic life of the country (4th trimester of 2017). Perfection of the tasks and order of the state authorities, the increasing of the control by the councils in the local self-governing bodies is already being take (3rd trimester)¹¹.

Cardinal reforms are currently in progress across the socio-economic, cultural, humanitarian and political life of Uzbekistan. The participants were informed about the essence and substance of the Decent Work Country Program designed to perfect the national labor legislation, improve the labor market, ensure employment and social protection and maintain constant dialogue with the population. The reports provided information on the system of parliamentary and public control over compliance with international labor standards, prevention and elimination of possible risks of using child and forced labor, about the Roadmap for the implementation of the SDGs realized currently in the country. While attending the 107th session of the ILC held in Geneva from May 28 to June 8, 2018 the Uzbek delegation met with the Director General and staff of the International Labor Organization, the leadership of the International Trade Union Confederation and the International Organization of Employers, officials of other countries. During the negotiations, ILO Director-General Guy Ryder informed that Uzbekistan's achievements in recent years are highly appreciated and

The Strategy includes five priority areas. Since 1999,

ACTED has been active in the fields of food security, conflict mitigation, local governance, strengthening CSOs through capacity building, shelter and infrastructure, microfinance, health education, reproductive health care, water and sanitation, etc. ACTED has started implementing its "Uzbekistan CSO Empowerment & Promotion Project" which aims at improving local governance in Uzbekistan by enhancing the capacity of CSOs to act as sustainable development actors. Civil society organizations in Uzbekistan are recognized as key actors in local governance. ACTED and its local partners are conducting a Grassroots Organizations Capacity Assessment of CSOs to identify the trainings. ACTED and its partners continue to increase access for the vulnerable groups, by providing free legal services, online innovative legal tools and engaging legal practitioners to advocate for practical improvements to the legal system. In 2016, over 5,300 marginalized people benefited from legal aid consultations. Particularly of note has been the high response of women (77% of beneficiaries accessing ACTED's free legal aid) to access these legal services for support. ACTED's Approach in Kyrgyzstan ACTED strategy in Kyrgyzstan is based on three Global Program Pillars: 1) To respond to emergencies and build disaster resilience. 2) To strengthen civil society, effective governance and social cohesion. 3) To promote inclusive and sustainable growth. ACTED promotes that empowering communities and developing the capacity of both civil society organizations and local authorities. Since 2014, ACTED has been committed to enhancing access to justice for vulnerable populations in remote areas. ACTED helped establish a network of 71 women's organizations across Kyrgyzstan to facilitate the enforcement of Kyrgyzstan's National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. In 2017, building on its unique community outreach and vast experience in peace building and social cohesion, ACTED developed a Comprehensive Strategy for the Prevention of Violent Extremism. In Kyrgyzstan in 2017 there were 214,222 beneficiaries of the project totaling a budget of \$ 1.4 million. The OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan in co-operation with the National Information-Analytical Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan has been issuing the information bulletin on the Drug Situation in Central Asia on yearly basis since 2003. Several large events were organized by the OSCE Project coordinator in Uzbekistan supporting open doors event at General Prosecutor's Office for International Anti-Corruption Day offering training courses for female managers, organizing regional seminar on combating money laundering in Tashkent. Even in Uzbek media and society, OSCE is promoting social advertisement calling for the eradication of corruption with the help of the distribution of the brochures and posters, TV-rads. **Discussion.** In general, these findings of the CA growth component in defining the assistance in the countries reinforce the total sustainability efforts in the

recognized by the organization and the expert community as well as the advanced nations. The ILO head stressed that the current dynamic development of Uzbekistan is characterized by a bold, open policy aimed at addressing pressing problems of the society. This is evidenced by the fact that within a short period of time Uzbekistan and the ILO have made tangible progress on complex issues. According to Ryder, the achievements made by Uzbekistan in the field of child and forced labor have become a powerful response to the entire international community. For the last years the countries of the region are eliminating the such issues like child and forced labor. The CA countries are improving labor legislation, creating decent working conditions and strengthening social protection¹².

On November 22-23, in Samarkand Asian forum on human rights was held. The forum hosted the representatives of UN and other organizations, human rights institutions in Asia, scholars. On the basis of the Asian forum on human rights the memorandum of the national human rights institutes of Central Asian countries was accepted in Tashkent¹³. It stipulates the creation of the efficient system of maintaining and the defense of the liberties of human by the state according to the international standards¹⁴. On 10 December 2018 on the basis of the Decree by the president of Uzbekistan the Uzbek National center on human rights was given extra tasks to fulfill which makes it more independent in the national and international levels. The decree stipulates that the center is independent from the all state authorities and organizations and is responsible in the fulfillment of the international obligations of Uzbekistan¹⁵. The Independent institute on the monitoring of the formation of civil society (NIMFOGO) is one of the leading NGOs of Uzbekistan. It was formed in 2003 on the initiative of the public organizations, research and educational establishments¹⁶. The strategy of development organization is going to help democratic reforms in Uzbekistan¹⁷. The role of the perfection of the public control is undergoing. International and foreign partners of NIMFOGO such as OSCE, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Conrad Adenauer Stiftung, ACTED, Regional Dialogue (Slovenia), International center for non-commercial law, USAID, John Hopkins University-Civil society studies center, Institute for prognosis and security (France), Tsukuba university are implementing their projects promoting democracy¹⁸.

At present, new risks and challenges to national, regional, and international security include international terrorism, distribution of weapons of mass destruction, illegal drug trafficking, and organized crime. After gaining independence following the collapse of

¹² Guy Ryder: Uzbekistan's dynamic development characterized by bold, open policy. Wednesday, 18 July 2018. <https://www.un.int/uzbekistan/news/guy-ryder-uzbekistan%2099%99-dynamic-development-characterized-by-bold-open-policy>
¹³ В Самарканде состоялся Азиатский форум по правам человека 13 ноября 2018 г. 08:49 (<https://www.uzdaily.uz/articles-id-40282.htm>)
¹⁴ Азиатский форум по правам человека будет проводиться в Самарканде. <http://uzn.uz/ru/society/aziatiskiy-litsya-prashionno>

¹⁵ Inson huquqlari bo'yicha O'zbekiston Respublikasi Milliy markazi faoliyatini takomillashtirish to'g'risida O'zbekiston prezidenti qarori http://uzn.uz/uz/documents/inson-huquqlari-bo-yicha-o-zbekiston-respublikasi-milliy-mar-10-12-2018?ELEMENT_CODE=10.12.2018.23:04
¹⁶ <http://nimfogo.uz/ru/about/nimfogo/>
¹⁷ <http://strategy.uz/markaz-haqida>
¹⁸ <http://nimfogo.uz/ru/about/cooperation/>

¹⁹ forum-po-pravam-cheloveka-budet-provoditsya-tradits-23-11-201823.11.2018.21:16.

²⁰ In the last quarter of the twentieth century, democratic issues made headway in the international context. Democracy became a widely recognized principle for effective and legitimate rule that can be dismissed only at the risk of international isolation and loss of reputation at home and abroad. Democracy promotion is a type of political influence whereby an actor—a state,

clearly eroded. Between spending the past few years decimating the country's remaining opposition—as well as their lawyers—and entrenching rank nepotism, Tajikistan's done nothing to bolster its democratic credentials since 2014. The picture within the EU's report is a bleak one, especially as it pertains to the state of democratic affairs in Central Asia. It is a strange, unexpected turn when Uzbekistan presents a liberalizing regime while the United States regresses into flawed democracy. The US and the EU quickly established diplomatic relations with all the CA republics that emerged from the wreckage of the Soviet Union.

For those following democratization efforts in both North America and Central Asia, the past year has been a strange tour of unexpected developments. The United States' democratic credentials — especially as embodied by its current executive, who routinely demoralizes media and the judicial branch alike — have clearly eroded. Between spending the past few years decimating the country's remaining opposition—as well as their lawyers—and entrenching rank nepotism, Tajikistan's done nothing to bolster its democratic credentials since 2014. The picture within the EU's report is a bleak one, especially as it pertains to the state of democratic affairs in Central Asia. It is a strange, unexpected turn when Uzbekistan presents a liberalizing regime while the United States regresses into flawed democracy. The US and the EU quickly established diplomatic relations with all the CA republics that emerged from the wreckage of the Soviet Union.

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Field of Sustainable Development for the Period until 2030". Task 5.5 stipulates that it is necessary to "ensure the full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for them to lead at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life". Having a critical mass of women in leadership and decision-making positions is positive for human development in all countries. The world practice shows that increasing the representation of women in public administration leads to the fact that legislation is developed considering gender factors, the participation of women in politics suggests that the daily issues of women also begin to rise in parliamentary debates.

Conference participants also acknowledged the need to develop set of measures to create jobs for girls and women with disabilities, scientific, technical and national creativity among women, discuss partnerships and sign memorandums between the Women's Committee of Uzbekistan and the main government and non-governmental organizations organizations that deal with women's issues in Central Asia and other developed countries will be the focus of attention Conference Cove. These activities coincide with the Agenda 5 - Gender equality aim of the SDG.

Conclusion and recommendations. To sum up, the data analyzed in the article shows that the European organizations are the most accepted organizations in Central Asia, besides to their North American and Russian counterparts indicating that these institutions play an essential role vis-a-vis non-European establishments. Here the essential role could also be played by the international development agencies from the international community. These findings enhance the significance of the human development functioning in the CA countries, and the need for further reforms in the region underlining the successes achieved.

datism, Protestantism and Catholicism) exist in a tolerant atmosphere among the overwhelming Muslim population. On December 12, the General Assembly of the United Nations resolution A/RES/73/128 on Enlightenment and Religious tolerance was issued without a vote on the basis of proposal of Uzbekistan²⁴. After the inauguration of President Mirziyoyev, pm.gov.uz site was transformed to a virtual receiving room of the president which is quite illustrative and may be a promising novelty in the overall state system of protection of civil rights. As of December 15, 2018 more than 2,450,837 addresses were processed by the presidential administration of Uzbekistan²⁵. NGOs as the Mahalla Foundation, Sog'lom avlod Foundation, the Association of Business Women, the ECOSAN, the Association of the Disabled, the Federation of Trade Unions, the Association of Doctors, and so on, mediate between specific social groups and the political system, by representing certain societal interests²⁶. Starting from the November 2018 the new political party is being established out of the Ecological Movement of Uzbekistan.

In the Tashkent international conference "The role of women in the democratic renewal and modernization of the country: the experience of Uzbekistan and international practice" the wide range of matters aimed at addressing issues of gender equality, increasing women's role and opportunities in public administration and social protection of women were discussed. Increasing the socio-political activity of women, strengthening their role in government and society, ensuring the employment of women, graduates of vocational colleges, their widespread involvement in entrepreneurship and further strengthening the foundations of the family is set forth as a priority task in the Actions Strategy for 2017-2021. Expanding the role of women in public administration is also a key element of the national Sustainable Development Goal No.5. On October 20, 2018, the Government of Uzbekistan adopted a Resolution "On Measures for the Implementation of National Goals and Objectives in the

²⁴ www.un.org/en/ga/resolutions/73/shmtl
²⁵ pm.gov.uz/ru

²⁶ <https://www.bti-project.org/en/reports/country-reports/default/uzb/>

Volume 1

1(41)
2019

East European
Science Journal

East European Scientific Journal
Wschodnioeuropejskie Czasopismo Naukowe