



# EU-KYRGYZ REPUBLIC RELATIONS

The European Union and the Kyrgyz Republic have been partners since the country's independence in 1991, increasing their cooperation and areas of interaction every year. **The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA)**, in force since 1999, outlines three main pillars of cooperation:



**POLITICAL  
DIALOGUE**



**ECONOMIC  
RELATIONS**



**COOPERATION IN SOCIO-ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, FINANCE,  
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND CULTURE SECTORS**

In July 2019, the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic concluded negotiations of a new **Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA)**, which will provide a new legal basis for stronger bilateral cooperation in a number of new areas. The work proceeds on preparing the text for signature.

The Kyrgyz Republic is also a partner of the EU through the **European Union Strategy for Central Asia**, adopted in June 2019.

## EU-KYRGYZ POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS

The political dialogue element of the EU-Kyrgyz Republic Partnership and Cooperation Agreement aims at **strengthening the links between the Kyrgyz Republic, the EU and its Member States**.

Discussions take place on many levels, in different formats and on different issues, including:

**Annual Cooperation Council at ministerial level**

**Annual Subcommittee on Trade and Investment**

**Annual Cooperation Committee at senior officials' level**

**Annual Human Rights Dialogue**

**Annual Subcommittee on  
Development Cooperation**

**Parliamentary Cooperation Committee between Members of  
the European Parliament and the Kyrgyz Parliament**

**EU-Kyrgyz trade in goods has increased** to reach € 1.32 million in 2022, up from €337 million in 2021. This increase is also due to the **Generalised Scheme of Preferences+ (GSP+)** status granted by the EU to the Kyrgyz Republic since 2016. This opened up new potential for economic relations and **offers opportunities for Kyrgyzstan to increase and diversify its exports and to strengthen its economy**. Kyrgyzstan has potential to maximise the GSP+ benefits by increasing utilization rates for all eligible products.

**The GSP+ scheme** offers Kyrgyzstan zero customs duties on over 6,600 tariff lines. In exchange, Kyrgyzstan has committed to the effective implementation of 27 core international conventions on human and labour rights, climate and environmental protection and good governance. The effective implementation is subject to regular monitoring.

The Kyrgyz Republic has been a member of the World Trade Organisation since 1998.

## THE EU AND THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC: PARTNERSHIP FOR DEVELOPMENT

The new **Multiannual Indicative Programme 2021-2027** responds to the Kyrgyz National Development Strategy 2040 (NDS), adopted in November 2018, which sets out a long-term roadmap for the Kyrgyz Republic (KR) to emerge as a strong, self-sufficient and prosperous state by 2040. Three priority areas for cooperation have been selected:



**GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL  
TRANSFORMATION**



**HUMAN  
DEVELOPMENT**



**GREEN AND CLIMATE RESILIENT  
ECONOMY**

## €62 million total resources allocated for the period 2021 – 2024

Of the bilateral funds allocated to the Kyrgyz Republic, the majority is implemented through **Budget Support**, bearing witness to the mutual trust and shared values between partners. Two Budget Support programmes are ongoing on



**DIGITALISATION (€21.7 MILLION)**



**EDUCATION (€32 MILLION)**

Additionally, under the 2021-2027 regional Central Asia programme, €140 million are allocated to the region in the different priority areas, along with €76 million for the **Erasmus+ programme to enhance student and academic mobility and facilitate vital people-to-people contacts**.

Under the regional allocation, the **EU provides support in areas related to security**, notably through long-standing border management and drug prevention programmes, as well as other regional priorities such as energy efficiency, water management, support to private sector development and trade, and rule of law.

Other regional projects currently implemented in Kyrgyzstan are:

- **Dialogue and Action for Resourceful Youth in Central Asia (DARYA)**, on vocational education and training;
- **EU Support to Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)**, on regional energy integration and renewable energy reforms.

The EU also **contributes to chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear risks mitigation** and has initiated the creation of a European Bank for Reconstruction and Development-managed fund that remedies some of the most dangerous uranium legacy sites in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. With €29 million invested, the EU is by far the main contributor to the fund.

## EU SUPPORT TO DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION IN THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC

Actions supporting the **consolidation of democracy** and helping to **preserve and build peace** form a core part of the EU's external action. In the aftermath of the ethnic clashes of 2010, the EU quickly mobilized funds for support of institutional reform and democracy consolidation, and has remained engaged in this area ever since.

A substantial **rule of law programme** (€12 million for 2022-2025) supports the Kyrgyz Republic in **enhancing the quality of legislation and increase the efficiency, independence, professionalism and capacities of the judiciary and services of the justice sector**.

In addition, a regional **Rule of Law programme** (€8 million for 2020-2024) covering all five Central Asian countries and implemented by the Council of Europe reinforces human rights, rule of law and democracy in accordance with European and other international standards, based on a demand-driven approach.

## EU HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT TO CRISIS RESPONSE

Through its European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), the European Union is providing **humanitarian assistance in response to the armed conflict** that marred the border between Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in mid-September 2022. The aid contributes to support about 12,000 people in some of the worst affected areas in Kyrgyzstan's Batken province and in Tajikistan's Sughd province, Rasht valley and Lakhsh districts.