

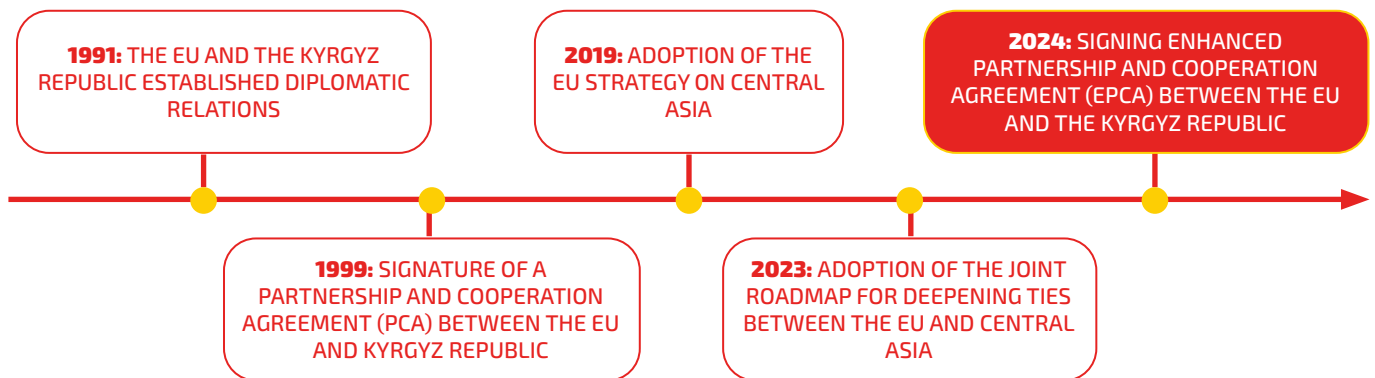


EU-KYRGYZ REPUBLIC ENHANCED PARTNERSHIP AND COOPERATION AGREEMENT

On 25 June 2024, the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic signed an Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA).

The signing of the **Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA)** demonstrates the commitment of the European Union and the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation to reflect new political and economic realities and the advancement of the partnership.

The Kyrgyz Republic is the second Central Asian partner to sign an EPCA with the EU.



In over **30 years of bilateral cooperation**, relations between the Kyrgyz Republic and the European Union have progressed steadily. **The signature of the EPCA has been an important priority** to deepen and diversify cooperation at all levels: bilateral, regional and international.

The EPCA replaces the 1999 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA), and provides a new legal basis for deepening bilateral cooperation in a number of areas such as:



The EPCA complements the regional 2019 **EU Strategy on Central Asia** and the 2023 **Joint Roadmap for Deepening Ties between the EU and Central Asia**, which provide a robust framework to strengthen regional cooperation by taking advantage of new opportunities and addressing common challenges together.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY

The EPCA has strong potential to support the Kyrgyz Republic in its reform and modernisation processes. Through the signing of the EPCA, the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic **will strengthen the promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms**, respect for democratic principles, the rule of law and good governance, as well as the development of parliamentary democracy.

The Agreement also stipulates that the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic will cooperate **to strengthen civil society and its role** in economic, social and political development of an open democratic society.

TRADE

The trade title of the agreement builds on World Trade Organisation commitments to promote **transparent and predictable rules** and standards for trade. Such rules are in the interest of the business climate, benefiting both EU and Kyrgyz businesses. The EPCA includes an ambitious **Trade and Sustainable Development Chapter**. It aims at promoting fair and open **competition**, which will benefit Kyrgyz consumers, and small and medium-sized companies and incorporates several provisions on **labour rights** and decent work. It also includes several provisions on **environmental and climate protection** to promote sustainable economic growth through trade, benefiting EU and Kyrgyz societies.

The Kyrgyz Republic is EU's third trading partner in Central Asia. In 2023, EU-Kyrgyz trade in goods increased by 116% (over 2022) and reached EUR 2.845 billion. Kyrgyz Republic continues preventing the circumvention of EU sanctions against Russia, inspiring further trust for EU-Kyrgyz trade.

EDUCATION

The EU and the Kyrgyz Republic will **enhance people-to-people contacts**, including through cooperation and exchanges in the fields of:



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY



INNOVATION DEVELOPMENT



EDUCATION AND CULTURE

The EPCA will strengthen cooperation to promote the modernisation of the education and training systems in the Kyrgyz Republic and to promote lifelong learning.

The EU promotes academic mobility and cooperation projects with the Kyrgyz Republic **through the Erasmus+ programme**. Kyrgyz universities have also been involved in **five Capacity Building projects** helping them to:



DEVELOP THEIR CURRICULA



IMPROVE TEACHING AND LEARNING PRACTICES



MODERNISE THEIR GOVERNANCE

Scientific research, including the mobility and training of researchers is an important area of cooperation between the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic. Under the 2021-2027 programming period, two Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) projects, funded by the EU, will involve organisations from the Kyrgyz Republic.

The regional programme **Dialogue and Action for Resourceful Youth in Central Asia (DARYA)** is dedicated to vocational education and training. It is worth **EUR 20 million for the period 2022-2027**.

ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the EPCA, the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic will develop their cooperation to preserve, protect, improve and rehabilitate:



THE QUALITY OF THE ENVIRONMENT



HUMAN HEALTH



SUSTAINABLE UTILISATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The EU and the Kyrgyz Republic will promote measures at international level to deal with regional or global environmental problems, such as to combat and adapt to **climate change**.

In bilateral dialogue between the EU and the Kyrgyz Republic, issues related to water management, integration of environment into other sectors and transition to Green and Circular economy are among the main priorities. The Kyrgyz Republic is a main stakeholder of the **Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Water, Energy and Climate Change**.

ENERGY

The EPCA provides opportunities for **cooperation with the EU in sectors such as renewable energy sources, energy efficiency and energy security** (Article 253). Cooperation also aims at promoting regional energy cooperation, including promoting the integration of the Central Asian countries with each other and into international markets and corridors.

TRANSPORT

The objectives of the EPCA in the field of transport are to promote efficient, safe, sustainable and secure transport operations and systems, including their social and environmental aspects, in particular regarding climate change. The EPCA will also enhance sustainable **regional connectivity of transport networks**.