



# EUROPEAN UNION – KYRGYZ REPUBLIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

Bishkek 2022

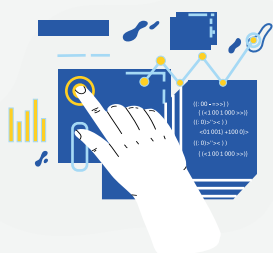
# EUROPEAN UNION – KYRGYZ REPUBLIC COOPERATION FOR DEVELOPMENT

The European Union (EU) and the Kyrgyz Republic have been partners since the country's independence in 1991. The EU cooperation activities in Kyrgyzstan include bilateral, regional and thematic programmes, which are guided by the **Partnership and Cooperation Agreement** between the EU and Kyrgyzstan, the **EU-Central Asia Strategy** and the **EU Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia**. The new Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement is expected to enter into force soon.

The **Multiannual Indicative Programme for Kyrgyzstan** defines three priority areas for EU support to Kyrgyzstan in 2021-2027 with **up to EUR 62 million in grants allocated for 2021-2024**:

## PRIORITY AREAS OF MULTIANNUAL INDICATIVE PROGRAMME 2021-2027

### GOVERNANCE AND DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION



Promote **rule of law**  
Improve **governance**  
Build an effective & non-discriminatory **digitalisation**

### HUMAN DEVELOPMENT



Develop inclusive and equitable **quality education** and improve **digital, media and green skills**  
**Gender equality, youth empowerment & human rights**

### GREEN AND CLIMATE- RESILIENT ECONOMY



Support **climate and environmental action** and promote **Integrated Water Resource Management**  
Support the **development of green business**

The bilateral programme is complemented by additional resources to support regional cooperation and priority thematic issues, such as the **EU Investment Facility, Erasmus+ Higher Education Programme, resilience to COVID-19, trade development, and security and scientific cooperation**.

Cross-cutting priorities, such as **human rights, gender equality, youth** and **climate change**, and fundamental principles, including **leaving no one behind** and the need to **build back better**, are central to the EU's cooperation.

**The EU support to Kyrgyzstan takes many forms, including:**

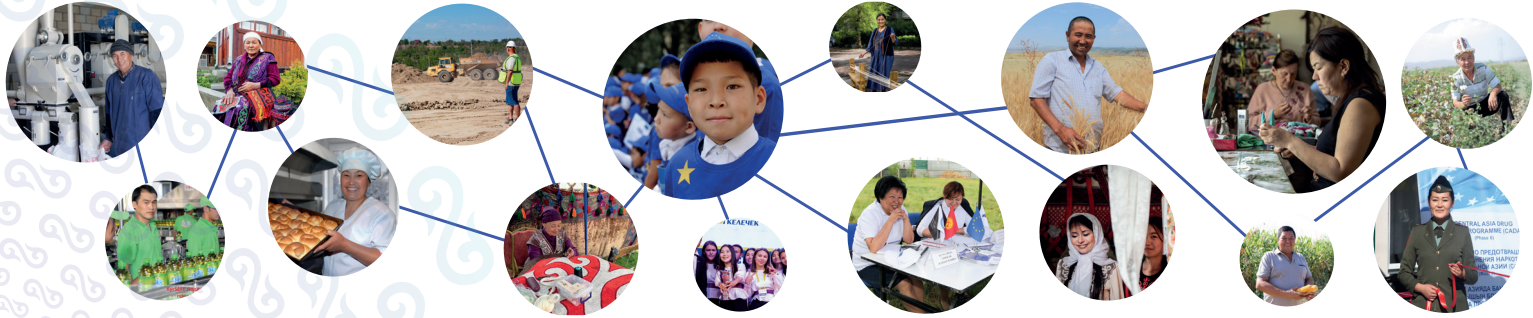
- **Budget support:** direct financial transfers to the state, conditional on engaging in sustainable development reforms,
- **Bilateral & regional** grants to implementing partners,
- **Blending:** using grants to complement loans to attract public and private investors, especially for infrastructure projects and support to the private sector, and
- **Twinning:** facilitating partnerships & sharing expertise between Kyrgyzstan and the EU member states.



To maximise the impact of the cooperation in Kyrgyzstan, where possible, the EU works closely with its member states and partners in a **Team Europe approach**. The priority areas and EU's regional and thematic work align with the **UN's 2030 Agenda**, the **Paris Agreement** and the **EU's Global Gateway Strategy**, promoting sustainable partnerships for a connected world.



# SUCCESS STORIES OF EU SUPPORT TO THE KYRGYZ REPUBLIC



## EDUCATION

Building on the EU's support to the Kyrgyz educational sector, in 2022, the EU committed EUR 32 million via budget support and technical assistance to the state to improve the educational quality, promote gender equality and multilingual education, and help the government implement its Education Development Strategy 2040. With the help of the EU:

- all new textbooks, learning and teaching materials **are made gender responsive**,
- **pre-service teacher training will include multilingual education programmes** across the country,
- **media and green skills are integrated into compulsory school education.**



## SMALL AND MEDIUM-SIZED BUSINESSES

The EU is dedicated to supporting the sustainability and growth of small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) in Kyrgyzstan.

- The PERETO Programme has advised **over 740 entrepreneurs from the hospitality and tourism sector** on energy and resource efficiency.
- Ready4Trade provides **tailor-made technical assistance to over 80 SMEs** to enhance their export potential, focusing on women-owned businesses and female employment.
- These and other EU projects have improved businesses' **access to finance** and provided for **job creation** and **energy saving**.



## RULE OF LAW

Since 2014, the EU has allocated over EUR 32 million to assist the Kyrgyz Republic to strengthen its **justice system and the rule of law**.

The EU has strengthened institutions and helped citizens claim their rights via promoting transparency, accountability and anti-corruption, improving the efficiency of the legislative process, and humanising the criminal system.



## DIGITALISATION

The EU has committed nearly EUR 22 million to assist the Kyrgyz Government in implementing its Digital Transformation Concept in 2020-2023. The programme has contributed to:

- **establishing a Personal Data Protection Agency** to foster a fair and democratic digital transformation,
- **integrating local governments to the information system "Sanarip Aimak"** to provide e-services to urban & rural populations and reduce the digital divide,
- **improving cybersecurity and promoting data analytics training**, especially for women.

The support includes a EUR 2 million twinning project that provides expertise from the EU member states to **advance e-governance**.



## GOVERNANCE

On **border management**, since 2003, the EU has provided more than EUR 60 million to the Central Asian countries, through the Bishkek-based Border Management Programme in Central Asia (BOMCA). The project enhances security and stability in the region in many ways, including via:

- advancing cross-border cooperation,
- improving border checks and procedures,
- helping prevent migrant smuggling & human trafficking,
- assisting with preventing and detecting corruption,
- supporting living conditions for people in border areas.



## CLIMATE ACTION AND GREEN ECONOMY

Under the EU Investment Facility, the EU has provided EUR 89 million in grants to over 20 water, energy, waste and SME projects, attracting a further EUR 156 million in loans and grants from stakeholders, such as EBRD and EIB.

The water projects supported by the EU in 15 cities and 8 villages benefit **over 900,000 beneficiaries** with improved access to safe water and wastewater services.

## EXAMPLES OF EU SUPPORT TO THE REGIONS OF KYRGYZSTAN



### CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS (CSOs)

The EU is committed to strengthening the Kyrgyz civil society's ability to reach, empower and represent local populations and protect their rights.

By supporting CSOs as actors of governance, the EU promotes sustainable growth and social service delivery, as well as human rights, gender equality, youth empowerment, and fundamental freedoms in general. The EU's support to the Kyrgyz CSOs has contributed to **tackling social discrimination**, promoting **freedom of expression, advancing digital skills** among youth, women and local communities, and **fostering socio-economic development** in the regions.

The EU's engagement with CSOs is guided by the "EU Roadmap for Engagement with Civil Society in the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2027", "EU Human Rights and Democracy Country Strategy for the Kyrgyz Republic 2021-2024", and the EU Communication "The roots of democracy and sustainable development: Europe's engagement with Civil Society in external relations".



### ERASMUS+

Erasmus+, the EU's programme for education, training, youth and sports, offers a range of opportunities to higher education students, staff and institutions in Kyrgyzstan.

Between 2015 and 2020, Erasmus+:

- Supported mobility of up to one year between Kyrgyzstan and the EU for **over 1100 students, researchers and staff**, allowing both sides to learn from each other academically and professionally.
- Awarded over **75 Erasmus Mundus scholarships to Master's students from Kyrgyzstan**, covering the tuition, travel and living allowance to obtain a double or multiple degree from at least two different European countries.
- Contributed to **modernising higher education institutions** in Kyrgyzstan. For instance, Kyrgyz institutions benefitted from around 80 occasions under the Erasmus+ Capacity Building in Higher Education action.

Through Erasmus+, the EU aims to further promote mobility and enhance higher education in Kyrgyzstan in 2021-2027.



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