



#EU4UZ: Partnership in Action



EU Delegation to Uzbekistan

The Delegation in Tashkent is one of 140 EU diplomatic missions around the world. Its role is to present, explain and implement the European Union's policy in Uzbekistan, and to analyse and report on the developments in the country.

The Delegation

- Represents the European Union in the Republic of Uzbekistan;
- Ensures local EU Presidency and coordination with Member State embassies;
- Handles bilateral relations in the areas of political, economic, trade, financial and technical cooperation, in particular to implement the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement and the European Union's Strategy for Central Asia;
- Promotes and defends values and interests of the EU;
- Promotes EU cooperation at a national and regional level (Central Asia);
- Maintains and increases visibility, awareness and understanding of the EU.



Ambassador

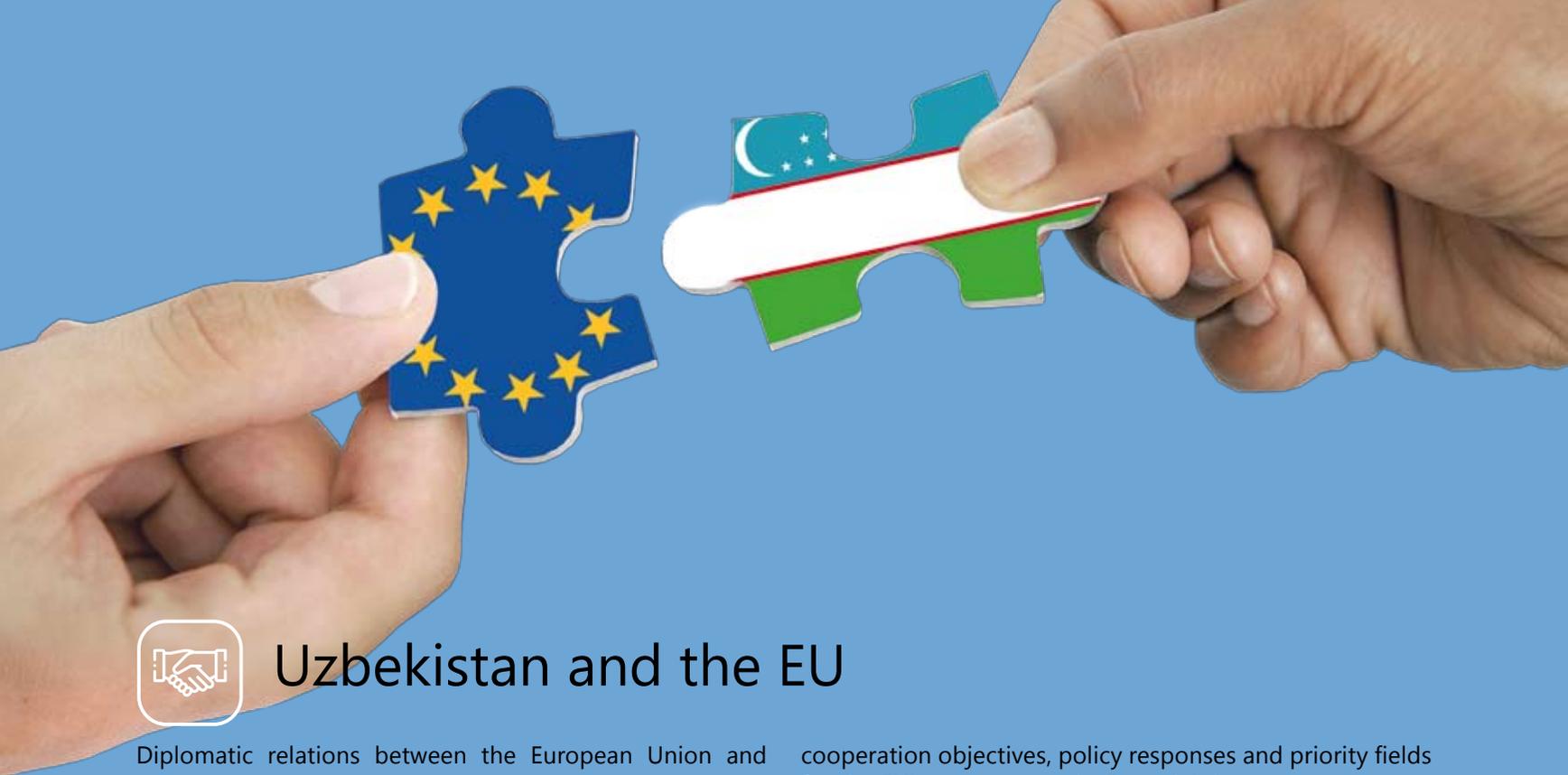
Mr Eduards Stiprais graduated from the Faculty of Economics of the University of Latvia, and trained at the National School of Administration of France and the Swedish Institute of International Affairs.

Career diplomat at the Latvian Foreign Service, he has served as the Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to the European Union.

In July 2016, he was appointed as Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan. He speaks Latvian, English, French and Russian.



Ambassador **Eduards Stiprais**,
Head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan



Uzbekistan and the EU

Diplomatic relations between the European Union and the Republic of Uzbekistan were established in 1994, and have been developing steadily ever since. The signature of the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) in 1996 paved the way for a broader bilateral relationship. The Agreement covers political dialogue; trade in goods; business and investment; intellectual, industrial and commercial property protection; legislative cooperation; economic cooperation; cooperation on matters related to democracy and human rights; cooperation on prevention of illegal activities and the prevention and control of illegal immigration; cultural cooperation and financial cooperation in the field of technical assistance.

Since 2007, the EU and Uzbekistan hold annual Dialogues on **Human Rights as well as Justice & Home Affairs** in Brussels and Tashkent. EU relations with Uzbekistan are embedded in the regularly reviewed **EU and Central Asia Strategy for a New Partnership**, which outlines the overall

cooperation objectives, policy responses and priority fields for the EU's engagement in Central Asia.

The EU opened its diplomatic representation in Tashkent in 2011.

The new leadership of Uzbekistan under President Mirziyoyev has launched significant reforms of the judiciary, administration and security services and is making strides to improve the business climate. The EU encourages these and other reforms and in particular their effective implementation.

The EU has engaged with the new leadership through repeated visits of the European Parliament, the EU Special Representative for Central Asia, European Financial Institutions and EEAS/Commission officials. This process is complemented by concrete measures to support the Uzbek reforms, e.g. cooperation to implement the EU-Uzbekistan Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the field of energy has been renewed in February 2017.

Main instruments of political dialogue

The Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) provides for several institutions, made up of European and Uzbek officials, to monitor and ensure its implementation:



The Cooperation Council meets once in a year at ministerial level in Brussels and supervises the implementation of the agreed measures.



Three Cooperation Subcommittees of experts provide technical insight, meeting once a year in Brussels or Tashkent. These are the subcommittees for Justice and Home Affairs, Human Rights and related issues; Trade, Investment, Energy and Transport; and Development Cooperation



The Cooperation Committee of senior officials meets once a year either in Brussels or Tashkent and assists the Council



The Parliamentary Cooperation Committee of members of the Uzbek Parliament and the European Parliament maintain parliamentary relations by meeting once a year in Brussels.

The EU-Uzbek relations thrive in the wider context of the **European partnership with Central Asian** countries. This includes regular political and human rights dialogues, as well as cooperation on numerous issues such as education, the rule of law and sustainable development.

EU works towards increasing awareness of youth about the Human Rights



32 students from the International Law Department of Tashkent State University of Law participated in "The EU Mini Model 2017", an interactive role game designed to help students learn about human rights issues.

Head of the European Union Delegation to Uzbekistan Ambassador Eduards Stiprais noted: «*The protection and promotion of human rights is one of the priority activities of the European Union in the Republic of Uzbekistan. We always stand for dialogue of all sides and making platforms for discussion of human rights and freedoms. Today's game is a perfect example of such a platform. Students have demonstrated excellent knowledge of basic human rights and freedoms.*»



EU-UZ Cooperation Development Timeline

July 18

Re-activation of economic and commercial relations. Negotiating directives for Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) were adopted by the European Council

January 24

The President of Uzbekistan I. Karimov made an official visit to Brussels. He met with the President of the European Commission M. Barroso and the Commissioner for Energy G. Oettinger. The high-level visit demonstrated both parties' interests in deepening cooperation in various spheres

July 16-19

Uzbekistan delegation headed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs A. Kamilov visited Brussels

November 10

Uzbekistan hosted the EU – Central Asia meeting of foreign ministers in Samarkand chaired by F. Mogherini

March 27

F. Mogherini visited Uzbekistan for the second time to participate in the Tashkent Conference on Afghanistan: "Peace process, security cooperation and regional connectivity"



1996



2017



2018

1994



June 21
PCA was signed in Florence

2011



May 31
The European Union Delegation to Uzbekistan is officially accredited



November 9-10
The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy F. Mogherini made an official visit to Uzbekistan. She took part in the international conference on stability and security in Central Asia, whereby the European delegation was received by the President S. Mirziyoyev



November
Launch of negotiations of upgraded Enhanced Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (EPCA)



Trade and economic relations

Under the Partnership and Cooperation Agreement (PCA) Uzbekistan and the EU grant each other most-favoured-nation treatment with respect to:



Custom duties and charges applied to imports and exports;



Direct and indirect taxes applied to imported goods; and



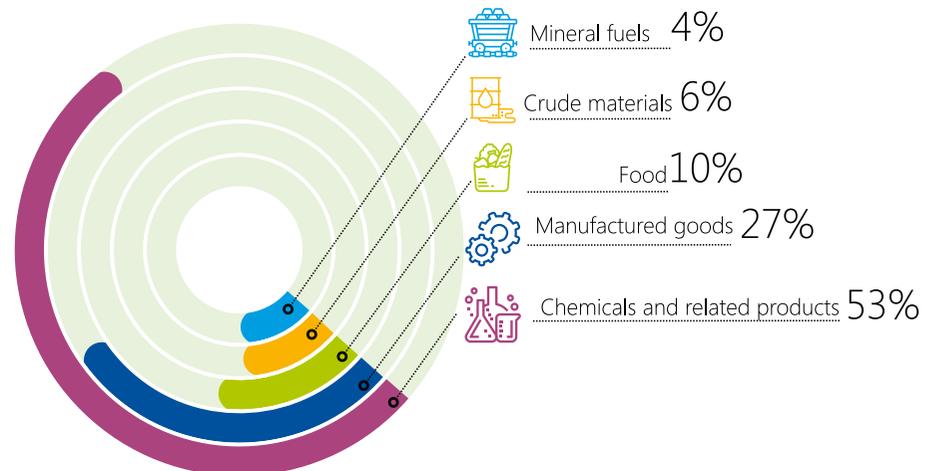
Rules relating to the sale, purchase, transport, distribution and use of goods on the domestic market.

The PCA also provides for the removal of all quantitative restrictions on trade between the EU and Uzbekistan, with provisions to protect domestic producers in cases where they may be harmed by imports. The economic cooperation under the PCA seeks to ensure that Uzbekistan's international trade follows World Trade Organisation's rules. Following the consent of the European Parliament to the '**Textile Protocol**' amending the PCA, the relevant provisions of the PCA will now also apply to the bilateral trade in textile products.

Uzbekistan benefits from **the EU Generalised System of Preferences (GSP)** – an autonomous trade arrangement whereby the EU provides easier access to the EU market. The GSP ensures that exporters from beneficiary countries pay lower or no duties on some or all of the products that they sell to the EU.

TOP-5 Products

Exported by Uzbekistan to the European Union in 2017



Source: Eurostat Comext - Statistical regime 4



Development cooperation

The EU's development cooperation with Uzbekistan and other countries in Central Asia is based on a multi-annual regional cooperation strategy adapted to the situation and needs of each country.

The Government of Uzbekistan embarked upon a structural reform aiming at transforming a Soviet-style economy based on cotton and its primary processing to an industrial and agro-industrial economy. The EU Multiannual Indicative Programme 2014-2020 supports this development policy shift - it earmarks €168 million for support to Rural Development in four subsectors:

1. Diversification/productivity;
2. Sustainable management of natural resources and ecosystems;

3. Employment and income generation;
4. Enhancement of socio-economic living standards of the most vulnerable groups in rural areas.

This allocation under the **EU Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI)** is complemented by several thematic programmes, including the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR), the Non-State Actor programme, and in environmental remediation through the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation. In this context, Uzbekistan hosts the Central Asia Regional Secretariat for the Chemical, Biological Radiological and Nuclear Centre of Excellence which opened in Tashkent in July 2015. Assistance is also provided by a number of EU Member States.

Advancing women's rights through enhanced protection and self-employment

A unique baseline on family conflict management training

In July 2018 ACTED and its three partners conducted in Samarkand, Bukhara and Tashkent regions a pilot gender equality appraisal at the communal level, in order identify potential beneficiaries of shelter services and create a unique baseline on family conflicts in rural areas. Relying on ACTED's methodology to interact with populations at the grass-root level, the 3 partners carried out the appraisal, in coordination with the National Women Committee, a women-oriented body, present in the 14 regions of the country and in 219 municipalities and districts. The activity, implemented in 10 target districts, through a se-

ries of 100 appraisal meetings, involved Mahallas Committees and local women, including women survivors and vulnerable women at risk of violence against women and girls (VAWG).

«This series of appraisals allowed us to showcase and inform the realities women survivors or at risk of VAWG are facing in a country where people sorely lack understanding on issues related to domestic violence due to persistent stereotypes» – Farzona Khashimova, project manager



January 2018 –
January 2020



EU contracted amount:
€ 399,730



Sustainable management of water resources in rural areas in Uzbekistan

Component 1: National policy framework for water governance and integrated water resources management (IWRM) and supply part

«The traineeship at Koblenz University for Applied Science (Germany) helped me to incorporate modern teaching methods fitting very well to the new curriculum that we jointly developed with German professors. Based on our joint work teaching IWRM will be not only new at the Academy for Public Administration but also inter-active and therefore very interesting for our students».

Mr. Shafkad Asadov, teacher of the Academy of Public Administration.



2016 – 2019



EU contracted amount:
€ 12 000 000



Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan

«Firstly, this year has started with number of positive and life changing opportunities in our village. With EU Project initiative, we've established pomegranate growers' Cooperative to produce natural pomegranate juice that adds value to our pomegranates. Secondly, we have already met with our potential customers from Thailand and New Zealand. We used the trade show to come into contact with other growers, suppliers, processors and have the opportunity to find out more about trends, because we don't have time to do that day-to-day».

Isroil Nematov, Director «Dekhkanabad Asl Anori», pomegranate growers' cooperative, Syrdarya region



2015-2018



EU Contracted amount: EUR
€ 9 328 000

In addition to benefiting from bilateral development projects, Uzbekistan benefits from support under the EU-Central Asia regional programme. Uzbekistan currently participates in 2 EU- Central Asia regional programmes which address **cross borders challenges**: the EU Border Management Central Asia Programme (BOMCA) and Central Asia Drugs Action Programme (CADAP).

The three regional policy platforms that Uzbekistan benefits from are the EU-Central Asia **Rule of Law Platform**, the **EU-Central Asia Environment and Water Cooperation Platform**, and the **EU-Central Asia Education Platform**. Moreover, the country benefits from specific expertise in the area of higher education, and is also eligible to the **ERASMUS +** programme through the regional programme.

The Central Asia region is particularly prone to natural hazards, including earthquakes, floods and landslides. Improving the capacity of national institutions and local communities to prepare for and respond to disaster is a priority for EU humanitarian action in the region. Under its current **Disaster Preparedness Programme**, the Commission is funding community-based initiatives to increase the resilience of the population to recurrent disaster. From 1994 to 2015 the EU humanitarian funding to Central Asia has been in excess of **€222 million**.

In 2017, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) renewed its cooperation with Uzbekistan. The European Investment Bank (EIB) signed a framework agreement with the country in October 2017.

Case Study: €3.4 million support to management training

Private sector development and the industrialisation of small - and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) are key priorities of the government of Uzbekistan. Upon request, the European Union has therefore extended its Management Training Programme until September 2018. So far 126 senior managers from leading Uzbek SMEs have been trained in modern management techniques, including practical training and involvement in day-to-day management in 20

EU Member States. 29 professional trainers have further enhanced their expertise to better perform their daily work in chambers of commerce and industry or other organisations that provide support to businesses.

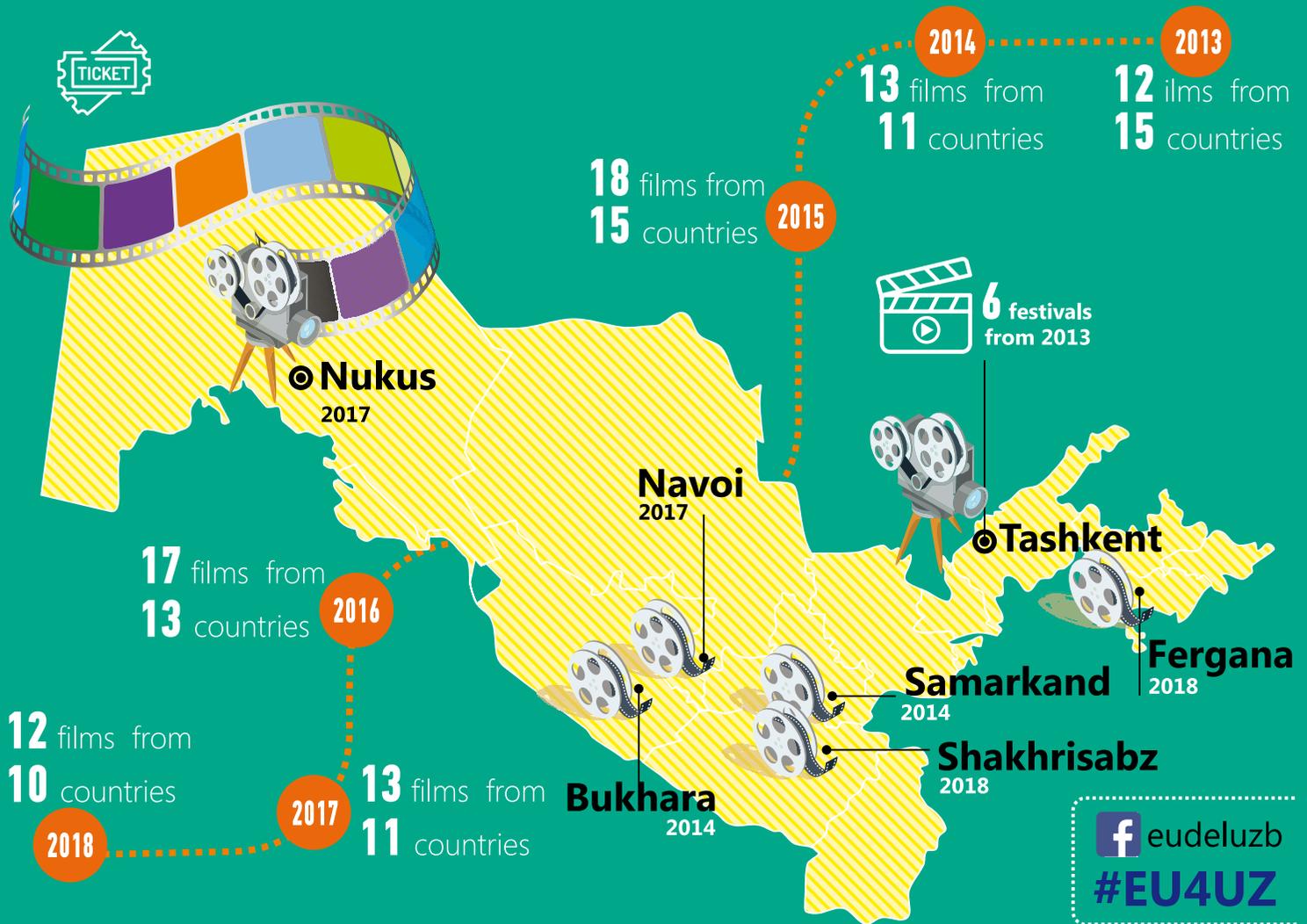
Iroda Turakhanova, manager at Turon Porcelain, beneficiary of the Management Training Program: *«After my internship I couldn't wait to share new knowledge with my co-workers. I was glad to present the products of «Turon Porcelain» to my host company «Ceramiche Artistiche Marco Pizzato». They liked the national patterns that we use in our porcelain».*



List of EU-UZ Projects

AREA OF COOPERATION	PROJECT TITLE	TIMEFRAME	
 RULE OF LAW	Support to Criminal Judicial Reforms	2012-2014	
	Strengthening the bicameral parliamentary system	2012-2014	
 SOCIAL SERVICES	Improving maternal and child welfare services	2012-2016	
	Building strong social network for vulnerable families	2013-2015	
	Strengthening the well-being of children and vulnerable families	2012-2013	
	Enhancement of Vulnerable Children Protection Mechanism	2018-2019	
 EDUCATION	Protection of children affected by migration	2018-2020	
	Inclusive education for children with special needs	2014-2016	
	Erasmus+ Programme	2014-2020	
 EDUCATION	Erasmus Mundus	2014-2020	
	 SUSTAINABLE RURAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Management Training Programme	2013-2018
		Sustainable Development in Rural Areas of Uzbekistan	2015-2018
	Strengthening Transport and Logistics Business Intermediary Organizations in Central Asia	2017-2019	
	Strengthening rural and community tourism Business Intermediary Organisations for Inclusive Economic Development in Central Asia	2017-2020	
Horticulture Development	2017-2021		
 ENVIRONMENT	Public Financial Management assessment	2018-2019	
	 ENVIRONMENT	Improvement of the solid waste management system in the City of Samarkand	2014-2021
		National Policy Framework for Water Governance and Integrated Water Resources Management	2016-2019
	Sustainable Management of Water Resources in Rural Areas in Uzbekistan: Technical Capacity Building	2016-2019	
Raising awareness and partnership for sustainable water and environment development	2016-2019		
 HUMAN RIGHTS	Returning PATH: Promoting Access To basic Human rights for vulnerable women and men	2015-2018	
	Advancing women's rights through enhanced protection and self-employment	2018-2020	
	Advancing civil society in promoting economic, social and cultural rights standards	2018-2020	
	Support to third party monitoring of the cotton harvest regarding child and forced labour	2018-2019	

European Film Festival: BRIDGE AMONG COUNTRIES, CITIES AND CULTURES



OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

6
Years

85
Films

7
Regions

18
European
Countries

More than
20 000
spectators



Cultural relations

Since 2013, the Delegation of the European Union in Uzbekistan together with the National Agency «Uzbekino» organises «European Film Festival» in Tashkent on a yearly basis. It has already become one of the most visible and large-scale cultural projects in Uzbekistan. It annually welcomes around five thousand viewers in the capital.

Since 2016 the Festival has expanded its geography, and started being held in other cities of Uzbekistan. In 2017 the festival, besides Tashkent, was organised in Navoi and Nukus, and in 2018 in Shakhrisabz and Fergana.



4 Facts about the European Union



The EU is the world's largest trading bloc. It accounts for 15% of world trade in goods. It is the fourth largest importer of goods from Uzbekistan, and its eighth largest trading partner.



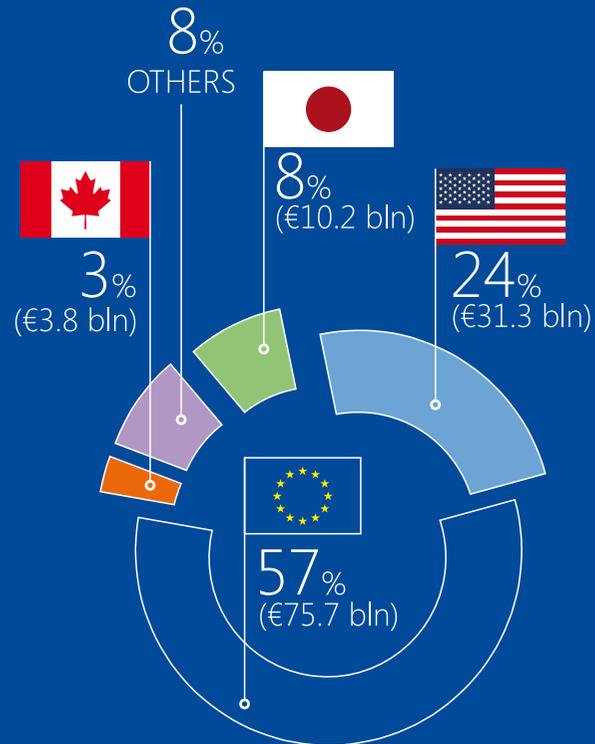
The EU was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2012 for six decades of work in advancing peace in Europe.



The EU has the most ambitious plan to mitigate the consequences of climate change. For 2020, it aims to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 20%, increase the share of renewable energy to 20%, and achieve energy savings of 20% or more.



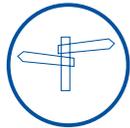
The EU remains the world's leading donor of development assistance: €75.7 bln in 2017. It allocated € 168 mln to Uzbekistan and € 1 bln to Central Asia in 2014-2020.



Get to know the European Union



Our motto:
"Unity in Diversity"



Total area of the EU:
4.3 mln km²



24 official
languages



12 stars forming a circle symbolize
the ideals of perfection, integrity
and unity.



28 Member
States

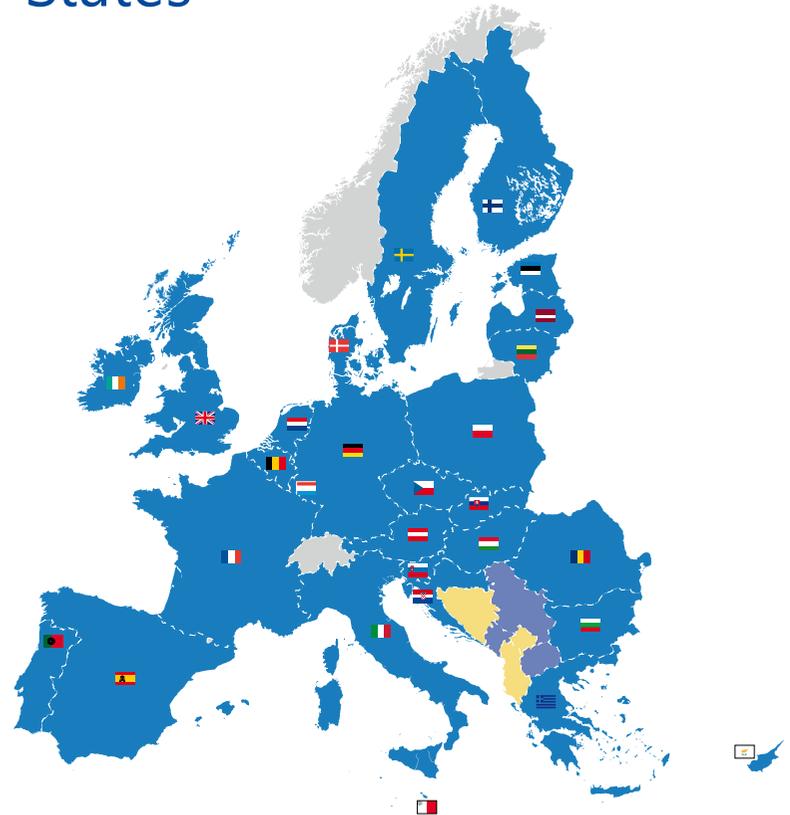


510 mln
population



19 Member States are part of the Eurozone.
The Euro is the second largest and second
most traded currency. More than a third of all
transactions are done using the Euro.

EU Member States



	Austria		Denmark		Luxembourg		Slovenia
	Belgium		Ireland		Malta		Finland
	Bulgaria		Spain		Netherlands		France
	Great Britain		Italy		Poland		Croatia
	Hungary		Cyprus		Portugal		Czech
	Germany		Latvia		Romania		Sweden
	Greece		Lithuania		Slovakia		Estonia

Work With Us



STUDENTS, PROFESSORS AND ACADEMIC PERSONNEL

Take part in the Program Erasmus + for higher education/traineeships in European universities. (www.erasmusplus.eu)



TOURISTS

Receive detailed information about the Schengen visa and tourism in the EU, visit our site (<http://bit.ly/eumsembassuz>) and the sites of EU Member States' embassies



JOB SEEKERS

Check for vacancies on the website of the EU Delegation and of projects financed by the EU <http://bit.ly/eujobsuz>



BUSINESS OWNERS AND MANAGERS

Get information about our tenders (eeas.europa.eu/delegations/uzbekistan/grants_tenders/tenders), ways to export to the EU (<http://bit.ly/export2eu>) and traineeship programs for managers in Europe (www.mtpeu.uz)



JOURNALISTS AND OBSERVERS

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Get in touch with our press and information department to organize interviews (delegation-uzbekistan-political@eeas.europa.eu, тел. +99871 120 16 01/02/03)

