

EU-Central Asia academic cooperation through Erasmus+

What is Erasmus+ ?

Erasmus+ is the European Union (EU) programme for education, training, youth and sport for the period 2021-2027. Erasmus+ funds mobility and cooperation projects between (a) the 27 EU Member States plus six* other European countries associated to the programme, and (b) countries not associated to the programme who are located all over the world.

Erasmus+ supports activities that are closely matched with the common priorities for cooperation policy with partner countries and regions, including Central Asia (CA). Countries from the regions can join with European partners in a range of mobility and cooperation projects. This factsheet looks at how popular these initiatives have been so far with Central Asian partners in the ongoing (2021-2027) Erasmus+ programme.

For Erasmus+, higher education stakeholders from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan are eligible to take part in Erasmus+ by partnering up with one or more of the 33 countries mentioned above. In most Central Asian countries, the EU supports a National Erasmus+ Office to help promote these opportunities.

*In 2024 these six countries are Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, North Macedonia, Serbia and Türkiye

International Credit Mobility

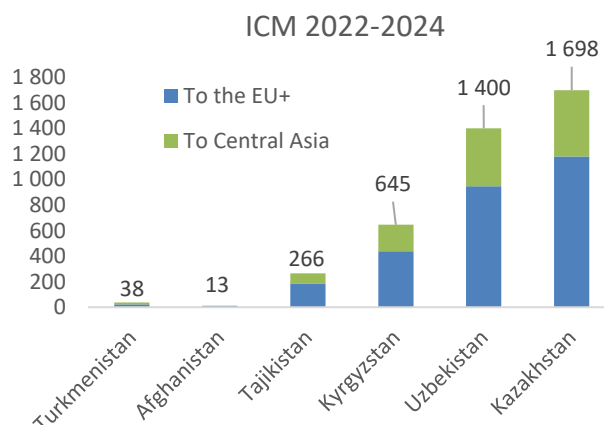
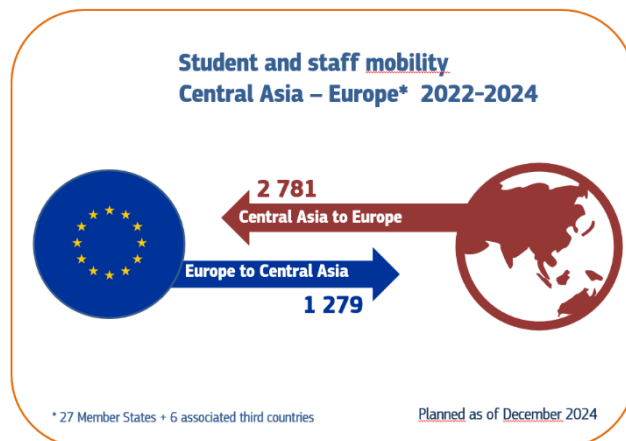
Since 1987, Erasmus has enabled students to study part of their course in a university in a different European country. With Erasmus+ this type of short-term mobility for students and staff is also possible beyond Europe, allowing students to study at a foreign university for 2-12 months and obtain credits which are then recognised at the sending institution as part of their degree. A grant for staff mobility is also possible for 5-60 days. Some projects also offer traineeships.

There are distinct budgets for different regions of the world that are divided between all the European countries. European institutions make up bilateral partnerships with universities in Central Asia and apply on behalf of their partners.

Since 2022, this resulted in around 612 projects that organise **mobility for over 4 060 students, researchers, and staff** – around 70 per cent of these are Central Asian nationals going to Europe.

Among the 181 ICM agreements that include Kyrgyz partners, 14 are exchange programmes with German universities. For example, the Ataturk-Alatoo International University, the Kyrgyz-German Institute of Applied Informatics and the University of Central Asia have agreements with the Westsächsische Hochschule Zwickau. This university also has ICM agreements with universities in Kazakhstan.

Erasmus+ student and staff mobility between Europe and Asia (2022 -2024): 612 projects, over 4 060 people moving



Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees

Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Degrees (EMJMs) award full-degree scholarships to Master students from around the world covering tuition, travel, and a living allowance. The programmes last from one to two years during which students study in at least two different European countries. Upon graduation, they are awarded a joint or double degree, or multiple degrees.

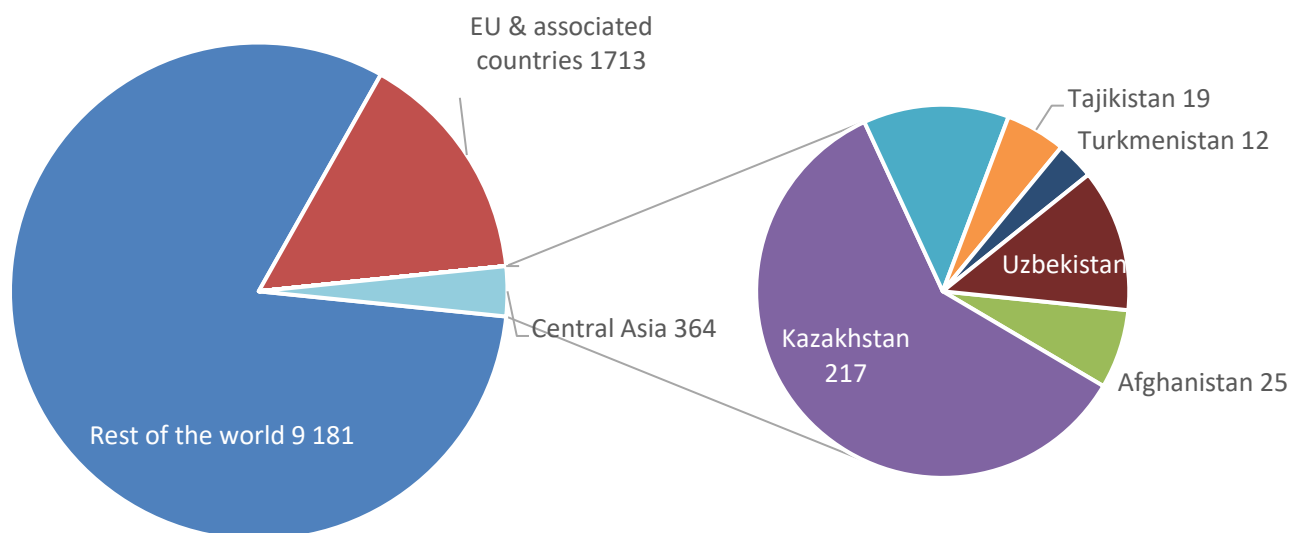
Students can apply to these programmes even if the university where they studied is not involved in any of them. They have to look for the available programmes in the EMJM Catalogue and apply directly to the programme coordinator: <https://ec.europa.eu/erasmus-mundus>. The EU funds additional scholarships for students from Central Asian countries.

Institutions from Central Asian countries can also deliver these programmes: as applicants setting up the consortia; as full partners who officially award degrees; or as associated partners, where they participate in the programme in some kind of capacity – providing lecturers, hosting fieldwork, promoting the course – but do not award the actual joint degree.

Central Asian partners in 127 masters selected 2021-2024

From 2021 to 2024, only five of the 127 masters programmes selected involved Central Asian stakeholders, with five instances of participation as associate partner. In previous phases of the programme, KIMEP University of Kazakhstan was involved as a full partner in IMCEERES, the International Master in Central and East European, Russian and Eurasian studies.

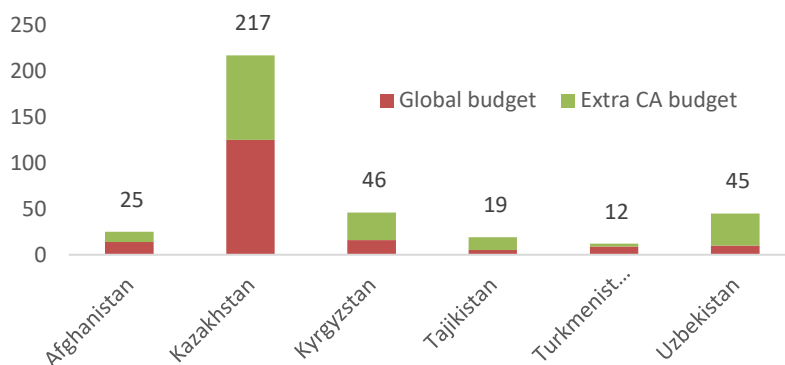
EMJM Scholarships 2021-2024



IMCEERES is the only example of an Erasmus Mundus Masters programme with a Central Asian university (KIMEP, Kazakhstan) functioning as a full hosting partner. The multi-annual Master's programme was selected for funding in the 2021-2027 phase of the programme.

The programme is coordinated by the University of Glasgow (UK). After compulsory modules in Scotland and Estonia (Tartu), students choose a mobility path based on specialisation in Budapest (Hungary), Krakow (Poland), Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tbilisi (Georgia) or Sarajevo (Bosnia & Herzegovina). Graduates understand the region's shared Communist past and the ways in which this shapes the present.

Additional Erasmus Mundus scholarships 2021-2024



Erasmus Mundus and Central Asia, 2021-2024



364 scholarships for
Central Asian Master students



5 instances of participation
from Central Asian organisations

Capacity Building in Higher Education

Capacity-Building projects in Higher Education are 2 to 3 year-long projects implemented by multilateral partnerships of Higher Education institutions from both Europe and Central Asia.

Capacity-Building projects not only promote cooperation between Europe and other regions but they also contribute to curriculum development activities, modernisation of governance and management of Higher Education institutions and systems and strengthening relations between Higher Education and the wider economic and social environment.

So far (2022, 2023 & 2024 calls), 28 projects have been selected for the region. These include 193 instances of participation by 152 different institutions from Central Asia.

Capacity building projects can be addressed to a group of Asian countries or a single country and they can also be cross-regional and include partners from other regions. Some 114 projects for the Central Asia were also funded under the 2014-2020 programme.

Capacity-building projects 2022-2024



28 projects



192 instances of
participation

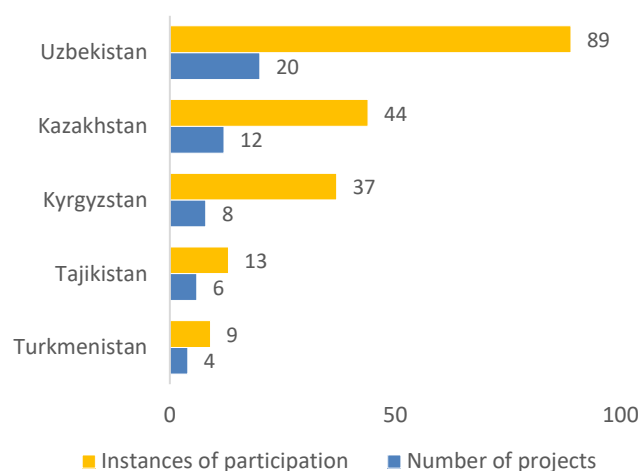
from Central Asia

EMPOWER - Enhancement of entrepreneurship skills among women to provide gender equality and employability for citizens of Uzbekistan. Led by the Central Asian University in Tashkent, (Uzbekistan), the [project](#) inspires women to boost their entrepreneurial skills and their representation in management positions. It does this through a mix of inspiring mentorship and hands-on training in entrepreneurship skills. Three other Uzbek institutions are joined by partners from Germany and Bulgaria in the project.

GDCAU - Green Deal for Central Asian Universities. Two HEIs from Austria and Slovenia and 10 from five Central Asian countries work together to make universities key drivers for technological, cultural, and societal transformations within the Green Deal framework. These objectives will be achieved through knowledge exchange, curriculum development, training, mobility, consulting, communication, events, strategic planning, and skills testing.

Central Asian participation in Capacity Building for Higher Education projects

CBHE Projects in CA 2022-2024



Jean Monnet Activities

Jean Monnet (JM) activities aim to develop EU studies worldwide. For over 25 years they have been supporting Modules, Chairs, and Centres of Excellence to promote excellence in teaching and research on the European integration process at higher education level. The programme also supports policy debate with the academic world and networks. It is increasingly popular outside the EU.

Over the four calls so far, 25 Jean Monnet Actions -- Modules (19), Chairs (3) and Centres of Excellence (3) -- have been selected from Uzbekistan (11), Kazakhstan (12), Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan (one module each). In addition, two HEIs from Kazakhstan are involved as partners in 2 JM Networks.

EUCP - Learning European Politics and Climate Policy is a Jean Monnet [module](#) offered by OSCE Academy in Bishkek, Tajikistan. The module aims to enhance local stakeholders' European regional climate policy expertise through a two-part core course and additional activities for the broader policy community.

Under **ECESBF - Erasmus Centre of Excellence in Sustainable Business and Finance** Tashkent State University of Economy creates courses on digitalisation and sustainability in business and finance at school and university level in Uzbekistan, building on European experience. These have a wide impact on understanding and practice in the financial sector as well as society more widely.

More information:

Erasmus+ website:

http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/node_en

Erasmus+ projects & results:

<http://ec.europa.eu/programmes/erasmus-plus/projects/>

Erasmus+ funding opportunities:

https://www.eacea.ec.europa.eu/grants/2021-2027/erasmus_en

National Erasmus+ Offices:

<https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/contacts/national-erasmus-offices>