



# EU-Central Asia Cooperation

on water, energy and  
environment

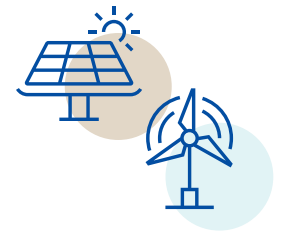
*“The objectives of the Green Deal cannot be achieved in isolation. We need ever-stronger partnerships with Central Asia and beyond, to speed up the shift to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and a more circular economy in the next years. A regional solution is key to tackle regional challenges.”*

*Jutta Urpilainen, European Commissioner for International Partnerships*



- EU cooperation with Central Asia is based on the EU's new geopolitical priorities set out along five pillars: Green Deals, Digitalisation, Sustainable Growth and Jobs, Migration Partnerships, and Governance, Peace and Security. The EU's Green Deal priority, which engages the private sector and seeks to de-carbonize the energy sector, increase energy efficiency, and promote renewables, features prominently in the region, whereas the new EU Strategy on Central Asia continues to prioritise issues related to water management, and integration of environment into other sectors, with an increased emphasis on sustainable energy and the transition to **Green and Circular economy**.
- EU development cooperation for Central Asia amounts to over €1 billion through both bilateral and regional envelopes. Promoting **sustainable economic development and a rational use of natural resources** features highly in the EU development cooperation agenda towards the region. The EU has a number of ongoing regional programmes in the fields of environment and water in CA that complement bilateral interventions. These regional initiatives continue to be aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals that catalyse actions to combat climate change, while gaining additional prominence thanks to the EU's new priorities.
- 15 ongoing **regional programmes** covering the sustainable use of water, energy, environment but also the water-energy-food nexus (€±100 M). (see table below)
- In terms of new EU initiatives, a €2.5 M programme will start this year in partnership with the UNDP on the climate change-resilience nexus in the Fergana Valley. The EU will soon also launch a €8 M sustainable energy initiative to be implemented across the 5 countries.
- 20 **blended finance projects** on water, energy, climate change. With our contribution of €165 M we managed to leverage €1440 M in private investment. The leverage effect of IFCA grants in Central Asia: for each €1 grant from the EU the blended projects bring €10 loans. The EU plans to contract additional 5 projects worth €30 M in grants by the end of 2020, bringing the total in Central Asia to 25 projects.

## Regional EU initiatives on water, energy and environment



### > Water, Environment, Climate Change

Water, Environment, Climate Change  
Cooperation Project (WECOOP) phase 3  
(2019-2022 / €3 M)

### > Water-Energy-Food Nexus

Nexus Dialogue  
Phase I (2016-2019 / €1.52 M for CA / EU  
contribution €1.3 M)

Phase II (2020-2023 / €1.25 M for CA / EU  
contribution €1 M)

### > Energy

EU Support to Sustainable Energy  
Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)  
(starting in 2021-2025 / €8 M)

### > Water

Regional Water Monitoring System  
(2020-2022 / €3 M)

### > Water

European Union Water Initiative National  
Policy Dialogues (NPDs) in Central Asia  
(2019-2022 / €600 K)

### > Water and Energy

Central Asia Water and Energy Programme  
Phase 3 (incl. Afghanistan)  
(2018-2022 / Total Programme Budget  
US\$12.6 M / EU contribution €7 M  
(WB Trust fund (TF072904) with DFID and  
SECO)

### > Energy

EU4Energy  
(finishing in 2020 / €2 M for CA)

### > Water

EU-Central Asia Network for Water Science  
and Technology  
(2018-2020 / €400 K)



## > Disaster Risk Reduction

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Climate Change and Resilience  
(2020-2023 / €2.5 M)  
(will be similar to objectives of Green  
Central Asia)

## > Green Economy

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SWITCH Central Asia  
(2018-2024 /€14 M)

## > Uranium Legacy

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Environmental Remediation Account for  
Central Asia  
(2015-2022 / €27 M)

## > Disaster and Financial Risk Reduction

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Strengthening Financial resilience and  
Accelerating Risk Reduction  
(2019-2023 / €4.3 M)

## > Disaster Risk Reduction

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Strengthening disaster resilience and  
accelerating implementation of Sendai  
Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in  
Central Asia  
(2019-2022 / €3.75 M)

## > Uranium Legacy

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Stakeholder Engagement Phase II  
(2019-2022 /€1 M)

