

## Usa and European Union in Uzbekistan on the Development of the Educational System Programs

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**Abstract:** The article analyzes the essence of some programs implemented by the United States and the European Union in the development of the educational system of Uzbekistan and their results. An opinion was also expressed about the prospects of these programs.

**Keywords:** United States, USAID, school education, Erasmus+, Erasmus Mundus, European Union, higher education, master's degree, post-higher education.



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## INTRODUCTION

In the new period that started in 2017 in the Republic of Uzbekistan, the reform of the education system began to be considered as a necessity for the development of all other areas. At the initiative of President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, emphasis was placed on the application of advanced foreign experience tested in the developed countries of the world. In the course of globalization, reforms in the education system, along with other areas, were required to be implemented using the most important achievements of international experience in New Uzbekistan. Based on the decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan on April 27, 2019, the "Concept of Development of the Public Education System of the Republic of Uzbekistan until 2030" was supposed to serve this purpose. Of course, the implementation of such ambitious plans required a large amount of financial resources. Not only the state budget funds, but also the grant funds of foreign organizations are important in this. The role of the USAID organization in supporting reforms in the education system in Uzbekistan is becoming extremely important.

USAID (United States Agency for International Development) is an organization of the USA aimed at supporting various development programs in foreign countries and organizations. USAID was founded on November 3, 1961.

USAID's assistance to the education system of Uzbekistan became active in 2019 after the adoption of the ambitious program of the President of Uzbekistan and the Ministry of Public Education on the reform and modernization of the education system.

USAID signed a five-year Education Development Assistance Grant Agreement (DOAG) in September 2019 to support the ministry's education reforms. This agreement was the first comprehensive bilateral development grant agreement between the governments of the United States and Uzbekistan.

In December 2019, USAID developed a 4-year, \$19.5 million program to reform Uzbekistan's education system. The education reform program of Uzbekistan aims to support the following four directions:

- 1) Improving the results of teaching the Uzbek language;
- 2) Improving results in mathematics;
- 3) Strengthening the teaching of informatics and communication technologies;
- 4) Improving the teaching of English as a foreign language.

USAID's activities related to supporting the education system in Uzbekistan are not limited to this. Today, the agency also makes a significant contribution to the work of creating textbooks for schoolchildren. According to information provided by the US Embassy in Uzbekistan, on August 6, 2021, USAID announced that it has received a license for two series of textbooks developed by international publishers for the Ministry of Public Education of Uzbekistan. The \$10 million series includes IT and IT textbooks and teacher's guides for grades 5-11 and Foreign Language - English for grades 1-11. consists of textbooks, workbooks and teacher's manuals.

It was decided that these textbooks, adapted to the context of Uzbekistan, will be tested in 200 schools in the 2021-2022 school year. The distribution of textbooks among more than 6.5 million students across the country is planned to start from the 2022-2023 school year.

The USAID agency supports the development of the education system in Uzbekistan in a wide range of fields.

It can be hoped that the funds allocated by the organization will bear fruit soon. There is no doubt that further cooperation in this regard will contribute positively to the development of the education system in Uzbekistan.

Another program that contributes to the development of Uzbekistan's education system, supports international cooperation in this field to new levels, and plays an important role in the exchange of experience in higher education is the Erasmus+ program of the European Union. Erasmus+ is the EU's program for education, training, youth and sports for 2021-2027.

Encouraged by the success of the Erasmus+ 2014-2020 programme, the EU is focused on ensuring that this new program has a wider range of participants and that it can strengthen its contribution to inclusive, sustainable, green and digital societies.

The program's cooperation with Central Asian countries is also expanding. According to the report of the European Commission, the expenses allocated to Central Asia in the 2015-2019 part of the Program made up almost 4 percent of the entire international mobility budget. From the point of view of the participation of the Central Asian countries, the share of Uzbekistan was 22%, after Kazakhstan (58%). Erasmus is working on the basis of a separate project to improve the quality of doctoral education in Uzbekistan. This systematic project is a collaboration with reforms aimed at transitioning from the Soviet-style system of doctoral education in Uzbekistan to the European system of higher education. This project involves 6 Uzbek and 4 European higher education institutions to address 4 critical reform issues: institutional support, quality assurance, human resources, and business and industry linkages.

The 2017 Erasmus program report, developed as part of cooperation with Asian countries, provides information on the countries that participated in 177 projects to expand the scope of higher education in 2015-2017. It can be found that more than 60 educational organizations from Uzbekistan participated as partners, and in this regard, it was recorded in the 3rd place after China (more than 75) and Vietnam (more than 70). From these statistics, it can be determined that Uzbekistan was one of the leading countries in the projects of the Erasmus+ program.

The special report issued by the European Commission for the higher education sector of Uzbekistan provides information on the projects implemented within the framework of the Erasmus+ program. In particular, Uzbekistan's participation in the international credit mobility project ranked 2nd among the Central Asian countries with 24% after Kazakhstan (56%). Between 2015 and 2020, the number of students and employees who went to Europe from Uzbekistan was 1,423, and the number of students and employees who came to Uzbekistan from Europe was 644. Another project - 3 projects in 2017, 1 in 2019 and 3 in 2020 with the participation of Uzbekistan on Erasmus Mundus Joint Master's degrees were selected.

Although full participation in the Erasmus+ program is limited to EU countries, many countries around the world have the opportunity to participate in different parts of the program. In particular, Uzbekistan is mentioned as the 6th region in the program guidelines along with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, and Afghanistan.

Another project funded by the Erasmus+ program of the European Union is NURSLING, i.e. National Criteria for Qualifications: Guidelines for the Development and Recognition of Qualifications. This project includes the basic principles of the qualification criteria structure based on the principles of the qualification criteria of the EU countries in the educational system of the Republic of Uzbekistan. This project also provides a comparison chart of the European Qualification Criteria and the National Criteria. Some differences can be seen in it. For example, in higher education, a bachelor's degree is classified as the 6th qualification level in Europe and the master's degree is classified as the 7th qualification level, while in the national standard of Uzbekistan it is defined as the 5th and 6th qualification level, respectively. Another difference is that post-secondary education in Europe consists of only one level (8th qualification level), while in Uzbekistan it consists of basic doctoral studies (PhD – 7th qualification level) and doctoral studies (DSc - 8th qualification level).

Understanding that among the goals and tasks of this project, reforms in the national education system of the Republic of Uzbekistan are aimed at adapting the education system to international standards, recognizing qualification levels abroad, increasing the quality of education, and training highly qualified personnel. can reach.

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