

ЖАС ЗЕРТТЕУШІНІҢ МІНБЕСІ
ТРИБУНА МОЛОДОГО ИССЛЕДОВАТЕЛЯ
PLATFORM OF YOUNG RESEARCHER

IRSTI 06.51.51
UDC 339.9
JEL F02, F15

<https://doi.org/10.46914/1562-2959-2024-1-2-302-314>

G.U. KHAJIYEVA,¹

c.e.s., research professor.

e-mail: g.khajiyeva@turan-edu.kz

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-8889-543X

G.K. YEGIZBAYEVA,*¹

PhD student.

*e-mail: yegizbaevag@gmail.com

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2796-6142

R. GIESE,²

c.e.s., professor.

e-mail: r.giese@hszg.de

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3784-5950

¹Turan University,

Almaty, Kazakhstan

²University of Applied Science, Hochschule Zittau,

Zittau Görlitz, Germany

**INTEGRATION IN DEVELOPMENT: ASSESSING SOCIO-ECONOMIC
STRATEGIES OF KAZAKHSTAN AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Abstract

The study focuses on the specifics and peculiarities of the implementation of strategic plans in the sphere of economy and politics of Central Asian (CA) countries in response to the challenges of deglobalisation. The purpose of the article is to analyse and evaluate the socio-economic strategies of Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries in the context of their integration processes and development, and to determine their impact on regional stability and international cooperation. The study was conducted using such scientific methods as systematic literature review, meta-analysis, analytical synthesis, comparative and critical analysis. The scientific significance of the study lies in the systematisation and critical analysis of the strategies of socio-economic development of CA countries through the prism of their participation in regional integration processes, which allows to deepen the understanding of this multidimensional phenomenon. The practical significance of the work is expressed in the formation of proposals for the optimisation of integration processes, which is important for the creation of an effective economic environment in the region. The results of the study are of value for the academic community, politicians and experts dealing with regional integration and international economic relations in general. The recommendations proposed in the article can be used to develop more effective mechanisms of interstate interaction and the formation of sustainable economic policy.

Key words: regional integration, socio-economic development, international cooperation, intra-regional trade, deglobalisation, sustainable development, climate change, economic.

Introduction

This study aims to analyse the strategies of socio-economic integration that are being implemented in Kazakhstan and neighbouring countries in the region. Particular attention is paid to the study of the

consequences of deglobalisation processes and the search for new forms of interstate cooperation, as well as adaptation to the changing conditions of the world economy.

The article critically reviews national policies and initiatives aimed at creating favourable conditions for economic integration. The data analysed and proposals developed provide a platform for discussing further prospects and opportunities for Central Asian countries within the new global economic context. This study aims to contribute to the understanding of how regional interaction can be a catalyst for achieving sustainable development and economic prosperity for the region as a whole. The relevance of the topic is conditioned by the need to study the potential of regional integration of Central Asian countries in the new realities. The region occupies a strategic position in the geopolitical and economic interests of the world powers, which makes it important to achieve a balance in the directions of foreign economic strategies of Central Asian countries. The countries face internal and external challenges, such as the need for diversification of economies, sustainable resource management, demographic shifts and climate change. The study and evaluation of their socio-economic strategies can serve as a model for other developing regions and

contribute to the achievement of global sustainable development goals.

The purpose of this study is to analyse and evaluate the socio-economic strategies of Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries in the context of their integration processes and development, and to determine their impact on regional stability and international cooperation. Objectives of the study: to investigate the historical preconditions for the economic independence of Central Asian countries; to analyse the key strategies of socio-economic development, their compliance with global trends and their impact on regional stability; to assess the current state and prospects of economic integration in the region, including the role of international projects; to consider the impact of regional interaction on sustainable development and economic security; to identify the main barriers to integration and propose ways to overcome them

There is now no doubt that there are prerequisites for further regional integration of the Central Asian countries, including a significant acceleration of their economic growth in 2023 by 4.8 per cent, 0.8 percentage points above previous forecasts. This positive growth is largely due to improved expectations in Kazakhstan's economy, reflecting the ability of some countries in the region to demonstrate resilience despite the global economic turmoil.

However, there is a clear differentiation in economic dynamics within the region. Some countries, such as the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, may face a slowdown in growth due to declining remittances, mainly from Russia, which will negatively affect consumption levels in these countries. These countries are more vulnerable because of their dependence on remittances and trade links with Russia. Labour migration and financial and trade ties with Russia have had a profound impact on the economic development of the region. These economic interactions have helped the countries of the region to develop their industrial and economic potentials, but they have also created a certain dependence on the Russian economy.

The significant positive impact of cooperation between the European Union and Central Asia, particularly in enhancing the development landscape of Central Asian countries, was prominently highlighted in the declarations of the second Economic Forum in Almaty. This partnership has proven pivotal in several key areas, including the improvement of the business environment, support for ecological and digital transitions, and the deepening of trade and economic ties, which collectively foster regional development and integration.

Improving the business environment in Central Asia has been identified as a critical factor for stimulating investment and fostering the growth of the private sector. Through comprehensive reforms aimed at enhancing the investment climate, Central Asian countries are working towards simplifying administrative procedures and regulatory frameworks. These efforts are crucial for attracting foreign direct investment and providing the necessary support to local entrepreneurs. By creating a more transparent and efficient business environment, these nations aim to unlock potential economic opportunities and drive broader economic growth.

Moreover, the support for transitioning towards 'green' energy and embracing digital transformation stands as a priority for ensuring sustainable development across the region. Initiatives in these areas are expansive and include projects focused on improving energy efficiency, developing renewable energy sources like solar and wind, and implementing cutting-edge technologies. These technologies are

instrumental in reducing carbon emissions and advancing economic infrastructure. The move towards a greener and more technologically integrated economy not only aligns with global sustainability goals but also opens up new avenues for economic diversification and resilience.

In addition to environmental and technological advancements, the deepening of trade and economic ties facilitated by the EU-Central Asia cooperation enhances the region's connectivity and market access, making it a more integrated and competitive player on the global stage. These enhanced economic relations not only boost trade volumes but also facilitate the exchange of knowledge, technology, and best practices between the regions, contributing to an inclusive and sustainable economic growth.

The cooperation between the European Union and Central Asia is thus a testament to the power of international partnerships in driving significant advancements in business, environmental sustainability, and technological innovation. As these initiatives continue to evolve, they promise to further transform the economic landscape of Central Asia, making it more dynamic, sustainable, and globally interconnected.

The development of trade and economic relations emphasises the expansion of trade and the deepening of economic ties between regions. The removal of trade barriers and increased market access contributes to increased trade volumes, which is an important factor in economic growth and integration into the global economy.

Thus, the preconditions of the current economic situation in Central Asia are heterogeneous and include both positive and negative aspects, strongly influenced by external economic and political factors.

These assumptions form the basis for understanding the current economic state and strategic planning for Kazakhstan's future development. A thorough understanding of these factors allows the government and the private sector to adapt to changing conditions and form sustainable strategies for long-term growth [1].

In the context of the above-mentioned prerequisites, the CA economies have demonstrated resilience to various global and regional economic challenges. However, the continued dependence on external economic factors and foreign policy requires the countries of the region to adapt to changing conditions, search for new approaches to diversification and stabilisation of their economies. These prerequisites act as a basis for understanding current economic processes and forming long-term strategies of economic development [2].

In the context of the above, the following hypotheses are put forward in this study:

H1: Deep economic integration of Central Asian countries can significantly increase their aggregate economic potential and resilience to external shocks, while accelerating regional development and improving international economic relations.

H2: Despite differences in national development strategies, Central Asian countries tend to converge their economic and social policies in the context of forming a sustainable regional economic bloc.

Materials and methods

The present study was based on a systematic literature review, namely the analysis of a database of specialised journal archives, articles and monographs to conduct relevant research. Using the statistical approach of meta-analysis, the results of different studies were combined and summarised to assess general trends, identify consistency of findings and determine the level of implementation of integration strategies. Based on the analytical synthesis method, which involves integrating the results of multiple studies to form new theoretical understanding and ideas, a critical examination and comparison of the different perspectives and approaches described in the literature was conducted. Critical analysis was used to identify and evaluate gaps in existing research and opportunities for further exploration of the topic. The comparative-comparative method was used to compare the socio-economic strategies of different Central Asian countries, which helped to identify common patterns and specific features in approaches to integration and their performance.

Main provisions

Transformation of globalisation: The modern world order is characterised by a transition from globalisation to de-globalisation, which requires Central Asian countries to develop new approaches to economic interaction and integration.

Kazakhstan's strategic importance: Kazakhstan, as a key player in the region, initiates numerous integration processes aimed at strengthening economic and political ties both within Central Asia and internationally.

Integration processes: The study reveals that integration efforts in Central Asia have contributed to the development and strengthening of socio-economic ties, with positive effects on the level of international trade and investment in the region.

Need for economic reforms: To maintain and deepen integration ties, it is necessary to implement economic reforms that promote a favourable investment climate and enhance the competitiveness of the countries in the region.

Regional Challenges: Central Asia faces a number of internal and external challenges, including instability in global markets, political instability and environmental problems, which require coordinated action at the regional level.

Role of international and regional organisations: The UN, SCO, EAEU and other international and regional organisations play an important role in promoting integration initiatives and supporting economic cooperation in Central Asia.

Contribution of the study: The proposed study provides a new perspective on integration processes in Central Asia, enriching the theoretical basis and practical recommendations for the development of effective multilateral economic policies.

Practical significance: The main provisions of the study can be used by state authorities and international institutions to formulate policy strategies aimed at solving the problems of regional integration and achieving sustainable development in Central Asia.

Literary review

Literature review of 15 scientific publications, including 3 reports of international organisations, 2 monographs, 5 articles in Scopus international journals, 2 articles in journals recommended by the Committee for Quality Assurance in Science and Higher Education of the Ministry of Science and Higher Education of the Republic of Kazakhstan, 3 articles in the Scholar Google database were conducted as part of the study.

As the analysis of academic and expert sources shows, contemporary studies focus on comprehensive analyses of economic development and integration processes in Kazakhstan and Central Asian countries. World Bank Group reports highlight macroeconomic trends and trade and investment initiatives, emphasising recent developments in Kazakhstan's economy and regional dynamics in Central Asia. These sources provide a foundation for understanding the current economic climate and management strategies in these countries [1, 2].

According to a joint statement by the European Union, the importance of economic dialogue between the EU and Central Asia against the backdrop of global challenges is becoming increasingly important, as reflected in the documents of the 2nd Economic Forum [3]. A study conducted by the Institute for Strategic Analysis and Forecasting elaborates on the obstacles to integration, which may be key to understanding the limitations in regional political and economic co-operation [4, 5]. The study is based on the results of a study conducted by the Institute for Strategic Analysis and Forecasting.

The author Usenov A.M. in his work discusses the problems and prospects of integration of Central Asian states, providing a critical look at the internal and external factors shaping these processes [6].

This study benefited from academic articles published in Central Asia and the Caucasus, Financial Innovation and Comparative Economic Studies, which provide quantitative and qualitative assessments of the impact of natural resources, economic growth and factor productivity on integration processes. Of particular note here is Yormirzoeva's paper highlighting the link between economic growth and labour productivity in Central Asia.

Cultural globalisation, as shown by Sadykova T. and her co-authors, using Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan as examples, is another important area to assess soft power and cultural influence in the context of globalisation and regional integration.

Results and discussions

The economic landscape of Kazakhstan, as delineated in the World Bank's comprehensive 2023 report, showcases a phase of consistent, albeit moderate, growth. The forecast indicates that Kazakhstan's GDP is expected to escalate to 4 percent by 2024, predominantly fueled by its robust hydrocarbon sector alongside vigorous public investment initiatives. These public investments are particularly pronounced in the domain of housing construction, which not only secures substantial investments but also plays a crucial role in amplifying the economic dynamics of the nation. Additionally, the expansion in infrastructure and various other state-funded projects contribute significantly to the economic resilience and growth potential of Kazakhstan.

Despite these optimistic projections, Kazakhstan faces several economic challenges that could temper its growth trajectory. Notably, the inflation rate in 2023 exceeded initial forecasts, leading to a significant uptick in the cost of living and eroding the purchasing power of its citizens. This surge in inflation has prompted concerns about economic equity and the accessibility of basic goods and services for the average Kazakhstani. In response to these inflationary pressures, the National Bank of Kazakhstan has proactively raised the key interest rate. This decisive action aims to temper inflation expectations and safeguard the stability of the national currency. By doing so, the central bank seeks to restore and maintain public confidence in Kazakhstan's financial systems and ensure long-term economic stability.

The broader economic policy framework of Kazakhstan also includes measures aimed at diversifying its economy to reduce reliance on the hydrocarbon sector. These initiatives are designed to stimulate growth in other key sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing, and technology, thereby fostering a more balanced economic development. As Kazakhstan continues to navigate these complex economic waters, the interplay of government policy, investment, and market dynamics will be crucial in shaping its future economic landscape.

In addition, Kazakhstan's economy is affected by global economic conditions, particularly changes in economic conditions in key trading partners such as the Eurozone, China and Russia. A slowdown in growth in these regions could adversely affect Kazakhstan's exports and investment, which in turn could put pressure on the country's economic activity [7].

In response to these challenges, the World Bank recommends that Kazakhstan undertake structural reforms and improve its business climate to support sustainable economic growth and reduce dependence on fluctuations in external economic conditions. These measures include strengthening the regulatory environment, improving transparency and fairness in business practices, and creating favourable conditions for investment in various sectors of the economy [1].

The chart shows changes in Kazakhstan's macroeconomic indicators: moderate GDP growth of 3.5% in 2023 and projected growth to 4% in 2024; a significant increase in inflation in 2022 to 20.7%, well above the 2021 level (8.7%); a change in the current account balance from a deficit of \$2.6 billion in 2021 to a surplus of \$8.5 billion in 2022.

The current state of the Central Asian region's economy, highlighted in the World Bank report, is characterised as a period of dynamic change facing a multitude of challenges. In 2023, the region shows a significant acceleration in economic growth, reaching 4.8 per cent. This increase in the forecast is particularly concerning for Kazakhstan's economy, which posted growth 1 percentage point higher than expected. Such performance reflects the ability of some countries in the region to demonstrate resilience and progress amid global economic turmoil [8].

However, despite the general optimism, other Central Asian countries may experience a slowdown in growth, especially due to the decline in remittances from Russia. This will lead to lower consumption in countries such as the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. These countries are more vulnerable because of their dependence on remittances and trade links with Russia.

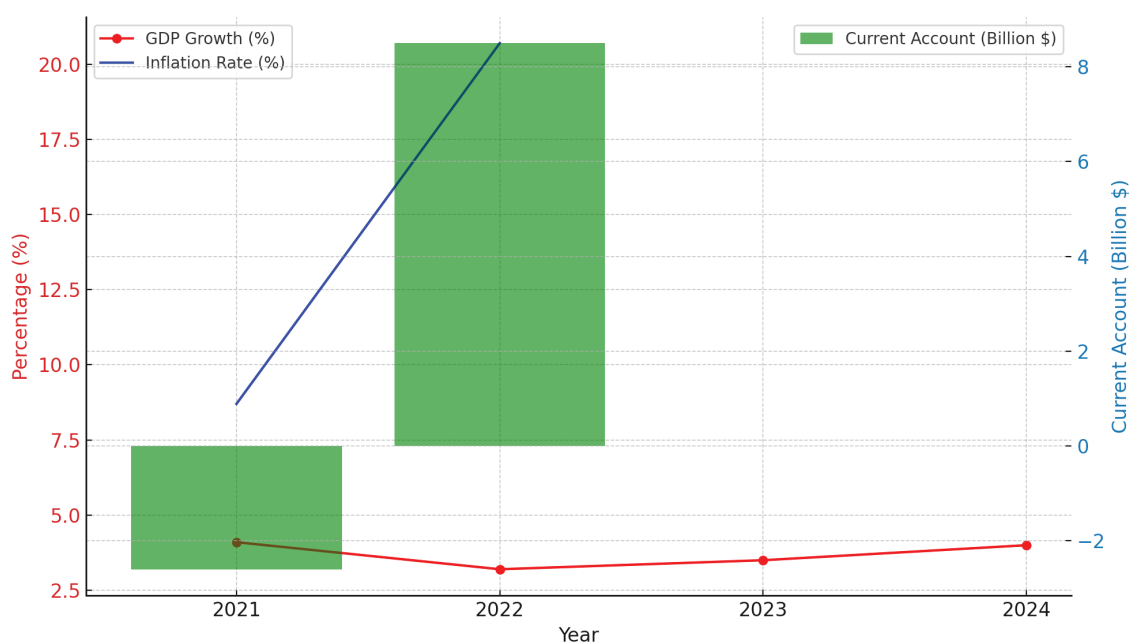


Figure 1 – Key Economic Indicators of Kazakhstan (2021–2024)

Note: Compiled by the authors on the basis of the World Bank’s Kazakhstan Economic Report, Spring 2023.

The report highlights that for 2024–2025, economic growth in Central Asia is projected to stabilise at an average of 4.7%, provided inflation slows down. This points to potentially positive trends in the long term, but there are significant risks associated with both external and internal factors [2].

The current state of economic integration of Central Asian countries is characterised by economic imbalance between the states, differences in the level of development and dependence on the export of natural resources. The possible slowdown of economic growth in the region is associated with the gradual regularisation of migration and financial flows, as well as trade relations with Russia, which previously stimulated economic activity [9]. In addition, slowing economic growth in key trading partners such as the Eurozone, China and Russia is also putting pressure on the export capacity of CA countries. This slowdown may lead to a reduction in foreign trade, which will negatively affect the economic growth of the countries.

In addition to the external challenges facing the Central Asian region, Kazakhstan contends with several significant internal factors that hinder its economic progress. As highlighted in the World Bank’s 2023 report, these internal challenges exert considerable influence on the country’s economic stability and growth prospects, necessitating careful attention and strategic decision-making by both governmental bodies and financial institutions.

The primary, and arguably most critical, internal challenge is Kazakhstan’s heavy reliance on the hydrocarbon sector. This dependency renders the nation exceedingly vulnerable to global oil and gas market fluctuations. During periods when hydrocarbon prices are elevated, Kazakhstan’s economy experiences substantial growth and prosperity. Conversely, when these prices plummet, the economy can face severe setbacks, leading to budget deficits and economic instability. This cyclical vulnerability underscores the urgent need for economic diversification to mitigate risks associated with commodity price swings.

Moreover, the lack of economic diversification in Kazakhstan is a pressing concern. Currently, the economy is overly concentrated in the hydrocarbon sector, with insufficient development in other industries. This concentration not only limits the country’s economic potential but also increases its susceptibility to external economic shocks. To counteract this, there is a critical need for strategic investment in non-oil sectors such as agriculture, technology, and renewable energy. These sectors represent avenues for sustainable economic development and can provide more stable employment opportunities for the population.

Another significant internal factor is the inefficient allocation of resources, which can lead to suboptimal economic outcomes. In many cases, investments are not aligned with the sectors that could yield the highest returns for the economy or the most significant social benefits. This misallocation is often exacerbated by issues of governance and transparency, which can hinder effective economic planning and execution. Addressing these inefficiencies through better regulatory frameworks and more transparent governance practices could lead to more robust economic growth and improved public trust in the financial and governmental institutions of Kazakhstan.

As Kazakhstan navigates these complex internal and external challenges, the role of informed policy-making and strategic international cooperation becomes increasingly vital. By implementing policies that reduce dependence on volatile commodity markets and promote economic diversification, Kazakhstan can pave the way for a more resilient and prosperous future.

Another significant blocking factor is domestic inflation, which has recently exceeded the targets. High inflation leads to a deterioration in the purchasing power of the population, which reduces domestic demand and can cause social discontent. Inflation particularly affects the prices of food and imported goods, increasing the cost of living and reducing the overall welfare of citizens.

Finally, despite efforts to diversify the economy, Kazakhstan still faces challenges in implementing structural reforms and improving the business climate. These challenges require a comprehensive approach and long-term investments in non-resource sectors of the economy, as well as improving the regulatory and investment environment to attract foreign and domestic investors [10].

The blocking factors may constrain the economic development of the Central Asian region and thus have a significant impact on growth prospects and economic stability. The World Bank report identifies the following key threats and challenges:

Global economic downturn: A deepening global economic downturn and lower commodity prices could seriously affect the economies of Central Asian countries. Fluctuations in the prices of commodities such as oil, gas and metals represent an important external factor. Central Asian countries, including Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan, are significantly affected by these fluctuations on export revenues, government budgets and overall economic growth. Rising prices can increase revenues and investment opportunities, while falling prices can lead to budget deficits and economic difficulties.

Slowdown in remittances: The economies of the region are particularly affected by the decline in remittances from Russia, which are an important source of income for the population of many Central Asian countries. This slowdown leads to lower consumer demand and reduced economic activity.

International sanctions against Russia: Increased international sanctions against Russia create additional trade barriers and destabilise economic relations in the region. This puts pressure on Central Asian countries dependent on economic co-operation with Russia and increases economic instability.

Unpredictability of Russia's economic recovery: Uncertainty surrounding the speed and stability of Russia's economic recovery introduces additional risks for Central Asian countries. A slowdown in the Russian economy could exacerbate economic problems in the region, especially given the close economic ties.

These blocking factors underline the complexity of the economic situation in Central Asia, requiring leaders of countries and international organisations to take active steps to manage risks and adapt to the rapidly changing global economic environment. It is important that development strategies take into account these threats and seek to minimise their impact on the region's economy [2].

These blocking factors emphasise the complex nature of the challenges facing Central Asia and highlight the need to find new ways for sustainable development and adaptation to changing global and regional conditions [11].

However, in spite of the constraints, the analyses show that the successes achieved in many areas of co-operation confirm the effectiveness of the chosen strategy and underpin plans for the future of regional integration.

In addition to the traditional drivers of economic growth in CA countries, such as the hydrocarbon sector and government investment projects, drivers could include economic improvement factors in Kazakhstan's key trading partners, stimulating exports and investment flows. Also, the diversification of the economy away from the commodity sector towards high value-added sectors such as manufacturing, information technology and services represents a significant potential for growth. The development of these sectors can help reduce dependence on world prices for oil and other hydrocarbons [12].

In addition, progress on government initiatives to improve the business climate and stimulate private investment has the potential to create a favourable environment for inward and outward investment. This includes improving the regulatory environment, reducing bureaucracy and strengthening property rights protection.

Thus, the prospects for the long-term development of Kazakhstan’s economy remain positive, provided that work on diversification of the economy and structural reforms continues. This will provide the country with an opportunity to adapt to changes in the global economy and use its competitive advantages for sustainable development [1].

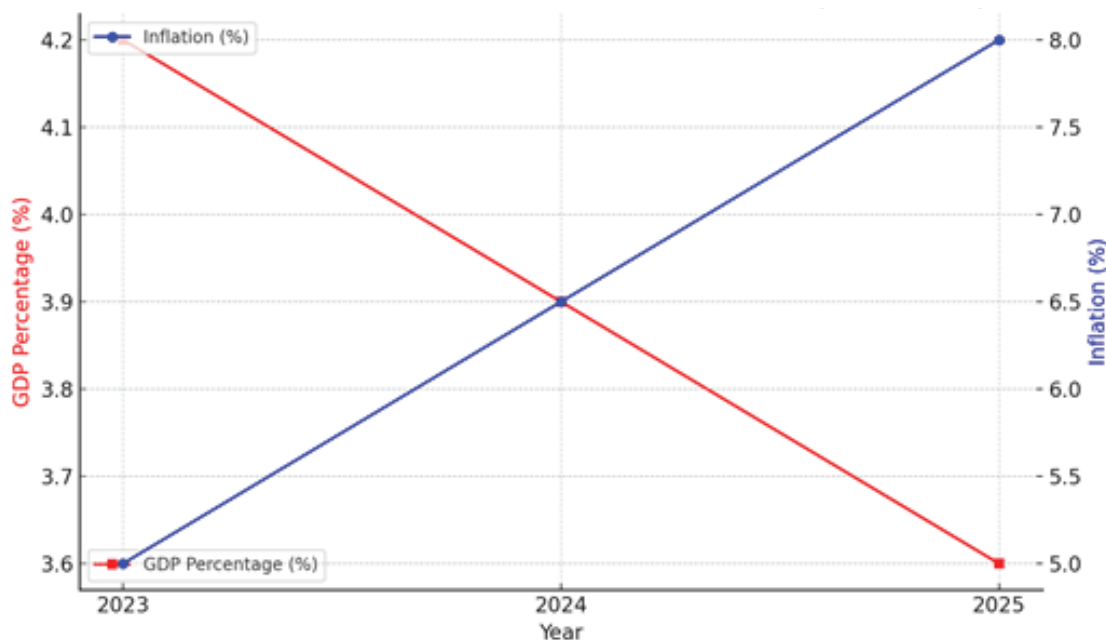


Figure 2 – Outlook for Kazakhstan’s economic performance (2023–2025)

Note: Compiled by the authors on the basis of the World Bank’s Kazakhstan Economic Report, Spring 2023.

As shown in the chart, a potential gradual increase in GDP growth rates is expected, which can be attributed to the effects of structural reforms and improvement of the global economic situation; a gradual decline in inflation rates, which can be the result of monetary policy tightening and stabilisation of prices for key goods and services.

This graph illustrates how expected changes in economic policy and external conditions may affect Kazakhstan’s key economic indicators in the coming years.

The outlook for Central Asia as a whole, as described in the World Bank report, is based on the expectation that economic growth in the region will stabilise at around 4.7% in the coming years, provided inflation slows down. This points to potentially positive trends in the long term, although the region faces a number of serious challenges [13].

One of the most important aspects that can contribute significantly to sustainable development is a focus on structural reforms and environmental sustainability. The report emphasises that countries in the region should pay particular attention to climate change adaptation, water management and the transition to a greener economy.

Efforts to improve adaptive capacity to extreme weather and sustainable management of natural resources are also highlighted as promising areas. These actions will not only help minimise the risks associated with climate change, but also promote more dynamic private sector development, which is critical to the region’s economic progress.

The graph shows the economic growth rate of Central Asia for 2023–2025. It can be seen that after an increase to 4.8% in 2023, it is projected to decline to 3.1% in 2024, followed by a moderate increase to 3.9% in 2025. This reflects the impact of changes in monetary policy and fiscal consolidation as well as other economic factors on the region.

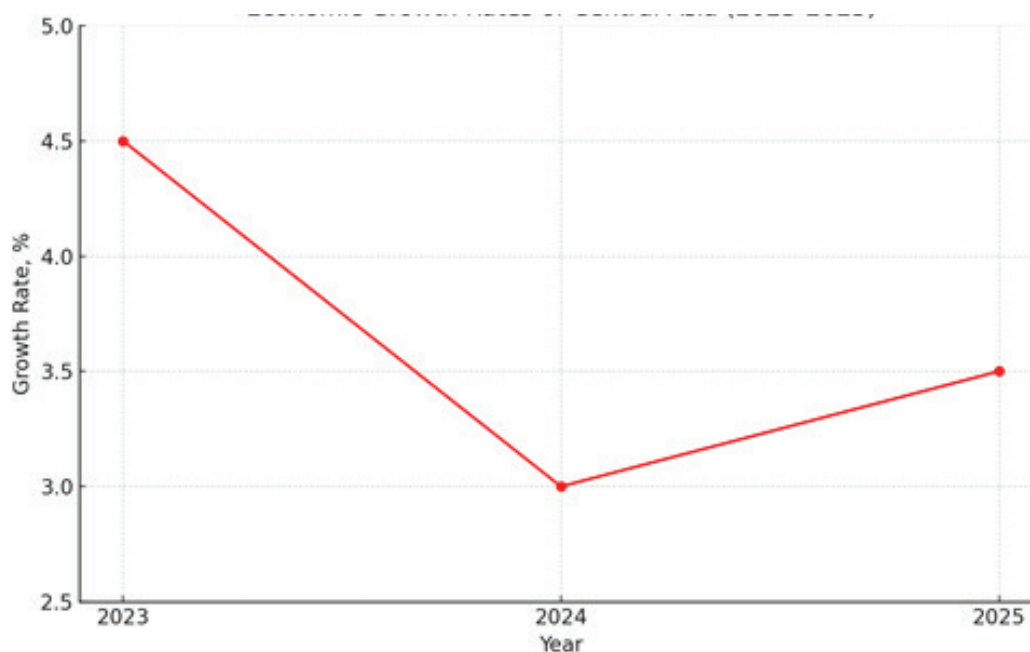


Figure 3 – Economic Growth rates of Central Asia (2023–2025)

Note: Compiled by the authors on the basis of the Europe and Central Asia Regional Economic Report, Autumn, 2023.

The development prospects for the Central Asian (CA) region are deeply entwined with strengthened cooperation with the European Union, especially in fostering environmentally friendly technologies and promoting the sustainable use of natural resources. This collaboration is essential as it marks a crucial step towards the ambitious goal of transitioning to a zero-emission economy. The formulation and execution of meticulously designed policies play a vital role in this context, ensuring not only the environmental health of the region but also reinforcing its social structure. These policies are anticipated to lay the foundation for the enduring sustainability of both the economies and communities throughout Central Asia.

This partnership is expected to accelerate the adoption of green technologies across Central Asian countries, facilitating a shift towards renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. By reducing reliance on fossil fuels, these nations can diminish their carbon footprints and enhance their energy security, all while contributing to global climate change mitigation efforts. Additionally, sustainable resource management practices are being introduced to ensure that natural resources are used efficiently and responsibly, preserving them for future generations.

Moreover, the European Union's involvement is also instrumental in advocating for sustainable agricultural practices, water management, and conservation efforts, which are particularly significant given the region's vulnerability to climate change and its heavy dependence on agriculture for livelihoods. Through technology transfer and financial support, the EU aids in modernizing agricultural techniques, improving water efficiency, and increasing crop yields, which in turn supports food security and economic stability in the region.

Furthermore, the strengthening of ties with the European Union through these environmental and sustainability initiatives also promises to bolster the social fabric of Central Asian societies. By promoting inclusive growth and equitable development, these efforts aim to improve living standards and reduce poverty. Education, public health, and infrastructure development are also focal points of cooperation, ensuring a comprehensive approach to building resilient and sustainable communities.

Moreover, the realization of the green and digital transitions is recognized as a crucial element for the future development of the region. Emphasizing the support for the development of renewable energy sources is essential. This includes not only the adoption of solar and wind energy technologies but also enhancing the capacity for energy storage to manage supply and demand effectively.

Additionally, reducing the digital divide is paramount, which can be achieved through the expansion and modernization of digital infrastructure. By doing so, Central Asia can foster a more inclusive digital environment, where more individuals and businesses can access and benefit from digital technologies.

Implementing these measures will undoubtedly catalyze technological innovation within the region. It will enhance the competitiveness of the Central Asian economies, making them more attractive to international investments and technology partnerships. Such advancements are likely to open new avenues for economic diversification, reduce dependency on traditional sectors like hydrocarbons, and pave the way for a more resilient economic structure.

Furthermore, the integration of green technologies and digital transformation in Central Asia can create new job opportunities and stimulate economic activities in sectors that are critical for sustainable development. This can lead to a more balanced economic growth, reducing the region's vulnerability to external economic shocks and environmental challenges. As Central Asia strengthens its ties with the European Union through these initiatives, it not only secures its own future but also contributes to global efforts in combating climate change and bridging technological gaps. This cooperative approach is essential for building a sustainable and prosperous future for all involved.

Increased trade relations and improved transport integration are also seen as promising avenues for ensuring stability and sustainable development of economic relations between the European Union and Central Asia. Deepening trade relations and developing transport capacity will strengthen ties that foster deeper economic integration and mutual benefit [14].

These perspectives reflect a shared commitment to developing and deepening partnerships, emphasising the importance of working together towards economic development, environmental sustainability and integration into the global economy, which the statement emphasises as key to the long-term progress and prosperity of both regions [15].

Prospects for deepening integration processes are enhanced by positive changes in the political climate of some countries, such as Uzbekistan. An important condition for success is a clear strategy and practical steps to strengthen interstate co-operation, including the creation of joint infrastructure projects, the removal of trade barriers and the development of regional markets.

Overall, the prospects for Central Asia's economic development are optimistic, provided that the proposed measures are implemented and adapted to global economic and environmental challenges. Sustainable growth requires significant efforts on the part of the region's governments to reform and modernise the economy, which can ensure long-term development and prosperity.

Conclusion

Summarising the extensive analysis of integration processes in the region and their impact on the socio-economic development of the countries, it can be noted that regional integration has significant potential to stimulate economic growth, strengthen political ties and increase the overall resilience of Central Asian countries to global challenges.

The impact of the blocking factors underscore the complexity and multifaceted nature of the challenges that countries face as they seek to deepen and expand their co-operation. By working to address these issues, the sides reaffirm their willingness to move towards long-term goals of mutually beneficial co-operation.

The analysis reveals that despite the existing obstacles and challenges, such as geopolitical tensions, differences in levels of economic development and external pressures, the Central Asian countries have demonstrated a growing interest in deepening interaction and co-operation. Kazakhstan has a special role to play as a key driver of integration initiatives in the region, given its strategic position and leadership in promoting multilateral economic and political ties.

Thus, ensuring long-term success in the region requires joint efforts of all CA countries, willingness to compromise and concerted work on common goals. The intensification of integration processes in Central Asia opens up new prospects for the region in creating a more equitable, stable and prosperous economic system capable of adapting to the changing world order and responding effectively to global challenges.

REFERENCES

- 1 Группа Всемирного Банка. Макроэкономика. Торговля и инвестиции. Доклад об экономике Казахстана. – 2023. – С. 1–35. URL: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099315504242342241/pdf/IDU0ab05d6c00342d0428509e0e0f608e6f89ef8.pdf> (дата обращения: 05.01.2024)
- 2 Группа Всемирного Банка. Доклад об экономике региона Европы и Центральной Азии. Управление главного экономиста. – 2023. – С. 5–45. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b8750261-a28e-4f14-9e36-c522884ebde9/content> (дата обращения: 08.01.2024)
- 3 Совместное заявление для прессы: 2-й экономический форум «Европейский Союз – Центральная Азия». – 2023. URL: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/> (дата обращения: 13.01.2024)
- 4 Блокирующие факторы и перспективы интеграции стран Центральной Азии. Институт стратегического анализа и прогноза. – 2023. URL: <https://isap.center/analytics/116> (дата обращения: 18.01.2024)
- 5 Международный валютный фонд. Перспективы развития региональной экономики: Ближний Восток и Центральная Азия. – 2023. – С. 10–56. URL: <https://www.imf.org/ru/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2023/10/12/regional-economic-outlook-mcd-october-2023> (дата обращения: 25.01.2024)
- 6 Усенов А.М. Интеграция государств Центральной Азии: проблемы и перспективы // Вестник КРСУ. – 2021. – Т. 21. – № 11. – С. 182–186.
- 7 Кари К. Встреча несогласных. Как прошел саммит лидеров стран Центральной Азии? ИА «Азаттық». – 2022. URL: <https://rus.azattyq.org/a/31957511.html> (дата обращения: 02.02.2024)
- 8 Рустами С. Центральная Азия – несложившаяся интеграция? – 2020. URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341987672_central_asia_-_uncomplicated_integration_centralnaa_azia_-_neslozivsaasa_integracia (дата обращения: 05.02.2024)
- 9 Mukhtarova K., Konuspayev Y., Makasheva K., Shakirov K. Kazakhstan's position in the economic cooperation with other countries of Central Asia // Central Asia and the Caucasus. 2021, no. 22 (2), pp. 110–121.
- 10 Isiksal A.Z. The role of natural resources in financial expansion: evidence from Central Asia // Financial Innovation. 2023, no. 9(1), pp. 22–32.
- 11 Yormirzoev M. Economic Growth and Productivity Performance in Central Asia. Comparative Economic Studies. 2022, no. 64(3), pp. 520–539.
- 12 Sadyrova, M., Yusupov K., Imanbekova B. Innovation processes in Kazakhstan: development factors // Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship. 2021, no. 10(1), pp. 1–10.
- 13 Pomfret R. Central Asian Economies: Thirty Years After Dissolution of the Soviet Union // Comparative Economic Studies. 2021, no. 63(4), pp. 537–556.
- 14 Vasić B., Pekić I., Šimić G. Energy security of the European Union and corruption in Central Asia as the main challenges for the European sustainable energy future Energy // Sustainability and Society. 2023, no.13(1), pp. 22–25.
- 15 Sadykova T., Stamova R., Abdina A., Sapargaliyeva S., Kulzhanova Z., Zhanarstanova M. Globalization of Culture in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: Ways of Its Manifestation // Croatian International Relations Review. 2023, no. 28(91), pp. 147–161.

REFERENCES

- 1 Gruppya Vsemirnogo Banka. Makroekonomika. Torgovlja i investicii. Doklad ob jekonomike Kazahstana. 2023. P. 1–35. URL: <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/099315504242342241/pdf/IDU0ab05d6c00342d0428509e0e0f608e6f89ef8.pdf> (data obrashhenija: 05.01.2024). (In Russian).
- 2 Gruppya Vsemirnogo Banka. Doklad ob jekonomike regiona Evropy i Central'noj Azii. Upravlenie glavnogo jekonomista. 2023. P. 5–45. URL: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/server/api/core/bitstreams/b8750261-a28e-4f14-9e36-c522884ebde9/content> (data obrashhenija: 08.01.2024). (In Russian).
- 3 Sovmestnoe zajavlenie dlja pressy: 2-j jekonomicheskij forum «Evropejskij Sojuz – Central'naja Azija». 2023. URL: <https://www.eeas.europa.eu/> (data obrashhenija: 13.01.2024). (In Russian).
- 4 Blokirujushhie faktory i perspektivy integracii stran Central'noj Azii. Institut strategicheskogo analiza i prognoza. 2023. URL: <https://isap.center/analytics/116> (data obrashhenija: 18.01.2024). (In Russian).
- 5 Mezhdunarodnyj valjutnyj fond. Perspektivy razvitija regional'noj jekonomiki: Blizhnij Vostok i Central'naja Azija. 2023. P. 10–56. URL: <https://www.imf.org/ru/Publications/REO/MECA/Issues/2023/10/12/regional-economic-outlook-mcd-october-2023> (data obrashhenija: 25.01.2024). (In Russian).
- 6 Usenov A.M. (2021) Integracija gosudarstv Central'noj Azii: problemy i perspektivy // Vestnik KRSU. V. 21. No. 11. P. 182–186. (In Russian).

- 7 Kari K. (2022) Vstrecha nesoglasnyh. Kak proshel sammit liderov stran Central'noj Azii? IA «Azattyk». URL: <https://rus.azattyq.org/a/31957511.html> (data obrashhenija: 02.02.2024). (In Russian).
- 8 Rustami S. (2020) Central'naja Azija – neslozhivshajasja integracija? . URL: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/341987672_central_asia_-_uncomplicated_integration_centralnaa_azia_-_neslozivsaasa_integracija (data obrashhenija: 05.02.2024). (In Russian).
- 9 Mukhtarova K., Konuspayev Y., Makasheva K., Shakirov K. (2021) Kazakhstan's position in the economic cooperation with other countries of Sentral Asia // Central Asia and the Caucasus, no. 22 (2), pp. 110–121. (In English).
- 10 Isiksal A.Z. (2023) The role of natural resources in financial expansion: evidence from Central Asia // Financial Innovation, no. 9(1), pp. 22–32. (In English).
- 11 Yormirzoev M. (2022) Economic Growth and Productivity Performance in Central Asia. Comparative Economic Studies, no. 64(3), pp. 520–539. (In English).
- 12 Sadyrova, M., Yusupov K., Imanbekova B. (2021) Innovation processes in Kazakhstan: development factors // Journal of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, no. 10(1), pp. 1–10. (In English).
- 13 Pomfret R. (2021) Central Asian Economies: Thirty Years After Dissolution of the Soviet Union // Comparative Economic Studies, no. 63(4), pp. 537–556. (In English).
- 14 Vasić B., Pekić I., Šimić G. (2023) Energy security of the European Union and corruption in Central Asia as the main challenges for the European sustainable energy future Energy // Sustainability and Society, no.13(1), pp. 22–25. (In English).
- 15 Sadykova T., Stamova R., Abdina A., Sapargaliyeva S., Kulzhanova Z., Zhanarstanova M. (2023) Globalization of Culture in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan: Ways of Its Manifestation // Croatian International Relations Review, no. 28(91), pp. 147–161. (In English).

Г.У. ХАДЖИЕВА,¹

э.ф.к., профессор-зерттеуші.

e-mail: g.khajiyeva@turand-edu.kz

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-8889-543X

Г.Қ. ЕГІЗБАЕВА,^{*1}

докторант.

*e-mail: yegizbaevag@gmail.com

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2796-6142

Р. ГИЗЕ,²

э.ф.д., профессор.

e-mail: r.giese@hszg.de

ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3784-5950

¹«Туран» университеті,

Алматы қ., Қазақстан

²Циттау-Герлицт қолданбалы

ғылымдар университеті,

Циттау қ., Германия

ДАМУДАҒЫ ИНТЕГРАЦИЯ: ҚАЗАҚСТАН МЕН ОРТАЛЫҚ АЗИЯНЫҢ ӘЛЕУМЕТТІК-ЭКОНОМИКАЛЫҚ СТРАТЕГИЯЛАРЫН БАҒАЛАУ

Аңдатпа

Зерттеу деглобализация мәселелеріне жауап ретінде Орталық Азия елдерінің экономика мен саясат саласындағы стратегиялық жоспарларды іске асыру ерекшеліктерін зерттеуге бағытталған. Мақаланың мақсаты – Қазақстандағы және көршілес елдердегі интеграциялық үдерістердің тиімділігі мен бағыттарын талдау, тұрақты экономикалық өсуге қол жеткізу және әлемдік аренада Орталық Азия өңірінің бәсекеге қабілеттілігін арттыру үшін осы елдерде қолданылатын негізгі идеялар мен тәсілдерді анықтау. Зерттеу жүйелі әдебиеттерге шолу, мета-анализ, аналитикалық синтез, салыстырмалы және сыни талдау сияқты ғылыми әдістерді қолдану арқылы жүргізілді. Зерттеудің ғылыми маңыздылығы – бұл көп қырлы құбылысты терең түсінуге мүмкіндік беретін Орталық Азия елдерінің аймақтық интеграциялық үрдістерге қатысуы арқылы олардың әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму стратегияларын жүйелеу мен сыни талдау. Жұмыстың практикалық маңыздылығы аймақта тиімді экономикалық органы құру үшін маңызды интеграциялық үрдістерді оңтайландыру бойынша

ұсыныстарды қалыптастырудан байқалады. Зерттеу нәтижелері академиялық қауымдастық, саясаткерлер, аймақтық интеграция мәселелерімен және жалпы халықаралық экономикалық қатынастармен айналысатын сарапшылар үшін құнды. Мақалада ұсынылған ұсыныстарды мемлекетаралық қарым-қатынастың тиімді тетіктерін әзірлеу және тұрақты экономикалық саясатты қалыптастыру үшін пайдалануға болады.

Тірек сөздер: аймақтық интеграция, әлеуметтік-экономикалық даму, халықаралық ынтымақтастық, аймақшілік сауда, жаһандану, тұрақты даму, климаттың өзгеруі, экономикалық стратегия.

Г.У. ХАДЖИЕВА,¹

к.э.н., профессор-исследователь.
e-mail: g.khajiyeva@turand-edu.kz
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-8889-543X

Г.Қ. ЕГІЗБАЕВА,*¹

докторант.
*e-mail: yegizbaevag@gmail.com
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-2796-6142

Р. ГИЗЕ,²

д.э.н, профессор.
e-mail: r.giese@hszg.de
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-3784-5950

¹Университет «Туран»,

г. Алматы, Казахстан

²Университет прикладных

наук Циттау-Герлиц,

г. Циттау, Германия

ИНТЕГРАЦИЯ В РАЗВИТИИ: ОЦЕНКА СОЦИАЛЬНО-ЭКОНОМИЧЕСКИХ СТРАТЕГИЙ КАЗАХСТАНА И ЦЕНТРАЛЬНОЙ АЗИИ

Аннотация

Исследование сфокусировано на изучении специфики и особенностей реализации стратегических планов в сфере экономики и политики стран Центральной Азии (ЦА) в ответ на вызовы деглобализации. Цель статьи – анализ и оценка социально-экономических стратегий Казахстана и стран Центральной Азии в контексте их интеграционных процессов и развития, а также определение их влияния на региональную стабильность и международное сотрудничество. Исследование проводилось с применением таких научных методов как систематический литературный обзор, метаанализ, аналитический синтез, сравнительно-сопоставительный и критический анализ. Научная значимость исследования заключается в систематизации и критическом анализе стратегий социально-экономического развития стран ЦА через призму их участия в региональных интеграционных процессах, что позволяет углубить понимание этого многоаспектного феномена. Практическая значимость работы выражается в формировании предложений по оптимизации интеграционных процессов, что важно для создания эффективной экономической среды в регионе. Результаты исследования представляют ценность для академического сообщества, политиков и экспертов, занимающихся вопросами региональной интеграции и международных экономических отношений в целом. Предложенные в статье рекомендации могут быть использованы для разработки более эффективных механизмов межгосударственного взаимодействия и формирования устойчивой экономической политики.

Ключевые слова: региональная интеграция, социально-экономическое развитие, международное сотрудничество, внутрирегиональная торговля, деглобализация, устойчивое развитие, изменение климата, экономическая стратегия.