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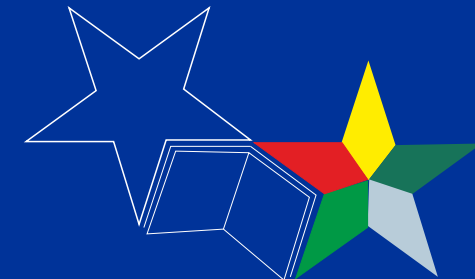
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The European Union's Programme
for Central Asia

The European Union is made up of 27 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms.

The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders.



CAEP
Central Asian
Education Platform

A project implemented by GOPA Consultants
in Consortium with IBF, DAAD and CAIC Consulting.



The Central Asian Education Platform (CAEP)

Background

In response to the growing importance of the Central Asian region, the EU launched the “**EU Central Asian Strategy for a New Partnership**” (2007), aiming at the five Central Asian (CA) states, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The strategy focuses on a number of priorities for cooperation (like security, rule of law, good governance, human rights, youth and education, environment and energy). High-level political dialogues in three main areas have been agreed upon. In order to prepare, organise and implement these dialogues, as well as disseminate their results, three platforms have been set up:

- Rule of Law Platform,
- Environment and Water Platform,
- **Education Platform.**

The **Central Asian Education Platform (CAEP)** is a key pillar of the European Education Initiative (EEI) for Central Asia which is to “contribute to the adaptation of education systems of Central Asian States to the needs of the globalised world” as well as the necessities of the region and the societies in each particular country.

Objective

The CAEP has been established to **support a policy dialogue** between the EU and the CA countries and within the CA region **in order to reinforce education sector reforms in Central Asia**. It also aims at better coordination of donors' activities in the education sector in the region.

The **DG Development Cooperation** of the European Commission is managing the CAEP's implementation and acts as an executing body on behalf of the CA countries. In addition, **a close partnership with the CA countries** ensures that topics selected and actions undertaken are in line with national and regional priorities and interests.



Focus of the CAEP

The CAEP focuses on **Vocational Education and Training (VET)** and on **Higher Education (HE)**. The main content areas include Interaction of VET and HE, Teacher Education and Training as well as Quality of Education (VET and HE).

Project Tasks

Component 1: Dialogue Forums

Provision of technical and logistics support to the organisation of national and regional dialogue forums at different levels

Component 2: Mapping and Communication

Development of a communication platform, including a project database and CAEP website as well as further communication tools, supporting the policy dialogue in the education sector

Component 3: Studies

Conduction of studies to complement the dialogue forums

Summary of Planned Project Results

- Capacity of CA policy makers through Europe/CA education sector dialogue, policy analysis and learning is enhanced and evidence-based policy approach is initiated;
- Support to donors, CA stakeholders and experts to plan, coordinate and implement education reform programmes is improved.

Cooperation with other EU initiatives

As the CAEP renders its full assistance to the EEI and its main actors – the CA stakeholders in VET and HE and the related Commission Services – it closely cooperates with EU initiatives such as:

- Tempus Programme,
- Erasmus Mundus Exchange Programme,
- ETF projects.

Sustainability

The project will motivate the CA partners to **institutionalize the international and regional education sector dialogue** related to the modernization of their education systems and further development of the Central Asian Education Area.

Project Timeframe:

February 2012 – February 2015