

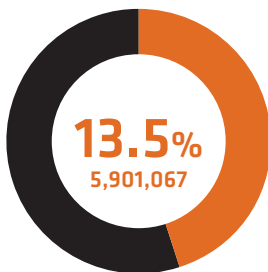


Diaspora engagement mapping UKRAINE

Facts & figures

Emigration¹

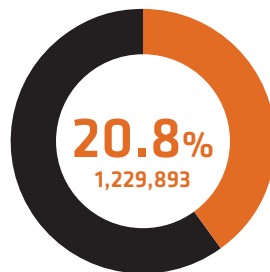
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 45.1%
♀ 54.9%



% of which in the EU



♂ 39.1%
♀ 60.9%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 11.8%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 15,899



Top countries of destination

Russia	3,269,248
USA	414,206
Kazakhstan	353,225
Italy	246,367
Germany	241,486



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates⁴



Terminology: Art 1 of the Law On Legal Status of Ukrainians abroad⁵ defines two terms:

- A 'Ukrainian abroad' is a person who is a citizen of another State - or a stateless person - and who has Ukrainian ethnic origin or is of Ukrainian descent.
- 'Ukrainian ethnic origin' means that a person and/or his/her ancestors belongs to the Ukrainian nation and recognizes Ukraine as their home country.

1 According to the Statistics provided by MFA of Ukraine, the diaspora is slightly bigger (6 848 100 or 16% of the total population) <https://zakordonniukrainci.mfa.gov.ua/ukrayinska-gromada/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu> <https://italy.mfa.gov.ua/spivrobotnictvo/179-ukrajinci-v-italiji>; According to the Ukrainian MFA, the main countries of destination are also different: Russia (1 930 000), Canada (1 209 085), USA (892 992), Brazil (500 000) and Moldova (477 000) <https://mfa.gov.ua/dvostoronnye-spivrobotnictvo/zakordonni-ukrajinci/ukrayinska-gromada-v-krayinah-svitu>

2 The Constitution in conjunction with the Law on Citizenship stipulate unified national citizenship. If a citizen of Ukraine has acquired citizenship of another State or States, or if a foreign national or stateless person has acquired citizenship of Ukraine, (s)he is recognised only as a citizen of Ukraine in legal relations with Ukraine. Law on Citizenship № 2235-III of January 18, 2001. <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2235-14>

3 A voter residing on the territory of a foreign country has the right to vote at the elections. However, the voter must be registered at the relevant polling station, indicating that such a voter receives a ballot paper only in the national constituency. See Law on the Elections of People's Deputies in Ukraine, Bulletin of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, last amended in 2019 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/en/4061-17>

4 Citizens of Ukraine residing abroad have the right to vote in presidential elections. See Law on Presidential Election of Ukraine, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/474-14>

5 Art 1. Of the Law on the Legal Status of Ukrainians Abroad, <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1582-15>

Ukraine does not have a diaspora engagement policy.



Overview of the policy and legislative framework

- 2017** ● **The State Migration Policy Strategy of Ukraine for the Period up to 2025⁶** includes 13 objectives, some of which apply to government-diaspora engagement. Objective 2 foresees protection of the rights of Ukrainian citizens working abroad and strengthening a constant dialogue with EU MS and other states on the protection of the rights of Ukrainian workers. Objective 3 proposes the creation of conditions and measures for the voluntary return and reintegration of Ukrainian migrants by introducing a state credit system for those wishing to start their own businesses and tax benefits for those who invest money earned abroad. Objective 4 stipulates the simplification of immigration and naturalisation procedures for Ukrainians abroad, as well as for representatives of traditional Ukrainian ethnic minorities living abroad.
- 2017** ● **Action Plan on Ensuring the Reintegration into Society of Labour Migrants and Members of their Families⁷** facilitates the employment of migrant workers and their family members upon their return to Ukraine, taking into account their educational level, professional experience, qualifications and labour market needs. It is planned to strengthen the social and legal protection of Ukrainians working abroad by stepping up international cooperation and concluding agreements on issues related to the protection of migrants' rights.
- 2018** ● **The State Program for Cooperation with Ukrainians abroad for the period up to 2020** were adopted by the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers № 344 of May 10, 2018⁸. The Program aims at strengthening cooperation with Ukrainians living abroad, meeting their cultural and linguistic needs, attracting the potential of the Ukrainian diaspora and promoting a positive image of Ukraine in the world.⁹
- 2018** ● **Action plan for implementing the strategy of the state migration policy of Ukraine for the period up to 2018-2021¹⁰** suggests the creation of an information portal for Ukrainians abroad who have expressed a desire to return to Ukraine; drafting a legal framework for keeping records of Ukrainians abroad by Ukrainian foreign diplomatic institutions.



Trends:

The Ukrainian diaspora 'awoke' during the Euromaidan protests. Euromaidan was a mass protest and civil unrest movement in Ukraine that lasted three months between November 2013 and February 2014. It has engaged in the reconstruction of the country during and since the period of demonstrations and civil unrest and the military conflict in Eastern Ukraine. Nowadays the government of Ukraine is increasingly aware of the dividends of Ukraine's diaspora engagement and its soft power as a useful tool for the country in the international arena. As a result, Ukraine is now exploring ways to engage its diaspora community for reconciliation.

6 <http://zakon0.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/482-2017-p>. 2018

7 <http://zakon3.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/257-2017-p>. 2017

8 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/344-2018-%D0%BF>

9 <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/npas/pro-zatverdzhennya-derzhavnoyi-programi-spivpraci-iz-zakordonnimi-ukrayincyami-na-period-do-2020-roku>

10 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/602-2018-%D1%80>



Achievements:

The Ukrainian government tries to improve the registration of Ukrainian diaspora members through the following means: the delivery of a special certification of Ukrainian living abroad that can be obtained by any foreign national or a stateless person of Ukrainian descent¹¹ and a smartphone application, the System for Voluntary Registration of Ukrainian Citizens while traveling and/ or residing abroad¹², created in 2017 for the warning, search and provision of assistance to the citizens of Ukraine in emergencies abroad.

Obstacles



- **Insufficient policy framework:** There is no all-encompassing repatriation programme aimed at attracting the return of Ukrainians abroad. Creating conditions for their return is a goal in the State Migration Policy Strategy, but not yet elaborated in the programme documents nor the Law on External Labour Migration.
- **Remittances infrastructure:** There is a lack of state programmes or money transfer services to facilitate remittances. Foreign transfer systems are expensive and occupy a large share of the Ukrainian financial market; Russian transfer systems are cheaper but prohibited by the Ukrainian government.¹³
- **Politics:** The Russian-Ukrainian military conflict and annexation of Crimea have an impact on diaspora-state relations, having motivated many people of Ukrainian descent residing abroad to reconnect with their Ukrainian roots. Diaspora members attend relevant events and request their foreign governments to support Ukraine. On the other side, a huge community of Ukrainian diaspora in Russia have no intention of engaging with Ukraine.

11 <https://mfa.gov.ua/en/about-ukraine/ukrainians-worldwide>

12 MFA (2017): Добровільної реєстрації українських громадян при подорожах за кордон, <https://friend.mfa.gov.ua/#/>

13 https://www.president.gov.ua/storage/j-files-storage/00/35/66/91a596fbc7c677ebfaf5d2e33e7de19a_1476776807.pdf

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



Global Ukrainians Forum¹⁴

NETWORK

The forum is run by 30 volunteers in Ukraine and abroad. They are constantly in contact with more than 400 young Ukrainian expatriates in 70 countries. The aim of the forum is the development of the Ukrainian public cultural and business diplomacy strategies by inviting Ukrainian expats, leaders of post-Maidan movements, who have shown their abilities in organising and achieving positive results by using various types of public diplomacy. Some of the activities include a Business Hub (see below) and the Global Ukrainians Club (a platform that brings together Ukrainians abroad in order to run social, humanitarian, cultural and other projects).

Global Ukraine Business Hub¹⁵

DIGITAL + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Global Ukraine Business Hub is a new social project aiming at promoting unique creative Ukrainian modern brands. The project includes the creation of an innovative on-line promotion and communication platform connecting Ukrainian businesses with you Ukrainian diaspora members. Through this project, the Ukrainian diaspora can buy Ukrainian goods and popularize new Ukrainian products as business ambassadors. Other key activities include organising meetings, trainings and workshops.

Step to Ukraine¹⁶

EDUCATION

This educational portal supports teaching Ukrainian with modern interactive materials and methodologies. There are summer schools for foreign students, scientists and researchers also form part of the project; these focus on the study of the Ukrainian language and culture. Ten summer schools have been organised and held in Ukraine, Argentina and Kazakhstan.

14 <https://global-ukraine.com/>

15 <https://global-ukraine.com/en/business-hub-2/>

16 <http://krok.miok.lviv.ua/uk/>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

National Commission for Matters Concerning Ukrainians Worldwide

Within the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, the National Commission is in charge of granting the legal status of Ukrainians living abroad upon the receipt of the corresponding application submitted via diplomatic authorities of Ukraine or directly to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine

<https://www.president.gov.ua/en>

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The MFA maintains cooperation with Ukrainians abroad, helping them with their cultural, educational and linguistic needs. Within the MFA is the Department for Ukrainians Worldwide and Humanitarian Cooperation. <https://mfa.gov.ua/en> <https://mfa.gov.ua/en/about-ukraine/ukrainians-worldwide>

Ministry of Culture, Youth and Sport

Charged with of creating and supporting contacts with Ukrainians abroad in order to search for cultural and linguistic unity, create conditions for their return to Ukraine.¹⁷ <http://mkms.gov.ua/>

Ministry for the Development of the Economy, Trade and Agriculture of Ukraine

The ministry maintains the state policy in the field of labour migration¹⁸

<http://www.me.gov.ua/Documents/List?lang=uk-UA&id=2c90ad86-f47a-4c19-bf95-13345b83c279&tag=PravoviZasadiDiialnosti>

Ministry of Education and Science

Regulates procedures and preconditions for the admission of Ukrainians residing abroad to the higher education institutions of Ukraine within the annually established state quotas

<https://mon.gov.ua/ua/osvita/visha-osvita/zakordonnim-ukrayincyam>

- At sub-ministerial level

State Migration Service

The government agency of Ukraine that maintains policy in the areas of immigration, emigration, and citizenship, as well as regulates the resident registration system <https://dmsu.gov.ua/>

17 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/495-2014-%D0%BF#n8>

18 <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/459-2014-%D0%BF>

Ukrainian World Congress (UWC)

The congress is the international coordinating body for the diaspora with members in 60+ countries. The UWC has a special consultative status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council and participatory status as an international non-governmental organisation with the Council of Europe.

<https://www.ukrainianworldcongress.org/>

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association of Ukrainians in the Republic of Ireland (AURI) 2008

https://www.facebook.com/pg/AURI.Ireland/about/?ref=page_internal; <http://www.ukrainians.ie/en/>;

The organisation was created with the main objective of supporting the educational and cultural needs of Ukrainians living in the Republic of Ireland. It also strives to unify Ukrainians and facilitate their integration into the Irish society. The priority of the association is the upkeep of the Ukrainian School with the objective of preserving and developing the Ukrainian language, culture and the creation of a Ukrainian-speaking environment for children with Ukrainian roots.

Christian Society of Ukrainians in Italy

The organisation provides support to Ukrainians working and residing in Italy

LUKraine Luxembourg www.ukrainians.lu; <https://facebook.com/ukraine.lu>

Development activities

This organisation promotes Ukrainian culture, organises student exchange programmes and supports Ukrainians in Luxembourg. It also provides humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

Ukrainian Association in Poland 2001 www.oup.ukraina.com.pl

The association's activities promote Ukrainian culture and language; disseminating information related to any form of activities of Ukrainians living abroad and providing support to them.

Ukrainian Institute London UK 1979 <http://ukrainianinstitute.org.uk/about/>

An affiliate of the Ukrainian Catholic University, the Ukrainian Institute London provides information and broadens knowledge in the UK about Ukraine and Ukrainians in the realms of arts, language, literature, history, religion, culture and heritage, traditions and current affairs.

Union of Ukrainians in Portugal 2003 www.spilka.pt

The union's main objective is to help, assist and protect the rights and interests of Ukrainian immigrants and their descendants no matter their legal status in Portugal.

Shevchenko Scientific Society France 1873 <http://ntshevchenko.eu/en/a-bit-of-history>

This Ukrainian scientific society is devoted to the promotion of scholarly research and publication. Its Europe branch is headquartered in Paris.

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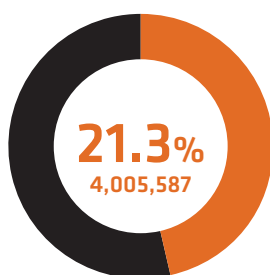


Diaspora engagement mapping KAZAKHSTAN

Facts & figures

Emigration¹

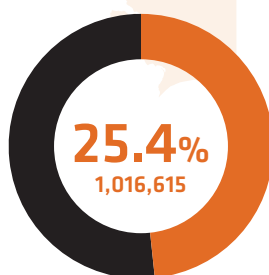
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 46.6%
♀ 53.4%



% of which in the EU



♂ 48.4%
♀ 51.6%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **25.4%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **645**



Top countries of destination

Russia	2,559,711
Germany	940,296
Ukraine	224,467
Belarus	69,084
US	31,199 ²



Political rights



Dual citizenship³



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad⁴



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates⁵



Terminology: The country's legislation operates with different terms: diaspora, (former) compatriot, ethnic Kazakh, Oralman (replacing by the term Qandash, "blood relative" since 30 April 2020). The term 'diaspora' is defined in the Art.1 para 1 of the Law of the Republic of Kazakhstan concerning languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan as follows: *Diaspora is the part of people (ethnic group), living outside of the country of its historical origin⁶*. The term 'former compatriot' means *a person who was born in or acquired citizenship of the Kazakh Socialist Soviet Republic or the Republic of Kazakhstan, and permanently live abroad⁷* (Art. 1 para 1 of the Law on Population Migration of the Republic of Kazakhstan).

Kazakhstan does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByOriginAndDestination_2019.xlsx

2 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByOriginAndDestination_2019.xlsx

3 Article 3 of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Kazakhstan determines that "a citizen of the Republic of Kazakhstan is not recognized as a citizen of another country", https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=1000816#pos=3;-155

4 Art 24- 8 of the Law on Election of the Republic of Kazakhstan, https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=1004029#pos=622;-18

5 Article 23 (3) the Law on Election of the Republic of Kazakhstan, https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=1004029#pos=585;-63

6 https://online.zakon.kz/m/Document/?doc_id=1008034



Overview of the policy and legislative framework

- 2014
2020
2017
2021
- **Concept of Foreign Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan** states that support of the Kazakh diaspora and the Kazakh language is a part of the country's foreign policy.⁷
- **The Concept of Migration Policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan** consists of measures intensifying cultural and humanitarian ties with and encouraging the return of ethnic Kazakhs living abroad⁸. These measures include the formation of cultural centres that aim to promote Kazakhstan and inform the Kazakh diaspora about the country's repatriation policy, education scholarships and employment possibilities in Kazakhstan. The Action plan in the framework of the abovementioned Concept promotes Kazakhstan's immigration policy in order to attract foreign investors, businesspersons and high-qualified specialists, including former compatriots.⁹
- 2018
- **Law on the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan** stipulated that the activity of the Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan is aimed at "supporting the Kazakh diaspora in preserving and developing native language, culture and national traditions, strengthening its ties with the historical homeland."¹⁰
- 2018
2022
- **Action Plan to support ethnic Kazakhs abroad** was adopted by the Head of State to support the implementation of the tasks set at the Fifth World Kurultai of Kazakhs. Among them is the idea of the Otandastar Foundation, which aims to support compatriots living abroad, as well as ethnic Kazakhs who arrived in Kazakhstan. It covers activities in four directions: education support and language preservation; cultural and humanitarian support; information support and communication; intensification of the activity of the World Kazakh Association¹¹.
- 2020
- **Law on Population Migration** covers the issue of ethnic return migration and deals with regulating the whole process of repatriation from procedures to obtain the "oralman" status, to measures on adaptation and integration.¹² The law was amended to replace "oralman" with "qandas" (meaning 'blood relative,' literally 'blood-fellow,' or 'fellow tribesman') in all legal documents.¹³

» Trends and achievements

After the dissolution of the USSR, Kazakhstan had neither a government agency nor an official institution dedicated to the diaspora abroad. Nowadays the Kazakh government attempts to institutionalise relationships along two strands: the first part of the policy is aimed at targeting ethnic Kazakhs, so called Qandash (previously Oralmans); the second part of the policy is focused on Kazakhstanis, i.e. those who hold the citizenship of Kazakhstan and reside abroad. Kazakhstan has shown little interest in the recognition of the diaspora's economic and investment potential.

Modern Kazakhstan has sought to build a state truly of and for the titular ethnicity, in order to overcome issues of Russification of its population. The repatriation programme is one of the main pillars of the migration strategy of Kazakhstan. From 1991, when Kazakhstan gained its independence, to the 1st January 2020, 1,057,280 ethnic Kazakhs or 313,256 Kazakh families, came back to the historical homeland and were granted the status of ethnic Kazakh, so called Qandash (previously Oralman).¹⁴

7 http://www.akorda.kz/ru/legal_acts/decrees/o-koncepcii-vneshnei-politiki-respubliki-kazahstan-na-2014-2020-gody

8 Ministry of Labour and Social Protection (2016): Press release to the draft Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On concept of migration policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan for the years 2017-2021", <https://www.enbek.gov.kz/en/node/341772>

9 <https://www.enbek.gov.kz/ru/node/345460>. In English: <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=101042#A51DODLB8G>

10 https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=30352401#pos=2;-155

11 <http://adilet.zan.kz/rus/docs/P1800000280>

12 https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=31038298#pos=3;-155

13 Kazpravda.kz, The term "oralman" has to be legally replaced by the term "qandas" in Kazakhstan [Termin "oralman" zakonodatel'no zamenyat na termin "kandas" v Kazahstane], available at <https://www.kazpravda.kz/news/obshchestvo/termin-oralman-zakonodatel-no-zamenen-na-termin-kandas-v-kazahstane>, 30 April 2020.

14 [zakon.kz/5003829-skolko-oralmanov-pribyli-v-kazahstan.html](http://www.zakon.kz/5003829-skolko-oralmanov-pribyli-v-kazahstan.html)

A main achievement will be the introduction of the “Kazakhs card” that is aimed to allow its holder to get a long-term national visa, a work permission and to be engaged in any form of business activities, as well as to receive financial assistance from the state.¹⁵

In June 2019, the Ministry of labour and social protection of the population, the Otandastar foundation and the World Association of Kazakhs signed a Memorandum on mutual cooperation and strengthening of partnerships¹⁶ in order to provide support to ethnic Kazakhs and compatriots living abroad. The Memorandum provides assistance in the development of cultural and humanitarian ties with the Kazakh Diaspora. The State Program for the Development and Functioning of Languages in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2011 - 2020 provides a framework of “political, diplomatic, methodological and organizational support for the study of the native language by diaspora.” In addition, within the framework of this program, the Kazakh diaspora is regarded not only as a recipient, but also as a tool to popularize the Kazakh language. In particular, it is supposed to attract representatives of the diaspora who speak the Kazakh language for special Public Relations campaigns.¹⁷

Obstacles



- **Data:** There is no comprehensive mapping of diaspora. Current data is based on those who register with the Kazakhstan’s embassies.
- **Institutional issues:** There is a number of state actors involving in shaping and managing diaspora policies of Kazakhstan and overlaps in their powers. As a result, there are a lot of internal issues that hinder policy development and impact. The World Association of Kazakhs and the establishment of the Otandastar Foundation could be seen as efforts towards developing a more effective institutional system and reducing the burden on the government bodies and building more efficient and effective work in this direction.

15 <http://www.oq.gov.kz/en/news/53-obschestvennaya-komissiya-pri-nekommercheskom-aktsionernom-obschestve-fond-otand>

16 https://www.inform.kz/ru/kazahstan-budet-podderzivat-etnicheskih-kazahov-za-rubezhom_a3538040

17 https://online.zakon.kz/document/?doc_id=31024348#pos=33;-46

SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



The World Kazakh Kurultays and Small Kazakh Kurultays, 1992

NETWORKS

Events that aim to unite Kazakh diaspora around the world, to discuss common issues, and to develop strategies for diaspora - Kazakhstan interaction. The last World Kazakh Kurultai (5th edition) was conducted in Nur-Sultan in June 2017¹⁸ where the Head of State defined the directions of state support of compatriots abroad and underlined the need to rebuild and strengthen relations with Kazakh diaspora. This event led to the establishment of the Otandastar Foundation.¹⁹

Qazaq House, 2019

EDUCATION + CULTURE

Launched by the Otandastar Foundation, this Kazakh cultural project consists of two branches: “Abay” Cultural Center and “Atameken” Business House. The Qazaq House organises several events (e.g. training courses and competitions in Kazakh language and Kazakh literature, culture and history; educational camps for children of ethnic Kazakhs; celebration of the Kazakhstan’s state and national holidays).²⁰

International Festival of Arts “Saint Qazaq State” 2019

CULTURE

The festival was launched with the participation of compatriots in the frame of the Otandastar Foundation activities. It is dedicated to identifying and supporting talented performers, and popularising traditional types of national culture and art.²¹

Kazakhstan Culture Days

CULTURE

are administrated by the MFA and include different cultural events: exhibitions of Kazakhstani artists, presentations of books in Kazakh languages and/or Kazakhstan’s authors, music, dance and theater performances.²²

18 http://www.akorda.kz/ru/events/astana_kazakhstan/participation_in_events/uchastie-v-v-vsemirnom-kurultae-kazahov

19 <http://www.oq.gov.kz/en/statutory-tasks>

20 <http://qazaqhouse.oq.gov.kz/en.htm>

21 <http://oq.gov.kz/en/projects/19en.htm>

22 <http://mfa.gov.kz/ru/content-view/v-rossii-prosli-dni-kultury-kazahstana>; <http://mfa.gov.kz/ru/content-view/dni-kultury-kazahstana-v-turkmenistane>; <https://24.kz/ru/news/social/item/202825-dni-kazahstanskoj-kultury-otmetili-v-turtsii>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

President of the Republic of Kazakhstan is in charge of the internal and foreign policy of Kazakhstan. He determines the main strategy for the country's development, including diaspora and migration policies. As an example, the issue on the need for changing the term "oralman" was put forth by the former president Nazarbayev²³ <https://www.akorda.kz/ru>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a key institution in providing assistance to the members of the Kazakh diaspora and in promoting Kazakh language <http://mfa.gov.kz/en/>

The Ministry of Culture and Sports leads in the support and development of the Kazakh language and culture. One of its objectives is to follow "the implementation and coordination of activities in the field of international cultural cooperation, development of cultural ties with compatriots."²⁴ <https://www.mks.gov.kz/eng/>

The Ministry of Labour and Social Protection of the Population is in charge of launching and shaping the state labour migration and repatriation policy <https://www.enbek.gov.kz/en/frontpage>

The Ministry of Education and Science is responsible for providing textbooks and teaching materials in Kazakh languages for compatriots abroad and setting up the quotas for returnees²⁵ <http://edu.gov.kz/en/>

The Department for inter-ethnic relation was established in 2016 under the Ministry of Information and Social Development to coordinate interaction with diasporas and organisations of compatriots living abroad. It monitors and analyses the social, economic, and cultural situation of compatriots, ethnic Kazakhs living abroad, etc. <http://qogam.gov.kz/en/pages/regulation-4>

The Assembly of the People of Kazakhstan is engaged in activities of development and preservation of the Kazakh language and culture among the Kazakh diaspora.²⁶ <https://assembly.kz/ru/ank/deyatelnost-assamblei-naroda-kazakhstana>

The Unified Contact Center of "Otandastar Foundation" is a key institution dealing with diaspora, compatriots and returnees. It provides compatriots and returnees (oralmans) with information on repatriation, citizenship acquisition procedures, adaptation and integration measures, employment possibilities, etc <http://www.oq.gov.kz/ru>

The World association of Kazakhs is a nongovernmental organization. Since 1992 it has been responsible for maintaining relations with compatriots living abroad <http://qazaq-alemi.kz/bolimder/lem-aza-tary/>

23 https://tengrinews.kz/kazakhstan_news/tokaev-nado-otkazatsya-ot-slova-oralman-379519/

24 https://mks.gov.kz/rus/o_ministerstve/polozhenie_o_ministerstve/

25 <https://informburo.kz/novosti/kvotu-na-granty-dlya-oralmanov-v-kazhstane-uvelichili-s-2-do-4.html>

26 https://online.zakon.kz/Document/?doc_id=30352401#pos=2;-155

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association des Kazakhs en France 2010

<https://www.facebook.com/Association-des-Kazakhs-en-France-242052839170814/>

The aim of the association is to develop friendly and business contacts between members of the association, to participate in the development of economic and cultural cooperation between Kazakhstan and France.

Federation of European Kazakh Associations (FEKA) Europe 2008 <https://www.facebook.com/fekazakh/>

FEKA is an independent, non-profit organization that promotes communication between European Kazakhs and Kazakhs in the world and with Kazakhstan. FEKA unites Kazakh association of Austria, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Netherlands, Norway, and Sweden.

Kazakh House Germany 2009 <https://vk.com/club11104301>

Kazakh House in Berlin is a centre that aims to develop business and cultural relationships between Kazakhstan and Germany. The following organisations and companies branches are presented at Kazakh House: the Chamber of Industry and Commerce of the Republic of Kazakhstan in Germany; the Association of Entrepreneurs and Legal Entities “Eurasian Entrepreneurs Association” in Germany; Official dealer of Kazphosphate LLP, among others.

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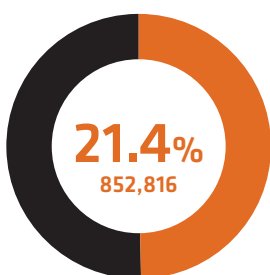


Diaspora engagement mapping GEORGIA

Facts & figures

Emigration

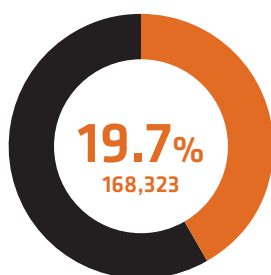
% of emigrants in total population



♂ 49.8%
♀ 50.2%



% of which in the EU



♂ 41.8%
♀ 58.2%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **12.3%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **2,126**



Top countries of destination



Russian Federation **450,115**
Greece **81,272**
Ukraine **65,042**
Azerbaijan **49,137**
Armenia **37,886**

Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: According to the Law of Georgia on Compatriots Residing Abroad and Diaspora Organisations (2011), the term 'diaspora' covers the members of all Georgian migrant communities abroad, including historic diaspora, temporary short-term emigrants, long-term emigrants, expatriates, and Georgians who are already naturalised in their countries of residence.

Georgia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 According to the amendments to the Law on Citizenship in 2018, it is possible to retain Georgian citizenship if, the citizen procures an official consent from Georgian authorities prior to acquiring the citizenship of another country. Any Georgian national that has lost Georgian citizenship due to acquiring another country's citizenship, is eligible to apply at the Public Services Development Agency with the request to reinstate Georgian citizenship until December 31, 2020.
<https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/4273360?publication=0>

2 <http://cesko.ge/eng/static/1605/amomrcheveli-sazghvargaret>

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2011** ● **Law of Georgia on Compatriots Residing Abroad and Diaspora Organisations**³ defines the principles of state policy with regard to compatriots residing abroad and establishes the grounds for the activities of the state authorities in order to implement such policy, and to define the legal status of compatriots residing abroad and diaspora organisations.
- 2014** ● **The Organic Law of Georgia on Georgian Citizenship**⁴ simplifies the determination of Georgian citizenship and modifies the naturalisation procedures.
- 2015** ● **The Law of Georgia on Labour Migration**⁵ largely regulates the norms of the labour emigration of Georgian citizens abroad, particularly emigration through intermediary organisations. The law also foresees mechanisms for the protection of the rights of labour migrants.
- 2016** ∨
2020 ● **Migration Strategy of Georgia**⁶ was developed in order to ensure well-planned policy development and steady improvement of migration management's efficiency as one of the priorities for the Georgian government. The goal of the migration policy of Georgia was to create, by 2020, a legislative and institutional environment that: ensures the state's enhanced approximation to the EU; facilitates peaceful cohabitation of various religions, cultural and ethnic groups, protected migrants' rights and their successful integration into society; promotes reintegration of returned migrants and the usage of positive economic and demographic aspects of migration for the development of the country; and increases legal migration opportunities for the citizens of Georgia. With its 2021-2031 migration strategy (awaiting endorsement), the government is continuing to put mainstreaming migration into development at the top of its agenda.



Trends:

As a result of the Mobility Partnership between the EU and Georgia, engagement of the Georgian diaspora in the country's development is thoroughly reflected in Georgia's migration policy. Therefore, the Georgian government has included migration and development in the Georgian Migration Strategy for 2016–2020 and 2021-2031 whose annual action plans include a number of programmes directed at diaspora engagement. As underlined within the migration strategy, in the migration management process it is very important to carry out policies that harness the potential of diaspora and migrants for the socio-economic development in the country. Therefore, the developments over the last two decades have shown the increased interest in the diaspora from the Georgian government, including in terms of diaspora potential and positive impact on strengthening Georgia's current development efforts.



Achievements

In 2019, Georgia established a brand new grant programme⁷ for diaspora organisations that would like to implement projects directed towards development processes in Georgia, academic/scientific cooperation and supporting access to the rights of migrants in destination countries. The grant programme focuses on topics such as strengthening diplomacy, support to healthy lifestyle, protection of Georgian diaspora interests and human rights abroad as well as supporting return, and maintaining national and cultural identity.

3 http://migration.commission.ge/files/law_on_compatriots_eng.pdf

4 <https://matsne.gov.ge/en/document/view/2342552?publication=5>

5 <https://matsne.gov.ge/ka/document/view/2806732?impose=translateEn&publication=3>

6 http://migration.commission.ge/files/migration_strategy_2016-2020_eng_final_amended_08.2018.pdf

7 The grants programme established by the Government of Georgia is entitled "Supporting Diaspora Initiatives" being implemented by the MFA. As a result of an open call for applications, there were 28 applications selected in 2019 that were each issued a grant for approx. 8,300EUR. <http://gda.ge/news/sagranto-programa-diasporuli-initsiativebis-khelshetskoba>

The government has also made significant steps towards establishing a circular migration scheme with France (initiated in 2014 and ratified in 2019); negotiations on establishing circular migration schemes are underway with: Germany, Poland, Estonia, Lithuania, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Czech Republic, Hungary and Ireland.

Obstacles



- **Return and reintegration:** Due to the unfavourable return and reintegration measures in the country, many migrants consider immigration again in the search for better opportunities and a higher standard of living. Migrants who have returned voluntarily having gained knowledge, education and skills abroad that they are willing to contribute to the labour market in Georgia do not always find opportunities within Georgia.
- **Trust:** Having experienced several waves of emigration linked with the dissolution of the Soviet Union, regaining Georgia's national independence and severe economic crises during the 1990s, establishing trust between migrants and the government became a challenge. In later years, in order to combat this challenge, the Georgian government began establishing initiatives to rebuild trust with its recent and historic diaspora by prioritising diaspora engagement and the role of diaspora in the country's overall development. Many programmes/initiatives are directed towards improvement of the government's approach to diaspora engagement, establishing further networking and closer connections to their nationals abroad.

SPOTLIGHT: Effective practices



Diaspora Forums⁸

The Georgian Diaspora Forum is organised once a year in Tbilisi, Georgia. It brings together prominent Georgian diaspora members, government officials, academia, civil society, private entities and international organisations, with the aim of networking, organising workshops and thematic discussions and establishing cooperation opportunities in the fields of economics, business, education and science, philanthropy, public diplomacy as well as youth engagement, athletics and culture.

NETWORKS

High-Profile Diaspora Awards⁹

A high-level event with the involvement of the President of Georgia, Minister of Foreign Affairs and other high-level representatives of the Government, diplomatic representations and international community was established in cooperation with the EU-funded ICMPD ENIGMMA 2 project. The awards are organised annually in Georgia. The main purpose is to attract and increase the involvement of high-profile diaspora members in the development processes of Georgia. This is carried out by creating a network of diaspora professionals from diverse sectors that are implementing pilot activities. As a result, the achievements of prominent Georgian diaspora members is recognised and highly publicised through national and international media.

NETWORKS +
HUMAN CAPITAL

8 <http://gda.ge/Search?q=%E1%83%A4%E1%83%9D%E1%83%A0%E1%83%A3%E1%83%9B%E1%83%98>

9 <http://www.enigmma.ge/news/georgian-diaspora-awards-2019/>



Legal Migration Guidelines¹⁰

MIGRANT RIGHTS

In order to support the access to rights that Georgian migrant and diaspora communities are entitled to in the countries of destination, the guidelines on national migration related legislation have been developed focusing on the three EU MSs with the highest concentration of Georgian migrants – Greece, Italy and Spain. The guidelines provide comprehensive information on specific laws and regulations related to the issues of residency, employment, social security and other persistent issues. The guidelines were developed within the EU-funded ICMPD ENIGMMA 2 project.

Policy Guidelines on Diaspora Engagement in Crisis Management

CRISIS RESPONSE

The Migrants in Countries in Crisis: Supporting an Evidence-Based Approach for Effective and Cooperative State Action project (MICIC, funded by the EU, implemented by ICMPD) developed policy guidelines with Georgia on diaspora engagement in times of crisis. Recommendations provided in this document are based on suggestions shared by Georgian diaspora representatives and other stakeholders engaged during the MICIC project workshops in host countries.

Young Ambassadors Programme¹¹

YOUTH + NETWORK

This annual programme is designed for Georgian youth living abroad to represent Georgia in their respective countries of residence through cultural and educational events; the objective of the programme is to increase awareness on ongoing political-economic or social issues in Georgia, to promote tourism, to encourage investment and to engage other youth and local residents in networking activities. The programme is implemented in cooperation with the EU-funded ICMPD ENIGMMA 2 project.

Diaspora Website¹²

NETWORK

This platform - developed by the Diaspora Relations Department within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs - provides an opportunity for diaspora members from all over the world to network and stay up-to-date with ongoing legislative and policy changes in the country and gain information on issues relevant for the diaspora. www.gda.ge

10 <http://www.enigma.ge/about/>

11 <http://www.enigma.ge/en/?s=young+ambassadors>

12 www.gda.ge

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

State Commission on Migration Issues 2010

http://migration.commission.ge/index.php?article_id=1&clang=1

The Commission is a coordinative body of all the State Institutions working on migration issues and aims to develop and implement a coherent migration policy ensuring proper management. The permanent members of the SCMI are: the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Internal Affairs; the State Security Service; the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs; the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sport; the Ministry of Economy and Sustainable Development; the Ministry of Finance and the National Statistics Office of Georgia. International organisations such as ICMPD, IOM, UNHCR and NGOs working on migration issues are called to the quarterly sittings of the Commission as consultative members.

- At ministerial level

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia 2016 <https://mfa.gov.ge/>

Carries out Georgia's national interests, protecting the rights of Georgian citizens outside the country and contributes to the formation of a better world community.

Diaspora Relations Department 2016

In 2016, due to the reshuffling of the Georgian government, the Diaspora Relations Department was established at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Until today, this department remains the main institution responsible for maintaining and strengthening contacts with Georgians abroad, developing and implementing the state strategy on diaspora and maintaining the profile of migrants residing abroad. The Diaspora Relations Department aims to implement individually designed initiatives and programmes for Georgian communities abroad.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



None of the organisations are currently working on development projects, but have the potential to get involved in various development activities.

Association Georgian Diaspora in Poland <https://www.facebook.com/disporagruzinskawpolsceofficial/>

The association supports Georgian migrants in Poland, providing cultural events, language lessons, dance lessons and other networking activities.

Caucasus Cultural Center Greece 2006 <https://el-gr.facebook.com/CaucasusCentreAthens/>

The organisation in Athens prides itself for providing Georgian children with a Sunday school, dancing lessons, integration activities and various cultural events.

Georgian Association in France 2016

http://georgiensenfrance.fr/?fbclid=IwAR0SOo5iKn3CzvW1GIR9XceaMR3yY5h1Z_vv9AJY2EmlmsBB_FEtIDL_1vA

The association provides support to migrants as well as organising cultural events.

Georgian Diaspora in the UK <https://www.facebook.com/IN.sarajishvili.3>

The organisation provides Georgian migrants with language classes, dance and other cultural events, including sports and youth engagement.

Georgischer Verein in Deutschland e.V. Germany 1945 www.satvistomo.net

The diaspora organisation in Munich is the oldest in Germany and one of the most prominent. They provide language lessons, consultations, dance classes, cultural events and more.

Greek-Georgian Cultural Association Greece

<https://www.facebook.com/HellenicGeorgianCulturalAssociation/>

The Athens based association provides Georgian children with Georgian language lessons, dance classes, and more. In addition, the association provides migrants with consultations on various issues such as legislation, obtaining the residence permit, integration and job-related problems.

Written by: **Keti Gorgoshidze**
Edited by: **EUDiF**
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Implemented by



Funded by
the European Union



Find out more at www.diasporadevelopment.eu



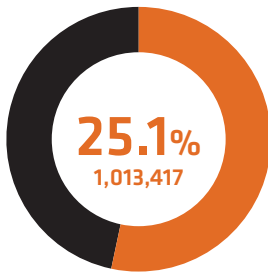
Diaspora engagement mapping

MOLDOVA

Facts & figures

Emigration¹

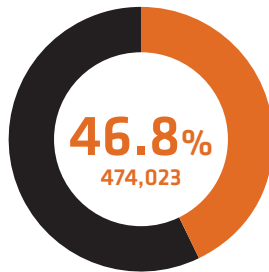
% of emigrants in total population²



♂ 53.6%
♀ 46.4%



% of which in the EU



♂ 43.1%
♀ 56.9%



Top countries of destination

Russia	294,245
Italy	188,923
Romania	177,482
Ukraine	151,242
USA	47,437



Political rights



Dual citizenship³



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad⁴



Remittances as a share of GDP: 15.6%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 1,873

Voting from abroad:

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The Moldovan national legal framework operates with the term diaspora. The National Strategy Diaspora-2025 defines the term Diaspora as “citizens of the Republic of Moldova, temporarily or permanently residing outside the country, persons originating from the Republic of Moldova and their descendants, as well as the communities formed by them.”⁵

1 https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/data/estimates2/data/UN_MigrantStockByOriginAndDestination_2019.xlsx

2 [https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Files/1_Indicators%20\(Standard\)/EXCEL_FILES/1_Population/WPP2019_POP_F01_1_TOTAL_POPULATION_BOTH_SEXES.xlsx](https://population.un.org/wpp/Download/Files/1_Indicators%20(Standard)/EXCEL_FILES/1_Population/WPP2019_POP_F01_1_TOTAL_POPULATION_BOTH_SEXES.xlsx)

3 The Chapter IV of the Law on Citizenship of Moldova operates with a term Multiple citizenship, Law on Citizenship of Republic of Moldova No. 1024 dated June 2, 2000. Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=311522&lang=2>

4 Art 29 of the Electoral Code of Republic of Moldova regulates the specifics of formation and functioning of foreign polling stations and foreign polling stations' offices; Art 2(3) states principles of national election, <https://promolex.md/12871-opinia-promo-lex-asupra-proiectului-de-lege-pentru-modificarea-si-completarea-unor-acte-legislative-drepturile-speciale-ale-alegatorilor-din-diaspora-nr-217-din-26-06-2018/?lang=ro>

5 The definition of Diaspora is taken from the Chapter II paragraph 7 “J” of the Government Decision No. 657 of November 6, 2009 “On approval of the Regulation on Organization and Functioning of the State Chancellery, its Structure and Employees. Government Decision No. 657 of November 6, 2009. “On approval of the Regulation on Organization and Functioning of the State Chancellery, its Structure and Employees. Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=332599&lang=2> . The same quote used by National Strategy “Diaspora-2025, page 83

National Diaspora Strategy 2015-2025



After consultations with communities of Moldovans abroad, the National Diaspora Strategy 2015-2025⁶ was adopted⁷ (Government Decision No. 200 of 26.02.2016). Subsequently, an Action Plan⁸ to support its implementation was developed. The Action Plan includes four objectives:

- to draft and develop the strategic and operational framework for the area of diaspora, migration and development. This concept originates from Moldova and has been promoted by country globally;
- to ensure diaspora rights and to build trust;
- to mobilise, harness, and recognise diaspora human capital;
- to engage diaspora directly and indirectly in the sustainable economic development of Moldova.

Policy and legislative framework



- 2015
2018
2019
- **The Government Activity Program⁹** contained 11 tasks on diaspora relations: to implement an integrated approach on migration and diaspora at central and local level; to promote the Bureau for Relations with Diaspora; to diversify complementary teaching services for children of diaspora; to develop a set of financial instruments in order to attract diaspora investments; to facilitate the recognition of diplomas and certificates; to enable access to online services; to facilitate money transfer; to increase the number of programmes on national identity with and for diaspora, promoting traditions and cultural heritage; and to organise topic-related projects for promotion of Moldova's image abroad.
 - **The Government Activity Program¹⁰** aims to deepen communication with representatives of the diaspora and find additional ways to assist Moldovans abroad. The government will endeavour to conclude labour migration agreements to better regulate migrant workers' rights.



Trends:

The National Diaspora Strategy and the Action Plan have contributed to the development of a collaboration between the Government, local public authorities, civil society in Moldova, and the diaspora. They strengthen and expand the transversal approach to policies on diaspora, migration and development, as well as involve and cooperate with the diaspora in the development of Moldova. In practice, many initiatives exist which seek to utilise diaspora social and economic potential in conjunction with programmes promoting national identity, traditions and cultural heritage.

Additionally, reintegration is a high government priority.¹¹ Moldova has launched a (re) integration guide which aims to develop reintegration programmes and services for returned Moldovan citizens, including information and assistance on how to find a suitable job; how to build knowledge and skills; and how to start and manage a business in Moldova.

6 The National Diaspora Strategy 2025 (CNDS 2025) of the Republic of Moldova, https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/sn_diaspora_2025_web.pdf

7 Government Decision of the Republic of Moldova No. 200 of 26.02.2016

8 Government of Moldova (2019): Action Plan, https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/the_activity_program_of_the_government_led_by_ion_chicu_en.pdf

9 The Government of Moldova (2016): Government Activity Program for 2015-2018, https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/government_of_republic_of_moldova_-_action_programme_of_the_government_of_republic_of_moldova_for_2016-2018.pdf

10 Government of Moldova (2019): Government Activity Program for 2019 dated of 16 December 2019, https://gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/the_activity_program_of_the_government_led_by_ion_chicu_en.pdf

11 BRD (2018): <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/rukovodstvo-po-reintegracii-grazhdan-respubliki-moldova-kotorye-vernulis-iz-za-rubezha-0>



Achievements:

Moldova's annual Diaspora Days have been running since 2004.¹² The events include activities such as thematic seminars and consultations with the diaspora, business forums, craft exhibitions, cultural and gastronomic events.

Political engagement of the Moldovan diaspora has grown over years and in 2019, the government created and elected individual representatives for 14 electoral constituencies for the diaspora for the national parliamentary election.

Obstacles



- **Digitalisation:** There is a lack of electronic products to facilitate diaspora access to qualitative online services created by national authorities. In addition, there are still some Moldovans that are out of reach for e-services provided by Moldova's government and/or have no interests in such communication channels or e-services.
- **Political representation:** In 2017, Moldova adopted fundamental changes to the Electoral Code¹³. Due to the high number of Moldovan citizens residing abroad, the criteria for the establishment of single-member constituencies is a significant issue and has a strong political impact on voters residing in different countries willing to support different political parties. Previously to the 2019 elections, the OSCE and PACE expressed concern at the lack of transparency of the criteria to determine the number of polling stations abroad and pointed out that the new electoral system was contrary to prior recommendations¹⁴.

Effective and innovative practices



Diaspora engagement Hub¹⁵

The Hub is a governmental programme created in 2016 for Moldovan citizens who have been resident abroad for at least two years and are highly qualified experts who wish to cooperate with representatives of governmental institutions on five priority areas: social, economic, environment/ecology/rural development, justice, civil society. The Diaspora Engagement Hub included subprogrammes:

- **Diaspora Professional Return:** grants offered to diaspora professional and highly skilled migrants, encouraging the transfer of human capital and professional experience oriented towards the academic, social and economic development of Moldova, via short-term professional returns.
- **Diaspora Innovative Projects:** grants offered to diaspora representatives for the implementation of their innovative projects and activities in Moldova, based on the transfer of knowledge, experience and international best practices.
- **Thematic Regional Partnerships:** grants offered to diaspora associations for their collaboration and implementation of actions on local socio-economic development, education and health care.

SKILLS TRANSFER
+ FUNDING

12 <https://www.facebook.com/events/chisinau-moldova/moldovan-diaspora-days-20188th-diaspora-congress/2141974252793351/>

13 Electoral Code of Moldova with changes and amendments of 2019. Available at <https://a.cec.md/storage/ckfinder/files/cec-electoral-code-2019.pdf>

14 PACE (2019): Parliamentary elections in the Republic of Moldova: statement by pre-electoral delegation. Available at <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/News/News-View-EN.asp?newsid=7361&lang=2&cat=>

15 BRD (2020): The Diaspora Engagement Hub. Available at <http://brd.gov.md/ro/content/diaspora-engagement-hub-1>

- Diaspora Women Empowerment: grants offered to diaspora members for implementation of projects aimed at improving the social and economic conditions of women migrants via the transfer of knowledge and skills.

IDENTITY + YOUTH

Diaspora. Origin. Return (DOR)¹⁶

DOR aims to strengthen the emotional and cultural identity and connection of second generation diaspora with Moldova. The first edition took place in 2013. Diaspora children camps¹⁷ and youth camps (E-way to home) are a part of the annual DOR programme.

REMITTANCES + ENTREPRENEURSHIP

DAR 1+3 Programme¹⁸ 2019-2025

The DAR programme aims to utilise the human and financial potential of the diaspora in the socio-economic development of Moldova. The DAR programme is based on the 1 + 3 principle of the partnership: diaspora + government and/or local authorities + development partners and donors. The project focuses on infrastructure; protection of the environment; economy; optimisation of energy; culture; and social protection.

REMITTANCES

Pare 1+1 - National Program on Attracting Remittances into the Economy¹⁹

PARE was launched in 2010 and it is designed to attract remittances into the economy through the mobilisation of migrants' savings, stimulating SME development, and supporting job creation especially at the local level. Every Leu invested from remittances was matched with a Leu from PARE. It supported and co-financed about 1623 business initiatives.

¹⁶ <https://brd.gov.md/ro/content/programul-pentru-copiii-din-diaspora-dor>

¹⁷ <https://gov.md/en/content/over-100-children-youth-diaspora-and-moldova-participated-dor-program>

¹⁸ Government Decision No. 448-460 of December 7, 2018. Available at https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/hg_dar_13.pdf

¹⁹ <https://www.odimm.md/en/press/press-releases/4548-one-billion-lei-in-the-country-s-economy-through-pare-1-1>

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**
 - At ministerial level

State Chancellery of Moldova <https://cancelaria.gov.md/en/structura>

This body consists of 27 internal subdivisions and 8 subordinated institutions²⁰. It is a central authority responsible for the state policy in the field of relations with the diaspora.

Inter-Ministerial Committee²¹

The CIDMD was launched by Decision No. 725 of 08.09.2017²². It aims to coordinate the diaspora policy; formulate its strategic vision; and ensure the implementation of actions, programmes, and initiatives in the field of diaspora and migration. The committee consists of representatives from Ministries and central administrative authorities and is led by the Secretary General of the Moldovan government.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and European Integration

<https://www.mfa.gov.md/en/content/mission-statement>

The ministry plays a key role in maintaining relations with Moldovans abroad, especially through its diplomatic missions.

Diaspora Relations Bureau²³ <http://brd.gov.md/ro>

The BRD was created in 2012. It is a subdivision of the State Chancellery, under the direct coordination of the Prime Minister. The RBD deals with developing and coordinating national policies for and with diaspora participation.

20 Government Decision no.657, November 6, 2009

21 Government Decree № 725 of September 14, 2017 "On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". Available at <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=371433&lang=2>

22 Government Decree № 725 of September 14, 2017 "On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". <http://lex.justice.md/viewdoc.php?action=view&view=doc&id=371433&lang=2>

23 Government Decision No 725 On the Mechanism of Coordinating the State Policy in the Fields of Diaspora, Migration and Development". https://brd.gov.md/sites/default/files/document/attachments/725_diaspora_migration_and_development_decision_government_en.pdf

Diaspora organisations in Europe



Association AMOL France 2016 <https://www.facebook.com/amol.fr/>

Based in Lyon, the aims of the AMOL Association are: to bring together the whole Moldovan diaspora (without any ethnic and religious restrictions) of the Lyon and Rhône-Alpes-Auvergne regions, in order to undertake and promote cultural, economic and social exchanges; to promote and defend the interests of the Moldovan diaspora before the various administrative, economic, legal, social, cultural institutions; to participate in the promotion of the diaspora by contributing to its integration and development in the social life of the regions; to create opportunities for trade and investment while encouraging partnerships and mutual aid; and to help and accompany new Moldovan arrivals by informing them about administrative procedures, advising them, accompanying them in their integration, and welcoming them when they arrive in France.

Association Assomoldave Italy 2004

https://www.facebook.com/pg/AssoMoldave/about/?ref=page_internal

Founded in Rome, the aim of the organisation is to protect the civil and universal rights of Moldovan women, to preserve traditions and cultural values and to maintain links with the Homeland.

Deutsch-Moldauischer Freundeskreis eV, Germany 2004 <http://www.ges-moldau.de/ueber-uns/>

Development activities

The main tasks of the association are to promote the coexistence between Moldavians and Germans, cultural exchange between the two countries and preservation of traditional customs in the statutes. Since 2007 the organisation is also involved in social projects for sick and disabled children in the Republic of Moldova.

INCREDERE Association Italy 2011 <https://incredere.weebly.com/>

INCREDERE's aim is to help immigrants on their integration path in Italy.

Moldova Institute Leipzig e. V. Germany 2005 <https://www.moldova-institut.org/>

Development activities

The aim of the association is to promote relations and cooperation between Moldova and the countries of Eastern and Southeastern Europe and Germany and the countries of Western and Central Europe, especially in the areas of science, education, media, development cooperation, health and social affairs, culture, Human rights and international understanding. In addition, the association promotes knowledge transfer, good practice (e.g. through further training of students and scientists, exchange of experience and educational cooperation) and does network and public relations work.

Moldavian-Romanian Community in Estonia (CASA MARE) Estonia http://www.casamare.ee/?page_id=2

 **Development activities**

CASA MARE is a non-profit voluntary association of public interest whose main areas of intervention are:

Participation in Estonian integration policy and contribution the integration of Moldovan community linguistic and cultural development in Estonia ; contribution to development cooperation and supporting partnerships and collaboration between Estonia and Moldova; and exchanging information and activity practices in the fields of development cooperation, cultural diversity and integration processes.

E-mail: casamare.ee@gmail.com; vassiliporkul@gmail.com

Noroc Olanda - Hello Netherlands 2012 <https://www.facebook.com/NorocOlanda/>

 **Development activities**

This organisation brings together Moldovans residing in the Netherlands and supports projects through which they promote a positive image of Moldova in a creative manner. It has organised networking for Moldovan diaspora in multiple European countries and supported entrepreneurship activities in Moldova.

Written by: Dr Olga R Gulina
Edited by: EUDiF
March 2020





Diaspora engagement mapping ARMENIA

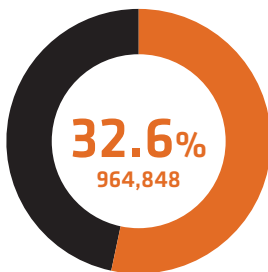
Facts & figures

Emigration¹

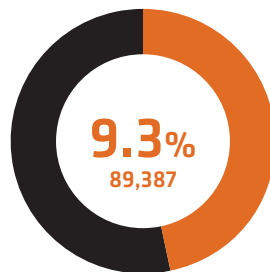
% of emigrants in total population



% of which in the EU



♂ 53.6%
♀ 46.4%



♂ 46.9%
♀ 53.1%



Remittances as a share of GDP: 11.9%
Remittances inflow (USD million): 1,558



Top countries of destination

Russia	527,163
USA	101,757
Ukraine	47,780
Germany	21,263



Political rights



Dual citizenship²



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad³



Terminology: The terms 'diaspora' and 'diaspora members' are not defined by Armenia's national law. However, the Armenian term «ազգությանը հայեր» is used by lawmakers. This term has different translations in English in the legal acts such as: Armenians by national origin, Armenians by nationality, ethnic Armenians, Armenian origin, Armenian ethnicity.⁴

1 It is important to mention that numbers on emigration and diaspora vary greatly in Armenia due to its long diaspora history. According to the literature, interviews conducted by the researcher, as well as the Armenian government, the total size of the diaspora is close to 7 million with approximately 1.5 million in the EU. The main countries of destination of the diaspora are also different from the top countries of destination of migrants: Russia approx. 2.5 million, France 600.000, Ukraine 400.000, Georgia 250.000, Spain 80.000, Germany 60.000. H. Hakobyan (2017) „Armenian Diaspora in a Changing World“ Yerevan, pages 325-328. [Հակոբյան Հ. Հ., Հայկական սփյուռքը հարավփոփոխ աշխարհում: Եր.: Հեղ. Հրատ., 2017, էջ 31, 325-328]; Armenian Government, 2017 Program of the Government of Armenia, <https://www.gov.am/files/docs/2219.pdf>

2 Article 13.1 of the Law on the Citizenship of the Republic of Armenia <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/51b770884.pdf>

3 The Election Code of the Republic of Armenia stipulated: Armenian citizens residing abroad do not have right to vote in the national elections, available in Armenian at: <https://www.arlis.am/DocumentView.aspx?DocID=105967>

4 Constitution of the Republic of Armenia (Art. 47) is available at: <https://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/> Law of the Republic of Armenia on Foreigners (Art. 9, 15, 16, 18) is available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3ae6b4ec2c.html> Law on Citizenship (Art. 1, 10, 12.1, 13) is available at: <https://www.refworld.org/pdfid/51b770884.pdf>

Armenia does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

The government has been working on a diaspora engagement policy for years but because of internal politics, it has not yet materialised. Diaspora affairs in Armenia is politicized and a high priority of the state. Diaspora issues are also a substantial instrument of the country's foreign and domestic agenda. **Art 19 of the Constitution of Armenia**⁵ entitled "Ties with the Armenian Diaspora" states that Armenia shall, together with the Armenian Diaspora, implement a policy targeted at the development of comprehensive ties and preservation of the Armenian identity and promote repatriation.

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2002** ● **Regulation of Overseas Employment (draft)** has been pending adoption at the Armenian Parliament since 2002 because national authorities do not want to be perceived as encouraging emigration⁶. The governmental bodies have not agreed on how the process of the overseas employment has to be licenced and managed in the country.
- 2019** ● **Government Decision No 65-A**⁷ defined priorities, measures and responsibilities of the Governmental Programme in order to achieve a comprehensive cooperation between Armenia and diaspora. According to the Programme, the national government is in charge of creating and developing pan-Armenian networks in the scientific, professional, educational and cultural, economic and other fields; building sustainable relations between Armenian diaspora communities and Armenia; adopting and implementing measures and programmes for deepening and expanding Armenia-Diaspora cooperation; considering and promoting repatriation as a priority; strengthening pan-Armenian national, spiritual, scientific and educational, cultural and other institutions and their role in the resolution of pan-Armenian issues; and supporting the establishment of the organisations representing the Diaspora.
- 2019** ▼
2023 ● **Action Program** foresees the creation and adoption of the Law on Repatriation by the Government in 2020. The law aims to regulate the legal framework of the repatriation process in order to preserve a comprehensive tie with the Armenian Diaspora, promote repatriation, consolidate Armenians in the Homeland, and improve the demographic situation in Armenia. At the time of writing, the Standing Committee on Science, Education, Diaspora, Sport and Youth, had begun to work on the Law on Repatriation with the High Commissioner Office but there is currently no official draft version of the law available.



Trends:

Overall trend: Armenia has a very rich history of diaspora engagement. Although it is a relatively small country, its diaspora is estimated to be two times bigger than the population of the country. The Armenian diaspora has traditionally been quite active in engaging with the country. There are plenty of diaspora organisations around the world, many of whom now have their own branches in Yerevan or other Armenian cities. Unlike other Former Soviet Union countries, Armenia has a common understanding that the diaspora has a huge potential and brings social and financial capital to its homeland. The Armenian diaspora is the largest investor⁸ and seen as the country's biggest hope for positive demographic development.

5 <https://www.president.am/en/constitution-2015/>

6 Bournazian, V. & Harutyunyan, K. (2012): Perspectives on Legal Aspects of Labour Migration. Governance in Armenia. CARIM-East AS 2012/07 Available at <http://www.carim-east.eu/media/CARIM-East-AS2012-07.pdf>

7 The Government Decision No 65-A dated the 8 February 2019 "On the Programme of the Government of the Republic of Armenia" <https://www.gov.am/files/docs/3562.pdf>

8 ASUE (2015): Investments of Diaspora into the RA Economy: Development Prospects <https://asue.am/en/amberd/research/diasporas-investments-armenian-economy-development>



Achievements:

Diaspora engagement: Participation of Diaspora Armenians in Armenia's programmes on social, political, scientific, educational and cultural affairs are a priority to Armenia. Since 1999, the state of Armenia has held six Pan-Armenian Forums.

Repatriation: Armenia has a huge interest in supporting diaspora Armenians in obtaining dual citizenship and in adopting laws on repatriation. Repatriation rhetoric is that "Every Armenian should want to be inspired to connect his identity with the homeland and the *Armeniancy*".⁹

In 2020, the Pan-Armenian Forum will focus on "Diaspora and Repatriation". It will provide an opportunity to study and compare repatriation programmes from other countries including their impact.

Financial and social capital: The Armenia 2020 and subsequent Armenia 2030 Initiative¹⁰ were launched by prominent diaspora Armenians to identify development prospects for Armenia. These exercises led to strategic priorities for Armenia, both inside and outside the country. Armenia 2030 focuses on strategic analysis of long-term growth opportunities for Armenia and Armenians.

Obstacles



- **Lack of policy framework:** In order to build mutual trust and insure that diaspora investments and contributions are being well spent and have a positive impact on the country there is a need to fight corruption and setting up mechanisms of mutual accountability.
- **Overlapping mandates and competencies:** Diaspora organisations and state actors often have competing interests and/or overlapping mandates.
- **Insufficient information and trust measures:** The state still lacks knowledge on "what potentials the diaspora has in each specific country and what the estimated influence is. The system [of state-diaspora relation] is not sufficiently organized".¹¹ Consequently, the diaspora mobilization remains below its potential. Furthermore, the level of mutual trust is quite low.¹²
- **Lack of policy framework and information to support repatriation:** The various government agencies provide select information on their webpages. However, there is no one unified platform summarising and providing detailed information in an easily understandable manner. Mechanisms and programmes supporting business relocation are also needed. Potential repatriates often hesitate because of the risk of losing their overseas business and the uncertainties surrounding starting a new business in Armenia.
- **Language knowledge:** Repatriates and their family members, school-aged children in particular, often find it difficult to follow the school curriculum because of a lack of knowledge of the Armenian language.

9 Armenian press (2019): Strong Armenia-Strong Diaspora. The High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs sums up the year. <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1000508/>

10 <https://www.idea.am/armenia-2020>

11 <https://www.tert.am/en/news/2019/02/12/nikol-pashinyan/2919488>

12 Page 6., <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/301351468206660466/pdf/393810AMODiasporas0contribution01PUBLIC1.pdf>

Effective and innovative practices



Covid-19 response

HEALTHCARE

During the Covid-19 outbreak¹³, Armenia engaged its diaspora to assist in the fight against the virus. The Office of Diaspora Affairs played a key role in bridging the needs of the Ministry of Health and the support that Diaspora health care professionals could provide, online or on the ground. Diaspora health care professionals' skills and knowledge have been used to collectively manage the pandemic with national authorities.

Neruzh programme

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Republic of Armenia in close cooperation with the Foundation for Armenian Science and Technology (FAST) runs the Neruzh programme¹⁴ for young entrepreneurs of Armenian descent who wish to bring their start-up ideas and projects to Armenia. Armenians aged 18-35 who have lived in Armenia for a maximum of 6 are eligible to apply. At least one (co)founder should be of Armenian descent. The target sectors of the programme will be agriculture, tourism and innovative technologies.

In December 2019, the Neruzh programme hosted 80 individuals representing 47 start-ups from 17 countries around the world. Six start-ups received government grants of between \$ 15,000 - \$30,000.

LEAD-Armenia project

INVESTMENT

The Republic of Armenia in close cooperation with ICMPD will launch the LEAD-Armenia project in summer 2020. The project aims to increase the number of migration-related investments, encourage businesses and create jobs in Armenia. It will develop diverse and innovative diaspora investment instruments as a future investment scheme for Armenian banks and other financial institutions and raise awareness on investment opportunities among Armenian migrant communities.¹⁵

Step Home

YOUTH

This programme is organised for diaspora youth by the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs. The aim is to make it possible for Armenian youth living abroad to recognise their homeland and its linguistic and cultural values, and thus contribute to the strengthening of Armenia-Diaspora ties and the preservation of the Armenian identity in the Diaspora. In 2018, 400 Armenian youth from 24 countries participated in the Step Home programme; in 2019, 357 youth participants from 28 countries took part.¹⁶

13 <https://www.evnreport.com/readers-forum/armenia-combats-the-coronavirus-state-capacity-and-the-diaspora>

14 <http://neruzh.am/en>

15 ICMPD. LEAD-Armenia Concept

16 An interview the High Commissioner Zareh Sinanyan to Armenpress news agency. Available at: <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1000508.html>



Young Leaders Training Programme

The programme aims at promoting community leadership, community organisation and cohesion. In 2019, 24 young community workers from six countries participated in the project.¹⁷

A pilot sub-project organising internships for young specialists from the diaspora will be launched on 1 July 2020, running for at least 12 months. The Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs funds the programme.¹⁸ It aims to invest the experience and knowledge of the diaspora experts in Armenia's development process, promoting Armenia-Diaspora partnership and contributing to 'reverse brain drain'.

YOUTH

Repatriation Support Programme

The programme will start in 2020 and will tackle the country's demographic challenges by encouraging the repatriation and return of compatriots living in the diaspora. The programme consists of the following components:

- Providing information and logistical support for repatriates and their family members;
- Language courses for repatriates and their family members;
- Housing assistance and mortgage lending rates for repatriates and their family members through the introduction of appropriate legal, financial and organisational programmes administrated by the State;
- Small and Medium Business Grants (1 + 1)¹⁹ to enable repatriates to invest their financial resources in Armenia and implement their business ideas, thereby contributing to the country's economic development as well as to improving the demographic situation.

RETURN

¹⁷ An interview the High Commissioner Zareh Sinanyan to Armenpress news agency. Available at: <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1000508.html?>

¹⁸ Diaspora-Armenian specialists can participate in Armenia's governance: new project coming soon" available at: <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1001611.html?>

¹⁹ For each euro invested, a euro is given by the state

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

Prime Minister's Office of the Republic of Armenia <https://www.gov.am/en/staff-structure/>

The PM's office aims to reaffirm pan-Armenity as a priority of the Republic of Armenia and reflecting the new policy pursued by the Government of the Republic of Armenia in the context of Armenia-Diaspora relations.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Armenia <https://www.mfa.am/en/mission>

The ministry plays a key role in maintaining relations with Armenians living abroad and strengthening co-operation with friendly and partner countries.

Standing Committee on Science, Education, Culture, Diaspora, Youth and Sport

<http://www.parliament.am/committees.php?do=show&ID=111201&lang=eng>

Based at the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia, the committee activities centre on science, education, culture, repatriation, relations with the diaspora, youth, sports, information, press, radio, television and laws governing those areas.

- At sub-ministerial level

Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs

<https://www.gov.am/en/diaspora-affairs/> <https://www.e-gov.am/decrees/item/20354/>

Under the Prime Minister's office, the Office of the High Commissioner for Diaspora Affairs aims at developing, implementing and coordinating the state policy on Armenia-Diaspora partnership development, as well as at strengthening pan-Armenian targeted programmes, and at providing support for repatriation and enhancing Armenia-diaspora cooperation. The Ministry of Diaspora of the Republic of Armenia from 2008 performed these functions until its abolishment in June 2019.



Diaspora organisations in Europe



Armenian General Benevolent Union Europe (AGBU Europe) 2009 Europe

Development activities

Established in 2009 in Belgium,²⁰ AGBU Europe is the European arm of the international AGBU, the largest non-profit organisation devoted to upholding the Armenian heritage. AGBU Europe coordinates and develops pan-European activities to further the AGBU mission by bringing together, supporting and mobilising the many chapters and members of the organisation in Europe and by helping to develop and fundraise for projects contributing to the socio-economic development of Armenia through educational, cultural and humanitarian programmes.

Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation²¹ 1956 Portugal

Founded by a prominent Armenian diaspora member, Gulbenkian, the foundation was established in 1956 in Lisbon, Portugal. Its main purpose is to improve quality of life through art, charity, science and education, including education grant for Armenian diaspora.

Conseil de Coordination des Organisations Arméniennes de France 2001 France

CCAF²²- was created with the main objective of coordinating intra-community activities to fight the denial of the Armenian Genocide perpetrated by the Ottoman Turkish Government in 1915, to defend the interests of the Armenian community and to represent the collective viewpoint on matters of public policy, while serving as liaison between the community and the State bodies.

²⁰ <http://www.agbueurope.eu>

²¹ <https://gulbenkian.pt/en/>

²² <http://www.ccaf.info>

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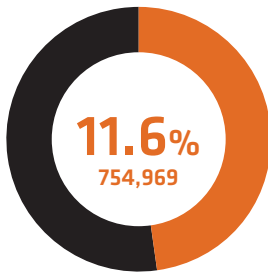


Diaspora engagement mapping Kyrgyzstan

Facts & figures

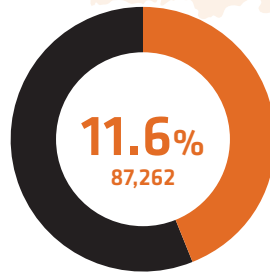
Emigration

% of emigrants in total population



♂ 48.0%
♀ 52.0%

% of which in the EU



♂ 44.0%
♀ 56.0%



Remittances as a share of GDP: **29.6%**
Remittances inflow (USD million): **2,409**



Top countries of destination

Russian Federation	591,211
Germany	77,373
Ukraine	26,996
Tajikistan	11,261
Kazakhstan	7,036



Political rights



Dual citizenship¹



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad²



Voting from abroad³:

At embassies/consulates



Kyrgyzstan does not have a diaspora engagement policy.

1 Art 22 of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Kyrgyzstan №70 dated 21st May 2007, <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/202103/50?cl=ru-ru&mode=tekst>.

2 Art. 2 of the Law of the Kyrgyz Republic Nr.68 "On Elections of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic and Deputies of the Jogorku Kenesh of the Kyrgyz Republic" dated 02 July 2011, <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/203244?cl=ru-ru>

3 Article 2.1 of The Central Election Commission's Ordinance on the Organization of the Participation of Citizens Living Outside the territory of Kyrgyzstan in the Presidential Elections, the Elections of the Jogorku Kenesh Deputies and in National Referendums (Nr.102 dated of 31 July 2015), https://shailoo.gov.kg/ru/npacik/Polojeniya_CIK_KRBSHkNyn_Joboloru/POLOJENIE_Ob-10048/

Terminology: Kyrgyz lawmakers use the terms: diaspora, compatriots and ethnic Kyrgyz (Kairylmans).

Despite the widespread use of the word *diaspora* in official documents, this term is not clarified in the legal framework. The State Service of Migration outlines the concept of diaspora in the draft law 'On Fundamentals of State Policy to Support Compatriots Abroad':

- Diaspora means the part of an ethnic group living outside its nation-state (Article 1 of the Draft Law)
- Compatriots are citizens of the Kyrgyz Republic staying outside of the borders of the Kyrgyz Republic, as well as citizens of foreign states, who have lost the citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic or who have left the citizenship of the Kyrgyz Republic in the manner prescribed by law. (Article 1 of the Draft Law).⁴

Kyrgyz lawmakers have created the status "Kairylman" (literally meaning 'returnee' in Kyrgyz), which determines temporary legal status until receipt of Kyrgyz citizenship according to Article 1 of the Law (Nr.175 of 26 November 2007) 'On State Guarantees for Ethnic Kyrgyz Moving to the Kyrgyz Republic'.⁵

Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2013** ● **Law On Fundamentals of State Policy to Support Compatriots Abroad [Ob Osnovakh Gosudarstvennoy Politiki Po Podderzhke Sootchestvennikov Za Rubezhom]** was adopted by the Supreme Council with amendments from August 2013.⁶ The law outlines the principles and goals of the state policy towards compatriots abroad and determines the objectives and activities of the state authorities in this field. It stipulates that the Kyrgyz Republic guarantees protection and support for its compatriots abroad. State authorities are obliged to develop and implement measures in accordance with this law.
- 2013** ● **Programme for Promoting Employment and Regulating Internal and External Labour Migration until 2020 [Programma Sodeystviya Zanyatosti Naseleniya I Regulirovaniya Vnutrenney I Vneshney Trudovoy Migratsii do 2020 goda]**⁷ was adopted by the government Governmental Order Nr.485 of 6 September 2013. The programme aims to streamline migration processes and create conditions for the development of internal and external labour migration and increase the competitiveness of the economically active population of Kyrgyzstan. The main priorities of the programme are the protection of the rights of labour migrants abroad, increasing the numbers of professional training opportunities for potential migrants, the creation of working places within the country and reintegration measures targeted towards returned migrants.
- 2017** ● **Programme "Kairylman" [Programma Pravitel'stva Kyrgyzskoy Respubliki "Kairylman" po okazaniyu sodeystviya etnicheskim kyrgyzam, pereselyayushchimsya v Kyrgyzskuyu Respubliku, i kayrylmanam na 2017-2022 gody]**⁸ aims to assist ethnic Kyrgyz resettlement to the Kyrgyz Republic and Kairylmans (returnees) for 2017-2022; it was adopted by the Government (Governmental Order Nr.518 of 30 September 2016). The programme aims at modernizing the resettlement process of ethnic Kyrgyz, simplifying the procedures of citizenship acquisition and strengthening socio-economic measures for returnee integration. In the framework of the Kairylman resettlement program, every Kairylman is eligible for administrative and financial assistance and social and medical support

⁴ Law 'On Fundamentals of State Policy to Support Compatriots Abroad' see: https://static-2.akipress.org/st_runews/.storage/runews1/files/2016-10-21/c3e72463e2279ef653409548e28b3675.docx

⁵ <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/202209?cl=ru-ru>

⁶ <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/203992/10?mode=tekst>

⁷ <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/94692?cl=ru-ru>

⁸ <http://cbd.minjust.gov.kg/act/view/ru-ru/98654/10?mode=tekst>

from the government. The programme also includes compensation for transportation costs, a lump sum allowance, housing allowance, vocational trainings and job search assistance. The procedure of obtaining a kairylman status and certificate can be found under the Law No.175 'On State Guarantees for Ethnic Kyrgyz Moving to the Kyrgyz Republic' of November 26, 2007 and Government Ordinance No. 402 'On Approval of the Regulations on the Procedure for Granting a Kairylman Status' of June 23, 2015.

2018

● **National Development Strategy for 2018-2040 [Natsional'naya Strategiya Razvitiya Na 2018-2040 gody]**, adopted by the President (Presidential Decree Nr.221 of 31 October 2018)⁹. The strategy outlines three possible areas to maximise labour migrants contribution to the country's economic development:

- Training/retraining of labour migrants in order to broaden the geographic spread of labour migration (Over 90% of Kyrgyz migrants work and live in Russia. When Russia's economy faces decline or struggles with the EU/US sanctions, it has an impact on the economy of Kyrgyzstan as well);
 - Ensuring protection and support of labour migrants and their families abroad by creating representative offices in the territories of mass resettlement of Kyrgyz labour migrants;
 - Improving the investment climate in order to draw the interest of labour migrants to invest in the national economy.
- **Draft Concept of migration policy until 2040 [Ob Utverzhdenii Kontseptsii Migratsionnoy Politiki Kyrgyzskoy Respubliki do 2040 goda]**¹⁰ stipulates that employment of Kyrgyz nationals abroad is considered "as part of a national development strategy, since it allows taking advantage of global employment and attracting remittance flows."¹¹ It includes a section on the support of compatriots, including measures aimed at preserving the cultural and historical ties of compatriots with their historic homeland, the development of diasporas in other states, and using their potential as tourists and investors.

» Trends

After dissolution of the USSR, Kyrgyzstan had neither a government agency nor an official institution dedicated to the diaspora abroad. Nowadays the government attempts to institutionalize the relationship with its population living and residing abroad by developing policies and programmes aiming to strengthen the financial and social contribution of diaspora and enforcing the repatriation of migrants working abroad. The government worked on Improving and strengthening the potential of Kyrgyz returnees. In this regards, the Ministry of Education and Science provides quotas to ethnic Kyrgyz people to study in Universities of Kyrgyzstan¹²

9 <http://www.stat.kg/media/files/aeadc90a-809e-4bc0-81e2-41aa342aa236.docx>

10 <http://ssm.gov.kg/%D0%B7%D0%B0%D0%BA%D0%BE%D0%BD%D0%BE%D0%B4%D0%B0%D1%82%D0%B5%D0%BB%D1%8C%D1%81%D1%82%D0%B2%D0%BE-%D0%BA%D1%80-%D0%B2-%D1%81%D1%84%D0%B5%D1%80%D0%B5-%D0%BC%D0%B8%D0%B3%D1%80%D0%B0%D1%86%D0%B8%D0%B8/>

11 Musabaeva, A. (2019): Migration Policy Concepts of Kyrgyzstan: Are They Changing? <https://cabar.asia/en/migration-policy-concepts-of-kyrgyzstan-are-they-changing/>

12 <https://edu.gov.kg/ru/mezhhdunarodnye-programmy/konkurs-dlya-postupleniya-v-vuzy-kr-na-2018-2019-uchebnyj-god-dlya-etnich-eskih-kyrgyzov/>

Obstacles



- **Political instability:** Kyrgyzstan's economy is largely dependent on remittances from its citizens working abroad. However, the political instability in Kyrgyzstan undermines diaspora engagement in terms of programme implementation and trust in their long-term realisation. Whenever the government changes, the national priorities shift as well. There is no guarantee that diaspora engagement will be continued after government changes.
- **Negative perception of returnees** and Kairylmans including resentment or fear are certainly not unique to Kyrgyzstan. Kairylmans, ethnic Kyrgyz, are often seen as the "Other" in Kyrgyzstan.
- **Definitions:** The concept of 'compatriot' in the legal framework is confusing. The Kyrgyz State Registration Service assumes that the main criteria for determining 'compatriot' is the ethnicity of a person. The Migration State Service defines a 'compatriot' as a person who considers Kyrgyzstan as his homeland, regardless of the circumstances. In the current version of the Law 'On Fundamentals of State Policy to Support Compatriots Abroad', the term 'compatriot abroad' relates to a Kyrgyz citizen living outside the country. As a result, ethnic Kyrgyz and Kyrgyz who changed citizenship are not included under the 'compatriot'" status. Misconception of the term in the national legal framework create different understandings of diaspora.

SPOTLIGHT: Effective practices



Mekendeshter

NETWORKS + PARTNERSHIPS

This initiative is under the supervision of the former President of Kyrgyzstan Roza Otunbaeva. It serves as a dialogue platform between government actors and compatriots abroad. It aims to develop a common approach and vision for diaspora-state cooperation. Every two years the Mekendeshter Forum is organized by the foundation Initiative of Roza Otunbaeva with the support of the Government and IOM. The forum's agenda outlines a national strategy for a particular year. Select compatriots living abroad are invited to share their experience and knowledge.

<http://mekendeshter.roza.kg/>

Mekendesh 2017

HOUSING

A compatriot in Russia, Kubanychbek Osmonov, who owns a construction company, My House, in Kyrgyzstan, initiated this project to provide affordable housing for migrants abroad. The company has developed special conditions so that each compatriot working abroad can safely purchase housing in Kyrgyzstan. For the moment, it is the only company that does not require a down payment and repayments can be spread over a long period of time.

<http://mh.kg/portfolio/premium/>



Loyalty program for migrants to buy housing 2015

Initiated by the private construction company TS Group in Kyrgyzstan, within this programme, labour migrants abroad can purchase a house without down payment for up to 3 years, without bank commissions, any additional non-refundable transaction costs and/or administrative fees.

<http://ts-group.kg/o-nas.html>

HOUSING

Annex:

List of Actors

Diaspora related institutions



- **National institutions**

President of the Kyrgyz Republic

http://www.president.kg/ru/prezident/prezident_kyrgyzskoy_respubliki

The head of the country both personifies the unity of the people and the state power and serves as the chairman of the Council for Communications with Compatriots Abroad under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic.

Council for Communications with Compatriots abroad under the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic

http://www.president.kg/ru/sobytiya/14701_prezident_sooronbay_gheenbekov_nashi_sotechestvenniki_imeyut_ogromniy_potencial_dlya_vklada_v_razvitie_strani

The council was created in 2018. It is the state consultative body providing strengthening interactions between state bodies and compatriots. It prepares recommendations on support and protection of interests and rights of compatriots abroad.

Committee on Social Affairs, Education, Science, Culture and Health of the Jogorku Kenesh

<http://kenesh.kg/ru/committee/4/show/komitet-po-sotsialnym-voprosam-obrazovaniyu-nauke-kulture-i-zdravoohraneniyu>

Established in 2015,¹³ the committee suggests and offers the government key directions for the development of new laws or programs in the direction of social affairs, education, science, culture and health for all Kyrgyz nationals with particular attention to Kairylmans and labour migrants working abroad.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs <https://mfa.gov.kg/ru>

Responsible for the external policy of the country and the cooperation between relevant government authorities, alongside with the assistance and support of Kyrgyzstan's citizens abroad, the Ministry is also responsible for maintaining relations with Kyrgyz diasporas abroad.

State Service of Migration <http://ssm.gov.kg/>

The functions and authorities of the Ministry of Labour Migration and Youth were transferred to the State Service of Migration in 2015. The State Service consists of four main components: development and implementation of migration policy; coordination and monitoring of migration processes; provision of services to the population related to migration in and outside of Kyrgyzstan; support and cooperation with government bodies, diasporas and international organizations.

¹³ <http://www.kenesh.kg/ru/article/show/38/istoriya-kirgizskogo-parlamenta>

Kyrgyz Global¹⁴

The non-commercial organisation unites young Kyrgyz people abroad to present them innovative and professional opportunities and possibilities to be involved in the development of Kyrgyzstan. Their mission is to increase the number of highly qualified specialists from Kyrgyzstan.

Diaspora organisations in Europe



KyrgyzClub-Germany 2012 <http://www.kyrgyzclub-germany.de/>

This non-profit organization was founded in order to unite Kyrgyz nationals and Kyrgyz compatriots living in Germany and to support Kyrgyzstan after it gained its independence. Nowadays it is a platform for introducing Kyrgyz culture to local society, and supporting Kyrgyz people residing in Germany with integration into the local community.

Kyrgyz in Belgium & Friends 2011 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kyrgyzinbelgium/>

This socio-cultural association of Kyrgyz compatriots in Belgium, works in two main areas. First, they support integration of Kyrgyz compatriots. Second, they introduce Kyrgyz culture to locals through cultural events.

Meken Italy 2012 <https://www.facebook.com/pg/AssociazioneMekeninItalia/posts/>

The association was created by Kyrgyz compatriots in Italy to expand the diaspora network. Nowadays the association provides support for compatriots and does charitable work as well as organising cultural events.

¹⁴ <https://kyrgyzglobal.org/index.php>

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