

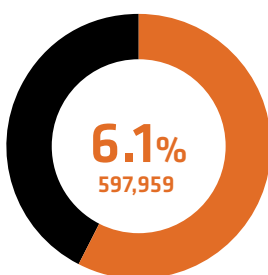


# Diaspora engagement mapping TAJIKISTAN

## Facts & figures

### Emigration

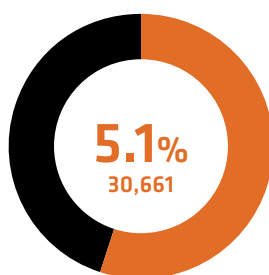
% of emigrants in total population<sup>1</sup>



♂ 57.5%  
♀ 42.5%



% of which in the EU<sup>3</sup>



♂ 55%  
♀ 45%



### Top countries of destination

Russia	466,399
Ukraine	29,660
Germany	26,802
Kazakhstan	16,527
Uzbekistan	11,471



### Political rights



Dual citizenship<sup>1</sup>



Right to vote in national elections for citizens residing abroad<sup>2</sup>



Remittances as a share of GDP: 27.3%  
Remittances inflow (USD billion): 2,187

Voting from abroad:<sup>3</sup>

At embassies/consulates



Terminology: The country's legal framework uses different terms: diaspora, compatriots [соотечественники] and Tajiks abroad. In 2010, Tajikistan adopted the State Concept of Attracting Compatriots Living Abroad as Partners for the Development,<sup>4</sup> defining the following terms:

- **Tajik diaspora:** Tajik citizens living abroad, whose members have received foreign citizenship and enjoy all the constitutional rights and obligations of those countries;
- **Foreign compatriots:** citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan who live and work abroad, but are not members of the diaspora;
- **Tajiks abroad:** Tajiks who are historically native persons of other countries

1 Dual citizenship is only possible with Russia. Since 1995, the Russian Federation and the Republic of Tajikistan have a bilateral agreement on dual citizenship. Art 8 of the Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Tajikistan states: A citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan holding the citizenship of another state is recognized only as a citizen of the Republic of Tajikistan, with the exception of cases provided for by international treaties of Tajikistan. The acquisition of dual citizenship is determined by international treaties of Tajikistan. Constitutional Law on Citizenship of the Republic of Tajikistan dated 08 August 2015.

2 Art. 2 and Art. 4 of the Constitutional Law on Election of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan.

3 Constitutional Law on Election of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan dated August 10, 1999. Accessed 11 August 2020.

Art-16 of the Law "Formation of a precinct election commission" states that at embassies and consulates, polling stations are formed by the Central Commission for Elections and Referenda of the Republic of Tajikistan at the proposal of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan

4 The Concept was approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of May 29, 2010 No. 277.

## The State Concept of Attracting Compatriots Living Abroad as Partners for the Development and its Action Plan for 2015-2020



The Concept was approved by the Decree of the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan of May 29, 2010 No. 277; it foresees the following actions:

- To put on conferences, workshops, creative evenings, events for youth and children, in close cooperation with diasporic organisations; as well as to invite diasporas to the celebration of national events including Independence Day of Tajikistan;
- To run competitions and events for diaspora organisations (“The Union of the Best diasporic Organisations”, “Best scientist of Tajik diasporas”, “Best Cultural Center”, “The best Tajik School of Diasporas”, “The best media reporter of Tajik diasporas”);
- To provide assistance to those Tajik diasporas, labour migrants, compatriots and Tajiks abroad who wish to create cultural and educational centres, courses, schools, libraries;
- To attract highly qualified specialists from among the Tajik diaspora, labour migrants, compatriots and Tajiks from abroad to implement investment projects;
- To provide technical support and access to the educational materials for the diaspora organizations abroad

### Overview of the policy and legislative framework



- 2016** ● **The National Development Strategy until 2030 (NDS 2030)<sup>5</sup> and an approved Medium-term Development Programme for 2016-2020.**<sup>6</sup> The diaspora is mentioned in the Mid-term Development Programme in terms of attracting funding for the realization of the NDS 2030.
- 2017** ▼  
**2019** ● **Roadmap on External Labour Migration** has been developed with the support of ICMPD under the MIEUX programme, with the aim of supporting the efforts of diversification of countries of destination for Tajik citizens and to serve as a guideline for developing the country's new strategy on migration (the previous National Strategy on Migration came to an end in 2015).
- 2018** ▼  
**2021** ● **Roadmap on Social and Economic Reintegration of Returning Labour Migrants in Tajikistan for 2018-2021.** The Roadmap was developed mainly with the advocacy of the Open Society Institute Assistance Foundation (OSIAF) Tajikistan and is an internal document of the Minister of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population (MoLMEP).<sup>7</sup> It is aimed to support Tajik authorities with the creation of a comprehensive and realistic action plan on pre-departure of labour migrants and post arrival of returning labour migrants. It also aims at enhancing the protection of fundamental human rights of labour migrants before departure; reinforcing professional capacities of labour migrants before departure for integration and returning labour migrants for reintegration; and creating a coordination facility and a framework of cooperation for return and reintegration measures. All these documents are under consideration and in their preliminary phases.
- 2019** ● **Agreement between the Government of the Russian Federation and the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan** on the recruitment of Tajik citizens of the Republic of Tajikistan for temporary employment in Russia. It regulates conditions under which the state authorities of Tajikistan provide informative and practical assistance to Tajik labour migrants in getting job-placements, obtaining work permits, temporary residence permits and medical tests (required for a work permit) before entering Russia. Tajikistan's migration authorities are in charge of vocational training, retraining and

<sup>5</sup> Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, Decree “On approval of the National Development Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan until 2030” December 1, 2016, No. 636

<sup>6</sup> Majlisi Namoyandagon of Majlisi Oli of the Republic of Tajikistan, Decree “On approval of the Medium-term Development Program for 2016-2020” December 28, 2016, No. 632

<sup>7</sup> The roadmap was approved by MoLMEP Order (Sumangul Tagozoda) № 118 dated 13 December 2017.

advanced training of potential candidates for employment in Russia. This agreement was adopted based on the Roadmap on External Labour Migration.

2020

**Internal document addressing the impact of COVID-19 on the labour market and migration** outlines the following actions: actions in support of labour migrants abroad and actions concerning labour migrants in Tajikistan unable to migrate to Russia and Kazakhstan. According to the document, diaspora must play an essential role in managing labour migrant inflows and outflows during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to this plan, the MoLMEP is to be in charge of diaspora mapping and monitoring (¶ 1.3.1); establishing the Coordination council on Diaspora engagement to explore partnerships with Tajik diasporas (¶ 1.3.2); developing a new plan of action on the realization of the State Concept for 2021-2024 (¶ 1.3.3); creating a web platform for diaspora contributions to COVID-19 response (¶ 1.3.5); and regular information exchanges between the Migration Services and diaspora communities (¶ 1.3.6).

## » Trends

After the dissolution of the USSR, Tajikistan had neither a government agency nor an official institution dedicated to the diaspora abroad. The Tajik diaspora is a relatively new phenomenon because it formed through labour migration outflows from the country and as result of socio-economic troubles after Tajikistan gained its independence in 1991.

Tajikistan has a rapidly growing diaspora, which consists mostly of labour migrants. It has seen a rapid rise in cross-border seasonal migration, predominantly to Russia and Kazakhstan. Nowadays, the Tajik government is exploring ways to engage its diaspora community for investments, financial assistance, and transfer of non-material assets, such as educational and professional contributions.

The following actions are of priority to Tajikistan: development of a Coordination Council that would strengthen cooperation between the different key actors (foreseen by the Covid-19 response plan); data gathering on the diaspora and supporting the identification of diaspora members.

## » Achievements

**Emergency support due to the COVID-19 contamination:** As the COVID-19 virus spread across Tajikistan, the country called for - and obtained - aid and support from the Tajik diaspora. For example, Russian entrepreneurs of Tajik origin provided humanitarian aid to medical institutions in their hometowns.<sup>8</sup> The Tajik diaspora in the USA and Europe also assisted with collecting money to support medical institutions of Tajikistan while the Tajik diaspora in Russia assisted the Tajik returning migrants blocked at the border during lockdown measures, by providing them food, accommodation and help.<sup>9</sup>

The national migration service and MoLMEP **work on improving skills and knowledge of Tajik nationals (including former labour migrants)**, their social and economic potential in conjunction with increasing their employability abroad. In this regard, Tajikistan signed bilateral memorandums and agreements on the employment of Tajik nationals with the United Arab Emirates<sup>10</sup> and Qatar<sup>11</sup>.

8 <http://hhdt-sugd.tj/archives/32855>; [http://isfara.tj/tj/view\\_news.php?id=173&category=12](http://isfara.tj/tj/view_news.php?id=173&category=12); <https://sputnik-tj.com/Tajikistan/20200507/1031195593/Siposi-raisi-Isfara-ba-sohibkoroni-mahali-va-burunmarzi-baroi-kumak-ba-pizishkon-.html>

9 <https://rus.ozodi.org/a/migrants-update/30527655.html>

10 <https://www.dialog.tj/news/respublika-tadzhikistan-i-oae-podpisali-memorandum-o-vzaimoponimanii-v-sfere-trudovoj-migratsii>

11 <http://www.muhojir.info/news/917>

## Obstacles



- **Lack of harmonized diaspora representation:**<sup>12</sup> Leaders of Tajik communities abroad are disconnected and polarised. As a result, Tajik communities lack coordination..
- **Polarisation of interests:** Regional, civil, ethnic or linguistic differences between Tajiks living abroad often polarise interests.
- **Lack of capacity and trust:** Existing official organizations of Tajiks abroad are poorly adapted for solving the everyday and often urgent problems faced by Tajik diaspora members. There is no platform for harmonizing the interests of diaspora organizations and, above all, the interests of their leaders and members, to create the atmosphere of trust.<sup>13</sup>

## SPOTLIGHT: effective practices



### NETWORKING

### Tajikistan's First National Forum of Compatriots 2014

The forum took place in Dushanbe. It was designed to assist the Republic of Tajikistan in improving the processes of migrant reintegration and attracting diasporas to support the development of the motherland by creating an open platform for representatives of government agencies, diaspora, foreign experts, non-governmental organizations and the media.

### KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

### TajRupt 2017

TajRupt is the first IT- incubator and AI centre in Tajikistan with a mission of empowering youth. TajRupt aims to transform Tajikistan into a regional hub of artificial intelligence research and entrepreneurship by 2025. It is a start-up with a mission of transforming youth into engaged critical thinkers through extracurricular education. There are three areas of focus at TajRupt: machine learning education, applied research, and venture incubator for youth in Tajikistan. TajRupt's team includes young members of the diaspora.

### Protecting labour migrants during crisis 2020

In the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the staff of the **Representation office of the MoLMEP in the Russian Federation** launched a call centre to provide information to migrants on available services and support provided by government agencies, diaspora and NGOs in the Russian Federation.

12 Mukomel, V. (2015): Diaspora – Partner in the Development of Tajikistan. IOM Mission in Tajikistan P. 88-90.

13 Mukomel, V. (2015): Diaspora – Partner in the Development of Tajikistan. IOM Mission in Tajikistan P. 90.

## Annex:

# List of actors

## Diaspora related institutions

- **National institutions**

- At ministerial level

### **The President of the Republic of Tajikistan** 1991

sets the main priorities of the state policy in the field of diaspora cooperation and migration, especially labour migration of Tajik nationals abroad.

### **The Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of Population of Tajikistan (MoLMEP)**

is the central executive body of state authority, responsible for the development and implementation of a uniform state policy and normative legal regulation in the field of labour migration, labour market, and employment, including employment of Tajik labour migrants abroad and their initial vocational education.

The Ministry develops draft laws, roadmaps and normative legal acts on labour, migration, employment and submits them to the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan.

### **The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan** 1992

interacts with diasporas or compatriots and assists in developing cooperation with them. Its personnel are responsible for empowering relations and contacts with compatriots living abroad and protecting the rights and interests of compatriots living abroad.

- At sub-ministerial level

### **Migration Service of the Republic of Tajikistan** 2011

is responsible for creating favourable conditions for attracting migrant workers, diasporas, and compatriots living abroad for the development of Tajikistan and the effective cooperation with diasporas and compatriots living abroad. The Migration Service has opened local centres for consultation with Tajik citizens regarding migration issues, targeting the pre-departure stage, but also ongoing and returning migrants (at the time of writing, four centres are operational out of 10 planned).

### **The Employment Agency for Employment Abroad** (established 2015, inactive at time of writing)

is an agency under the Ministry of Labour, Migration and Employment of the Population of Tajikistan which is in charge of providing assistance to Tajik labour migrants.

The branches of the agency were established in Badakhshan, Sughd and Khatlon regions of Tajikistan. The government assigned a budget and tasks to this agency for increasing employment of Tajik nationals abroad. A methodological guide was also developed on standardized procedures for the provision of employment services.



## Diaspora organisations in Europe



### Cultural Association of the Tajiks of France “Ravzana” 2016 France

#### ☑ Integration activities

The association aims to maintain the spirit of patriotism and national unity, protect the rights and interests of Tajiks living in France, and to promote national values and Tajik culture in France.<sup>14</sup>

### NUR Tadschkische Gesellschaft e.V. 2016 Germany

#### ☑ Integration activities

The Tajik Association NUR [meaning radiance in Tajik language] aims to maintain national unity among Tajiks living in Germany, protect the rights and interests of Tajiks living in Germany, and to promote national values and Tajik culture in Germany.

### TajikInvest [ f ]- Peshraft [ f ] 2011 UK

#### ☑ Integration activities

#### ☑ Development activities

TajikInvest is an international charitable trust which operates in the UK and the Republic of Tajikistan. Their aim is to promote and advance the education, promote art and culture and provide opportunities to talented children from Tajikistan. Peshraft is a sister organisation of the TajikInvest Charitable Trust which is registered in the UK. Peshraft [meaning progress in] was set up by a group of Tajiks who used to study in the United Kingdom as a voluntary association. It aims to contribute to the development of the Republic of Tajikistan through various activities to enhance the human capital of the country. Currently, the organisation is involved in charity activities, investment in education and support for hard-working and capable youth.

14 <https://mfa.tj/en/paris/view/4419/relations-of-the-republic-of-tajikistan-with-the-french-republic>

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