

The European Union Support to Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia

Promoting Sustainable Energy, Strengthening Regional Cooperation, Empowering Communities

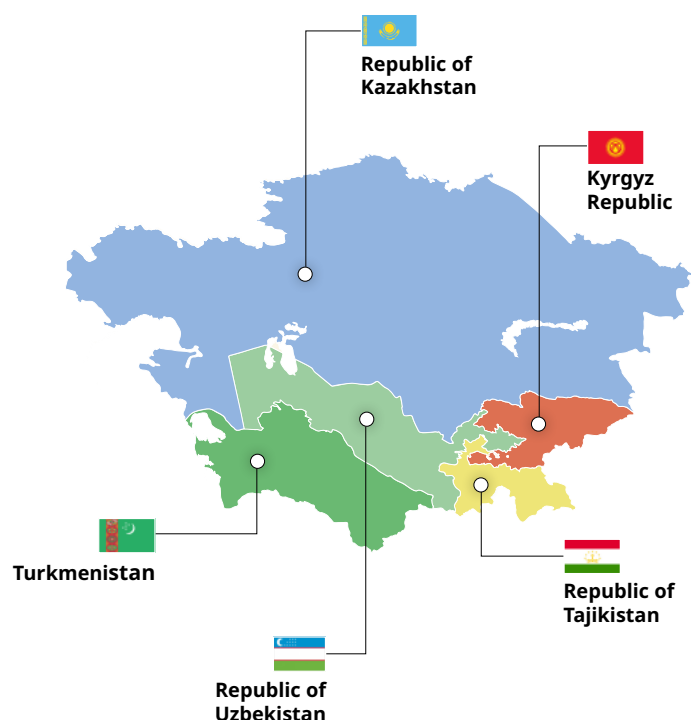
ABOUT THE PROJECT

In line with **the European Green Deal, the European Union Strategy on Central Asia, and the Global Gateway Team Europe Initiative on Water, Energy and Climate Change in Central Asia**, the European Union (EU) is committed to support the countries of Central Asia (CA) in their current energy transition efforts by building upon the region's potential in renewable energy (RE) and capability for improving energy efficiency (EE), as well as promoting sustainable energy connectivity in the region.

In 2022, pursuing the fulfilment of these commitments, the EU launched a four-year project **"The European Union Support to Sustainable Energy Connectivity in Central Asia (SECCA)"**.



BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES



PROJECT MISSION

To promote a more sustainable energy mix in the Central Asia region in line with the EU best practices.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES








- To strengthen and enhance a more inclusive policy, regulatory and institutional framework for the transition to a sustainable energy system within a regional context and
- To contribute to the fulfilment of international human rights commitments in the CA countries, including equal access to energy and supporting gender-responsive policies and legislation for EE and RE deployment.

PRIORITY AREAS

- Development of RE and improvement of EE
- Regional cooperation in the field of sustainable energy
- Promotion and integration of gender and rights-based considerations into energy policy and targeted energy programmes.

PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE ENERGY WITH THE EU SUPPORT: TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

COUNTRY-SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

	 Kazakhstan	 Kyrgyzstan	 Tajikistan	 Turkmenistan	 Uzbekistan
 ENERGY EFFICIENCY	Support in strengthening the quality control of energy audits & energy performance certificates of buildings	Support in structuring the key elements of the bylaw & procedures for the quality control of energy performance certificates of buildings	Support in developing a legal and regulatory framework for the promotion of e-mobility	Support in promoting sustainable / green building certification	Support in developing Energy Service Company (ESCO) model
 RENEWABLE ENERGY	Recommendations for the development of the prosuming system, small-scale hydropower, geothermal energy	Pre-feasibility study for Karakol-1 Small Hydropower Plant and support to Green Energy Fund in developing business model	Assessment of economically and financially feasible potential of rooftop solar	Support in elaboration of secondary legislation for promotion of RE	Support in promotion of development of rooftop solar

CAPACITY BUILDING

Regional and National Conferences, Technical workshops, Roundtables, STEM4Her and other events, including ad hoc upon the countries' request

STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION: FACILITATING KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE EXCHANGE WITHIN CENTRAL ASIA AND WITH THE EU

ENERGY MODELLING

SECCA has established a Regional Group on Modelling and delivered three regional trainings on energy modelling. This work resulted in improved local system-thinking and the knowledge-based data-driven decision making in the energy and climate sectors, and improved capacities of the young experts in model-based energy and climate analysis.

ENERGY STATISTICS

SECCA enhances capacities of the CA experts, with particular focus on the energy balance and calculation of energy efficiency indicators. On multiple occasions, the project brought together the experts from all the CA countries to exchange knowledge and experiences.

HORIZON EUROPE

SECCA assists the beneficiary countries to create conditions for more active participation in the EU's research and innovation framework programme.

The project supported the creation of a regional network of National Contact Points. Through Info Days and other events, it provides opportunities for researchers and scientists in the region to network, collaborate, and share knowledge.

MAINSTREAMING GENDER

SECCA mainstreams gender equality and social inclusion issues through all its activities.

The project conducted the regional and national Gender-in-Energy assessments, co-organised a Regional Conference "Gender and Energy in Central Asia", as well as conducts communication campaigns on women's education and career in the energy and STEM-related fields.

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES: RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT THE SUSTAINABLE ENERGY



The transition to clean and sustainable energy isn't just about technology and policies – it also depends on people. Public awareness plays a key role in making the shift to improved energy efficiency and the use of renewable energy sources successful and sustainable.

1 mln+ people – minimum reach of the SECCA project communication

The SECCA project uses various channels, such as mass media, digital communication tools, public events, to reach the wider audience in Central Asia, including women, youth, and children.

EUROPEAN UNION • CENTRAL ASIA SUSTAINABLE ENERGY DAYS

Every year, the SECCA project hosts **the European Union – Central Asia Sustainable Energy Days** (SEDs) campaign in the beneficiary countries and engages policy makers, energy experts, academia, business, and the general public, including women, youth, and children. This campaign is a regional edition of the EU Sustainable Energy Week (EUSEW), the largest annual event dedicated to renewables and efficient energy use in Europe, initiated in 2007 by the European Commission. It has become an important EU initiative across the region to increase awareness about sustainable energy and climate-neutral solutions for communities, businesses and industries.

SEDs in numbers (2023 and 2024):

150 000+ people – minimum reach of the campaign

1 000+ policymakers and experts enhanced capacities in RE and EE deployment

1 000+ representatives of general public attended the events

16 higher educational institutions participated

8 public schools awarded as “The Most Energy Efficient School”

The Podcast “Energiya Joly”

In October 2024, the SECCA project launched its video podcast “Energiya Joly”. In the format of in-depth interviews, it explores the path towards sustainable energy in Central Asia, and improved capacities of the young experts in model-based energy and climate analysis.

As of Spring 2025, the podcast has: **3 500+ subscribers • 91 000+ views**

INSPIRING SCHOOLS FOR A GREENER FUTURE



Awarding School-Lyceum №59 of Astana, Kazakhstan, selected first as “The Most Energy Efficient School” in 2023.

In 2023, the European Union launched “The Most Energy Efficient School” award. Organised as part of the Sustainable Energy Days by the SECCA project, it celebrates the schools and teachers in fostering nature protection habits and creative thinking in children.

8 public schools in Central Asia – in Astana, Bishkek, Osh, Dushanbe, Mary, Turkmenbashi, Tashkent, and Samarkand – earned this EU recognition.

4 headteachers also joined the EU study tour to Latvia and gained valuable insights into the European schools’ approaches to energy saving, energy efficiency and environmental education.

These schools continue to demonstrate leadership by practicing responsible use of resources and striving to build a greener future. In 2025, the SECCA project will organise STEM4Her events for these schools to inspire children, in particular, girls, to undertake STEM education and careers and address the current gender gap in the STEM- and energy-related fields.



Headteachers of “The Most Energy Efficient Schools” visiting Ogre State Gymnasium – the winner of “The Most Valuable Baltic Buildings and Projects 2023” competition, Ogre, Latvia, December 2023.

UNLOCKING RESEARCH COOPERATION

The opportunities offered by Horizon Europe, the EU’s 95.5 billion euro research and innovation programme, were little known for the researchers and institutions in Central Asia. In the beginning of 2024, the programme’s National Contact Points (NCPs) were only nominated in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.

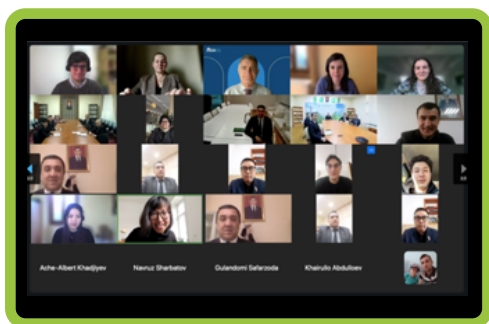


Workshop “Unlocking EU-Central Asia Research Cooperation under Horizon Europe”, Tashkent, Uzbekistan, November 2024.

In under a year, through various SECCA activities, new NCPs have been nominated in Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, and dedicated NCPs for programme’s Cluster 5 “Climate, Energy, and Mobility” have been appointed in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan. SECCA and Kazakhstan’s Science Fund developed the Cooperation Profile Template for the research organisations and universities to facilitate the partner search in the EU.

To boost engagement and cooperation, SECCA organises info days and workshops. The first Regional Info Day took place in May 2025 and paved the way for stronger regional cooperation and increased Central Asian participation in Horizon Europe.

ENHANCING CAPACITY OF NEXT ENERGY TRANSITION LEADERS



Online School launch session, January 2025.

60 university students and faculty staff members from all Central Asian countries were trained in sustainable energy theory and practice at a tailor-made online training in January-February 2025. They were selected as a result of the students' debates organised within "The European Union – Central Asia Sustainable Energy Days 2024".

The training was delivered by the Florence School of Regulation (Italy) – a European centre of excellence for innovative trainings on energy and climate.

By the end of the training course, the attendees learned about the advanced EU energy and climate policy context and internal EU energy market, power sector regulation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, e-mobility, consumer engagement and empowerment, gender dimension of sustainable energy strategies, as well as present challenges and perspectives in the sector in the CA region and countries.

KEY MILESTONES & INITIATIVES TIMELINE

