

COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND KYRGYZSTAN IN THE CULTURAL AND HUMANITARIAN SPHERE (1991-2025)

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Abstract. Cultural and humanitarian cooperation between the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Kyrgyz Republic is one of the most stable and socially significant dimensions of bilateral relations. Rooted in centuries of shared history, geographic proximity, and intertwined cultural traditions, this cooperation plays an essential role in strengthening mutual understanding and regional stability in Central Asia.

This study examines the development, current state, and priority directions of Uzbek–Kyrgyz cultural and humanitarian cooperation. It focuses on education, science, cultural exchange, tourism, youth relations, and people-to-people diplomacy. The research is based on a historical-analytical approach and uses official documents, bilateral agreements, and regional academic sources.

Historical and Cultural Foundations. The cultural and humanitarian ties between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan have deep historical roots. For centuries, the peoples of both countries have shared common traditions, linguistic influences, spiritual values, and elements of material culture within the broader Central Asian civilization.

After gaining independence in 1991, these historical ties became the foundation for the institutionalization of cultural cooperation. Despite occasional political and border-related challenges, humanitarian relations remained relatively stable, demonstrating the resilience of cultural connections.

A new stage began after 2016, when bilateral relations entered a phase of active rapprochement. This period was characterized by intensified cultural diplomacy, restoration of historical ties, and expansion of humanitarian exchanges.

Educational and Scientific Cooperation. Education is a key pillar of humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. Universities and research institutions in both countries actively collaborate through academic exchange programs and joint scientific projects.

Main directions include:

- **student and faculty exchange programs,**
- **joint research in linguistics, history, and regional studies,**
- **participation in international conferences,**
- **development of inter-university partnerships.**

Such cooperation contributes to the formation of a new generation of specialists with regional thinking and strengthens scientific integration in Central Asia.

Cultural Exchange and Heritage Preservation. Cultural exchange plays a vital role in strengthening mutual understanding between the peoples of both countries. Joint cultural events, festivals, exhibitions, and artistic performances are regularly organized.

Special attention is given to the preservation of shared cultural heritage, including traditional music, folklore, crafts, and historical monuments. Cultural institutions and creative organizations actively support initiatives aimed at strengthening cultural identity and historical continuity.

These activities contribute to deepening cultural dialogue and enhancing friendship between the two nations.

Tourism and People-to-People Relations. Tourism is an increasingly important component of humanitarian cooperation. Geographic proximity, improved infrastructure, and simplified border procedures have significantly increased tourist flows between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan.

Popular areas include historical cities, mountain tourism regions, and cultural heritage sites. In addition, family ties, labor mobility, and everyday cross-border communication strengthen social cohesion and trust between societies.

Youth, Media, and Civil Society Cooperation. In recent years, cooperation in youth policy, media, and civil society has expanded. Youth organizations participate in forums, leadership programs, and cultural initiatives aimed at strengthening regional cooperation.

Media cooperation contributes to forming a positive image of bilateral relations and promoting mutual understanding. Civil society organizations also implement joint projects in education, culture, and social development.

CONCLUSION.

Cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan has developed into a stable and long-term component of bilateral relations. Based on shared historical roots and cultural proximity, it continues to expand through education, cultural exchange, tourism, and youth cooperation.

This sphere plays a crucial role not only in strengthening bilateral relations but also in ensuring regional stability and sustainable development in Central Asia.

Keywords: Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, cultural cooperation, humanitarian relations, education, cultural diplomacy, Central Asia, youth exchange.

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