

## Green Central Asia: Newsletter

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***Dear Colleagues, Partners,  
and Friends,***

Welcome to the latest edition of our newsletter.

Over the years, this publication has been an important platform for sharing achievements, lessons learned, and milestones from our joint work across Central Asia. We are sincerely grateful that you have remained with us throughout this journey, following our activities, contributing your expertise, and supporting our shared vision.



In this edition, you will notice some changes in both format and style. In response to the increasing pace of digital communication and the need to use our time more efficiently, we have streamlined our content and shortened the articles. Our aim is to provide concise, relevant, and accessible information while maintaining the quality and substance that our readers value.

At the same time, we have placed a stronger emphasis on impact. Beyond reporting on activities and events, we would like to highlight the tangible results, changes, and benefits generated through our cooperation. We believe that demonstrating impact helps us better understand how knowledge, partnerships, and collective efforts contribute to sustainable development in the region.

We have also sharpened our thematic focus, concentrating on the key issues that matter most to our partners and stakeholders. Through this approach, we hope to offer a clearer picture of progress, emerging trends, and opportunities for collaboration.

Thank you for your continued trust, engagement, and support. We hope that this renewed format will make our newsletter even more useful and inspiring for you.

Enjoy reading!

***Sincerely,***

***Dr. Caroline Milow***



### **ACCELERATING THE ENERGY TRANSITION:**

- Training the Next Generation of Renewable Energy Experts in Turkmenistan
- EU Expands Support for Turkmenistan's Green Transition
- Journalists Driving Public Awareness of Clean Energy
- Innovation and Entrepreneurship for a Greener Future
- European and Turkmen Experts Explore Technologies for the Energy Transition
- New Horizons for Green Investment

### **BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE THROUGH REGIONAL COOPERATION:**

- Central Asia Advances Regional Climate Adaptation
- Science and Policy Join Forces for Climate Action
- Glacier Science for Water Security
- Eco Expo 2026: Showcasing Regional Solutions

### **WATER SECURITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE:**

- From Knowledge to Action: Water Security Forum
- Building Water Expertise Across Central Asia
- Digital Transformation of Water Governance
- Kyrgyzstan's Basin Councils: A Milestone for Water Reform
- Educating the Next Generation of Water Professionals

### **INCLUSIVE LEADERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:**

- Women Parliamentarians Advancing the Water Agenda
- Women at the Forefront of Water Governance





## BUILDING THE SKILLS FOR A SUSTAINABLE ENERGY FUTURE IN TURKMENISTAN

Turkmenistan is investing in the people who will drive its energy transition. On 16 January, the State Energy Institute of Turkmenistan (SEIT) in Mary completed the second stage of its 72-hour certification programme on sustainable energy systems. The course built on training launched in September 2025 and brought together educators, researchers, and energy professionals from across the country.

Participants gained practical skills in renewable energy technologies, project assessment, and the integration of sustainable energy solutions into national development planning. By combining theory with hands-on applications, the programme helped bridge the gap between academic knowledge and real-world implementation.

The initiative is part of growing EU–Turkmenistan cooperation on the green transition. Through the exchange of European expertise and best practices, the programme strengthens national capacity to deploy renewable energy solutions and supports Turkmenistan’s long-term climate and energy goals. Upon completion, participants from SEIT, the Renewable Energy Sources Scientific and Production Centre, and the Ministry of Energy received certificates recognising their new qualifications.

### IMPACT :

A new generation of energy professionals is now better equipped to support Turkmenistan’s transition towards a cleaner, more resilient, and diversified energy sector.





## EU EXPANDS SUPPORT FOR TURKMENISTAN'S GREEN TRANSITION

The European Union has increased its support for Turkmenistan's climate ambitions with an additional **€2 million contribution** to the project *EU for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2029*. The announcement was made during the project's Third Steering Committee Meeting in Ashgabat on 22 January 2026.

Representatives of Turkmen ministries, the EU Delegations, and the German Embassy reviewed progress achieved during the first year of implementation and approved the project's 2026 workplan and budget. Participants highlighted advances in renewable energy deployment, innovative drainage water treatment solutions, and methane reduction through Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR) technologies.

The additional funding reflects confidence in the project's early results and will help expand activities supporting climate action, environmental innovation, and capacity development. By combining policy dialogue with practical pilot projects, the initiative is helping Turkmenistan build a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

### IMPACT :

The EU's additional funding will help expand successful climate initiatives and accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions across key sectors. This strengthens Turkmenistan's capacity to address climate challenges while advancing its transition towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.





## YOUNG INNOVATORS POWER TURKMENISTAN'S RENEWABLE ENERGY FUTURE

Turkmenistan's next generation of clean energy innovators took centre stage in Mary on 10 April 2026, as the winners of the national *Startups in the Field of Renewable Energy Sources* competition were announced.

Hosted by the State Institute of Energy of Turkmenistan, the competition attracted 53 projects developed by students and young professionals aged 18 to 30. Participants presented innovative solutions ranging from solar and wind technologies to biomass energy systems and digital tools for improving energy efficiency.

The strongest projects demonstrated practical applications of renewable energy technologies and highlighted the growing interest of young people in contributing to the country's green transition. Nine winners were selected across three categories, with first-place recipients awarded study visits to Germany to gain international experience in renewable energy innovation.

Representatives of the Ministries of Energy and Education emphasized the importance of investing in young talent to support the country's long-term energy transformation.

### IMPACT :

By promoting entrepreneurship, innovation, and technical skills, the competition is helping build the human capital needed for Turkmenistan's future green economy.





## WINNERS OF THE 'GREEN ENERGY' MEDIA CONTEST HONORED IN ASHGABAT

Journalists and media professionals from across Turkmenistan were celebrated on 23 January 2026 at the award ceremony of the nationwide 'Green Energy' Media Contest held in Ashgabat. The competition, launched in May 2025, encouraged participants to spotlight renewable energy, energy efficiency, and environmental sustainability, helping to bring green development issues closer to the public.

Organised by the State Concern 'Turkmengaz' in partnership with GIZ and the editorial teams of the 'Nebit-gaz' and 'Ussatnews' newspapers, the contest formed part of the International Year of Peace and Trust. Through articles, reports, and media stories, journalists showcased practical examples of sustainable energy solutions and highlighted the benefits of a greener future for Turkmenistan.

The award ceremony gathered representatives of government institutions, academia, the media sector, and international organisations, reflecting the growing importance of public dialogue on climate and energy issues. Participants emphasized the vital role of the media in translating complex

topics such as renewable energy and energy efficiency into accessible and engaging stories for a wider audience.

The winners were recognised for the quality and impact of their reporting, with first-place recipients awarded certificates for an international study tour, while second- and third-place winners received commemorative prizes.

### IMPACT:

By encouraging high-quality journalism on sustainability and innovation, the contest strengthened public awareness of renewable energy and energy efficiency issues. It also helped build a community of media professionals engaged in covering Turkmenistan's green transition and promoting informed public discussion on climate and energy challenges.





## INNOVATION IN ACTION: EUROPEAN AND TURKMEN EXPERTS EXPLORE SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION

From 24 to 27 March 2026, European and Turkmen experts came together for a series of technical seminars dedicated to innovative solutions for the energy sector and the country's green transition. The events provided a valuable platform for exchanging knowledge on emerging technologies that can improve energy efficiency, sustainability, and climate resilience.

The first seminar, hosted by the State Energy Institute in Mary, focused on renewable energy integration. Experts from Clausthal University of Technology presented European experience in solar and wind energy, green hydrogen, and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), while participants discussed opportunities and technical requirements for integrating renewable energy into national energy systems.

The programme also included a visit by representatives of the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office, who met local partners and observed project activities in Mary velayat. A second seminar, held in Ashgabat, explored innovation in the oil and gas sector, covering topics such as well integrity, corrosion prevention, artificial intelligence applications, predictive maintenance, and environmental and safety standards.

By bringing together international and national experts, the seminars fostered dialogue on practical solutions for a more sustainable energy future. The events highlighted the importance of knowledge exchange and international cooperation in supporting Turkmenistan's efforts to modernize its energy sector and address climate challenges.

### IMPACT :

The seminars strengthened technical knowledge and professional exchange among energy sector specialists, increasing awareness of innovative technologies and best international practices. The initiative supported capacity development in renewable energy integration, energy efficiency, and sustainable oil and gas operations, contributing to Turkmenistan's transition towards a more resilient and climate-conscious energy sector.

# Türkmenistan – Ýewropa Bileleşigi işewürlik forumy Turkmenistan – European Union Business Forum

2026-njy ýylyň 26-njy marty | Aşgabat şäheri  
26 March 2026 | Ashgabat

## NEW HORIZONS FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH: EU-TURKMENISTAN BUSINESS FORUM STRENGTHENS GREEN AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION

On 26 March 2026, Ashgabat hosted the 'Turkmenistan–European Union' Business Forum under the theme 'New Horizons for Connectivity, Investment and Sustainable Growth'. The event brought together government representatives, EU institutions, international financial organizations, and business leaders to discuss opportunities for strengthening economic cooperation and supporting sustainable development under the EU's Global Gateway initiative.

The forum focused on improving the business environment, enhancing transport connectivity, attracting investment, and supporting Turkmenistan's transition towards a greener and more resilient economy. Participants highlighted the growing importance of EU-Turkmenistan cooperation in addressing both economic and environmental priorities.

A dedicated session organized by the project 'European Union for a Green Turkmenistan: Policy Dialogue and Climate Action 2024–2029' explored practical approaches to renewable energy development and methane emissions reduction. Discussions emphasized the role of green technologies, climate action, and innovation in driving sustainable economic growth. The forum also addressed regional connectivity, including the development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor and measures to facilitate trade and logistics.

A key outcome of the event was the signing of two protocols amending existing Memoranda of Understanding between Turkmen partners and GIZ, securing additional support for ongoing cooperation in climate action, renewable energy, and sustainable development.

### IMPACT :

The forum strengthened dialogue between public and private sector stakeholders and advanced cooperation on sustainable investment, climate action, and green economic development in Turkmenistan.



## CENTRAL ASIA ADVANCES REGIONAL CLIMATE ADAPTATION AGENDA

Representatives from all five Central Asian countries met in Astana on 23 April 2026 to accelerate implementation of the Regional Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Central Asia.

Held during the Regional Ecological Summit, the sixth meeting of the Regional Working Group (RWG) focused on translating regional commitments into practical action. Participants reviewed progress achieved in 2025 and discussed the draft Implementation Plan that will guide the next phase of cooperation.

A key priority was ensuring that regional objectives align with national development priorities while delivering measurable results on the ground. Representatives from across the region emphasized the need for stronger coordination and practical measures that enhance resilience to growing climate risks.

### IMPACT:

The meeting marked another step toward operationalizing Central Asia's shared climate adaptation agenda and strengthening regional cooperation on resilience-building.





## FROM KNOWLEDGE TO ACTION: STRENGTHENING WATER SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

On 26 March 2026, the Tashkent Water Security Forum convened scientists, policymakers, and water experts from across Central Asia and beyond to discuss practical solutions for strengthening water security in the face of climate change. Held under the theme 'From Knowledge to Action: Enhancing Science and Policy Dialogue for Improved Water Security in Central Asia,' the event focused on bridging the gap between research and decision-making.

### IMPACT :

The forum strengthened science-policy dialogue and promoted knowledge exchange on water security, supporting more informed and cooperative approaches to water management in Central Asia.

The forum provided a platform for exchanging knowledge on sustainable water management, climate resilience, and regional cooperation. Participants explored the latest scientific findings, innovative tools, and data-driven approaches to water governance, while emphasizing the importance of translating research into effective policies and actions.

A high-level panel discussion brought together researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to examine how stronger science-policy dialogue can support informed decision-making and improve water management across the region. Discussions highlighted the critical role of regional cooperation and water diplomacy in addressing shared challenges and building long-term resilience.

The forum reaffirmed the value of collaboration between science and policy communities in advancing sustainable water management and supporting climate adaptation efforts across Central Asia.





## WOMEN PARLIAMENTARIANS CHAMPION WATER SECURITY IN CENTRAL ASIA

Women parliamentarians from across Central Asia joined international experts and policymakers in Dushanbe to discuss how stronger female leadership can advance sustainable water governance in the region.

Held alongside the Fourth International High-Level Conference on the Water Action Decade, the event highlighted the growing importance of inclusive leadership in addressing water security challenges exacerbated by climate change.

Participants explored gender-responsive policymaking, inter-parliamentary cooperation, and strategies to strengthen women's participation in water-related decision-making processes. Discussions underscored the important contribution women leaders can make to more resilient and sustainable water governance.

### IMPACT:

The event strengthened regional dialogue on gender and water governance while promoting more inclusive approaches to managing one of Central Asia's most strategic resources.





## GLACIER SCIENCE TAKES CENTRE STAGE IN THE FIGHT FOR WATER SECURITY

More than 150 scientists, policymakers, and development partners gathered in Dushanbe to strengthen regional cooperation on glacier and cryosphere monitoring – a critical issue for Central Asia’s future water security.

The Central Asian Coordination Forum on Glacier and Cryosphere Monitoring, Assessment and Predictive Modelling focused on improving scientific understanding of glacier retreat and its implications for water availability across the region.

Participants discussed advances in monitoring technologies, predictive modelling, and climate risk assessment while exploring opportunities for greater regional cooperation and data sharing. Special attention was given to harmonizing monitoring methodologies and strengthening links between science and policymaking.

With glacier-fed water resources underpinning agriculture, energy production, and livelihoods throughout Central Asia, participants stressed the urgency of coordinated action.

### **IMPACT:**

The forum strengthened the scientific foundation needed for evidence-based water management and climate adaptation across the region.





## WOMEN AT THE FOREFRONT OF SUSTAINABLE WATER GOVERNANCE

More than 120 representatives from government, academia, civil society, and international organizations came together in Tajikistan for the International Forum “Women and Water”, highlighting the vital role of women in shaping sustainable water futures.

The Forum showcased how greater female participation in water governance can strengthen climate resilience, improve decision-making, and support more equitable management of water resources. Participants exchanged experiences and best practices while exploring ways to increase women’s leadership across the water sector.

Discussions highlighted the strong links between gender equality, water security, and sustainable development. Speakers emphasized that empowering women is not only a question of inclusion but also a prerequisite for more effective responses to growing climate and water challenges.

### IMPACT :

The Forum reinforced the recognition of women as key drivers of sustainable water management and helped advance more inclusive and climate-resilient approaches to water governance across Central Asia.





## STRENGTHENING REGIONAL COOPERATION ON GLACIER MONITORING

Experts from across Central Asia gathered for the fifth meeting of the Regional Working Group on Glacier Monitoring and Modelling to strengthen scientific cooperation on one of the region's most pressing climate challenges.

Hosted in Tajikistan, the meeting focused on improving glacier monitoring systems, enhancing data exchange, and advancing scientific modelling to better understand future water availability.

Participants highlighted the importance of harmonized monitoring approaches and closer cooperation among hydrometeorological services. Discussions also focused on translating scientific findings into practical policies that support climate adaptation and sustainable water management.

### **IMPACT :**

The meeting reinforced regional collaboration on glacier science, helping policymakers prepare for the long-term impacts of climate change on water resources.





## REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS ON DISPLAY AT ECO EXPO CENTRAL ASIA 2026

Regional cooperation on climate, water, and sustainable development took centre stage at Eco Expo Central Asia 2026 in Samarkand.

Through a joint exhibition, the programs *Green Central Asia Phase II*, *EU4 Sustainable Central Asia*, and *Climate-sensitive Water Resources Management in Central Asia* showcased their achievements and ongoing efforts to strengthen climate resilience across the region.

The exhibition attracted government representatives, international organizations, researchers, civil society actors, and private-sector stakeholders, providing an opportunity to exchange ideas and explore innovative solutions to environmental challenges.

Visitors learned about practical initiatives supporting climate adaptation, sustainable water management, and regional cooperation, while discussions highlighted the importance of cross-border collaboration in addressing shared challenges.

### IMPACT :

The exhibition increased the visibility of regional cooperation efforts and demonstrated how partnerships can accelerate progress toward a greener and more resilient Central Asia.





## REGIONAL TRAINING STRENGTHENS WATER MANAGEMENT EXPERTISE ACROSS CENTRAL ASIA

Water professionals from all five Central Asian countries gathered in Tashkent on 5–6 February 2026 to strengthen skills in Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and climate-resilient water planning.

The training brought together representatives of basin organizations, government agencies, and regional water institutions, including experts from the Syr Darya and Amu Darya Basin Water Organizations. Participants explored practical approaches to basin planning, efficient water use, the Water-

Energy-Food Nexus, and the automation of transboundary hydrological monitoring systems.

A field visit to the Charvak Reservoir complemented classroom sessions and provided participants with practical insights into water allocation and infrastructure management.

### **IMPACT :**

The training strengthened regional professional networks and enhanced the technical capacity of institutions responsible for managing Central Asia's shared water resources.





## DIGITALIZATION SUPPORTS WATER SECTOR REFORM IN KAZAKHSTAN

Kazakhstan took another step toward modernizing water governance with the handover of 40 laptops and 40 tablets to basin inspection authorities across the country.

Presented at the Ministry of Water Resources and Irrigation in Astana, the equipment will improve field inspections, strengthen data collection, and enhance communication between regional and national authorities.

The investment supports implementation of Kazakhstan's new Water Code and broader efforts to digitalize water management processes. Improved access to information will help inspectors respond more effectively to water management challenges while strengthening transparency and accountability.

### IMPACT:

Digital tools are helping Kazakhstan build a more efficient, data-driven, and climate-resilient water sector.





## KYRGYZSTAN ESTABLISHES THREE NEW BASIN COUNCILS

Kyrgyzstan reached an important milestone in water sector reform with the establishment of new Basin Councils in the Karadarya–Syrdarya–Amudarya, Naryn–Syrdarya, and Talas river basins.

The councils bring together government agencies, local authorities, scientific institutions, water users, and technical experts to improve coordination and support basin-level decision-making. Across all three meetings held in March 2026, participants approved council memberships, discussed governance structures, and identified priorities for future cooperation.

The new bodies will play a central role in promoting Integrated Water Resources Management and addressing challenges related to climate change, water variability, and growing demand.

### IMPACT:

The establishment of three Basin Councils represents one of the most significant recent advances in participatory water governance in Kyrgyzstan, creating permanent platforms for dialogue, coordination, and sustainable resource management.





## BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF WATER PROFESSIONALS

Universities and water experts from across Central Asia met in Tashkent in April 2026 to advance a new regional certification programme on climate- and gender-sensitive Integrated Water Resources Management.

The workshop reviewed training materials, textbooks, and teaching methodologies that will support future professional development programmes for basin organizations and water practitioners throughout the region.

Led by Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and supported by regional and international partners, participants focused on ensuring that future water professionals possess the skills needed to address increasingly complex climate-related challenges.

### IMPACT:

The initiative is helping create a new generation of water professionals equipped to lead sustainable and climate-resilient water management across Central Asia.





## KAZAKHSTAN EXPANDS DIGITAL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR WATER MANAGEMENT

Kazakhstan further strengthened its water sector institutions through the handover of 110 computer workstations to basin management organizations across the country.

The equipment will improve data processing, information management, and operational efficiency, supporting ongoing efforts to modernize water governance and accelerate digital transformation within the sector.

Discussions during the handover highlighted the growing importance of digital technologies, monitoring systems, and information platforms in ensuring water security under changing climatic conditions.

### IMPACT :

Improved digital infrastructure is enabling more effective water management and strengthening institutional resilience in the face of increasing climate pressures.





## CENTRAL ASIA MOVES FROM DIALOGUE TO ACTION ON WATER SECURITY

At the Regional Ecological Summit 2026, representatives of all five Central Asian countries agreed to accelerate practical cooperation on water security.

Discussions focused on digitalization, smart irrigation, water accounting, and infrastructure modernization, with participants highlighting the need for scalable solutions capable of delivering tangible results.

A key outcome was agreement to develop a portfolio of joint pilot projects for 2026–2027 focusing on water-saving technologies, digital transformation, and modernization of critical infrastructure.

### IMPACT:

The meeting demonstrated growing regional commitment to moving beyond dialogue and implementing practical solutions to strengthen water security.





## UNIVERSITIES JOIN FORCES TO MODERNISE WATER EDUCATION

Leading universities from across Central Asia met at TIIAME in Tashkent to strengthen regional cooperation in water education and prepare future generations of water professionals.

Following a review of existing academic programmes, participants identified four priority areas for joint curriculum development: artificial intelligence in water management, watershed modelling, groundwater modelling, and Integrated Water Resources Management.

Supported by international experts from ETH Zurich and hydrosolutions GmbH, the initiative aims to ensure that academic programmes reflect the skills and knowledge needed to address emerging climate and water challenges.

### IMPACT :

By modernising curricula and strengthening academic cooperation, the initiative is helping build the expertise required for sustainable water management across Central Asia.





## ADVANCING SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN GERMANY AND CENTRAL ASIA

The Green Central Asia initiative participated in the first German Higher Education and Science Forum Central Asia, held from 23 to 25 February 2026 in Halle, Germany. Organized by Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg (MLU) together with the Central Asia Sustainable Innovation Bureau (CASIB), the forum brought together more than 180 representatives of academia, government institutions, research organizations, and funding agencies from Germany and Central Asia.

The event provided a platform for strengthening scientific partnerships and identifying new opportunities for collaboration on pressing regional challenges. Discussions focused on climate change adaptation, energy transition, biodiversity conservation, sustainable land use, food and water security, public health, and regional development. Participants emphasized that addressing these interconnected challenges requires closer cooperation between researchers, policymakers, and international partners.





A key milestone highlighted during the forum was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on research-policy cooperation between Germany and the five Central Asian countries. The agreement reflects a shared commitment to deepening scientific dialogue, fostering innovation, and promoting evidence-based solutions for sustainable development and climate resilience.

The forum marked an important step towards building stronger research networks between Germany and Central Asia. Organizers announced plans to continue the initiative through regular exchange formats and expanded opportunities for joint research, particularly for early-career scientists.

#### **IMPACT :**

The forum strengthened scientific and policy dialogue between Germany and Central Asia, creating new opportunities for collaborative research and knowledge exchange. By connecting researchers, decision-makers, and institutions, it laid the foundation for long-term partnerships that support climate resilience, sustainable development, and innovation across the region.





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