

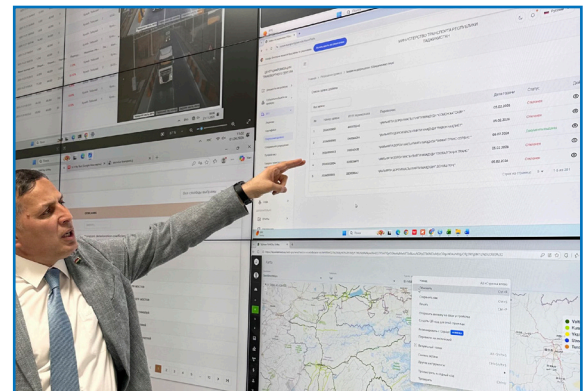
Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor Capacity Development Program

Improve soft connectivity and regulatory transport-related frameworks in Central Asia and along the TCTC

#GLOBALGATEWAY #TEAMEUROPE

FEBRUARY 2026

Project name	Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) Capacity Development Programme
Commissioned by	European Union, Germany, France
Countries	Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan
Main political partners	Ministries of transport, trade, finance and related agencies
Implementing partners	GIZ, Expertise France
Duration	November 2025 - May 2029



Introduction of an ePermit system in Tajikistan, ©GIZ

Context

Central Asia is of growing strategic importance to the European Union, given its position as a land bridge between Europe and Asia, its natural resource base, and its expanding economic potential. As traditional trade routes face increasing disruption, the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC)* has emerged as a viable alternative offering an alternative route for transporting goods across Central Asia, improving not only the economic ties between Europe and Central Asia but also contributing to better connectivity countries across the region and their integration into global trade networks. This initiative is closely aligned with the EU Global Gateway strategy, reinforcing the EU's commitment to strengthening global connectivity and sustainable infrastructure in the region.

Our objective

Soft connectivity and gender-responsive regulatory frameworks in Central Asia and along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor have been strengthened, with regulatory systems aligned to EU and international technical standards and incorporating best practices in low-carbon and climate-resilient development.

Our measures

The TCTC Capacity Development programme is being implemented by GIZ (the German federal enterprise for international cooperation) and Expertise France (the French agency for international development and cooperation) in the framework of the EU–Central Asia Global Gateway programme (see page 2).

Implemented by:

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

EXPERTISE FRANCE GROUPE AFD

* The Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor (TCTC) is a network of routes linking Europe and Asia via Central Asia, the South Caucasus, and the Caspian Sea. It is significant to promote regional connectivity, facilitate trade flows, and improve integration of the countries with European and international markets.

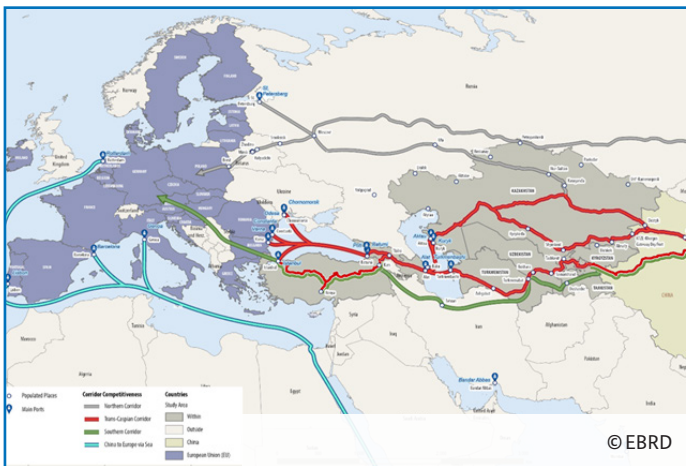
Key areas of work and main activities of GIZ:

- Strengthening the government's ability to **create a simpler, more consistent, digital (paperless), and inclusive customs and trade system**. This system should follow international transport and logistics agreements, as well as relevant European Union standards, while also taking into account the gender-related issues.
- Contributing to improving how **different types of transport — road, rail, and sea — connect and work together**, while making these connections more environmentally friendly.

Key areas of work and main activities of Expertise France:

- Strengthening the government's ability to **create and carry out policies for public-private partnerships (PPPs)** that promote gender equality.
- Strengthening the government's ability to **carry out transport market reforms that promote gender equality**. This includes supporting gradual market opening and **aligning rules with international and EU standards**.
- Supporting **improving mechanisms for fair, transparent, and efficient tariff structures** along the TCTC corridor.
- Strengthening the ability of government and transport asset owners to **manage transport infrastructure** more effectively and **secure funding** for its maintenance and improvement.

EU-Central Asia Global Gateway: Support to the development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor



In 2021, the European Commission and the EU High Representative launched the Global Gateway INITIATIVE, a new European strategy to boost smart, clean and secure links in digital, energy and transport sectors, while also strengthening health, education and research systems across the world. Under EU Global Gateway, the EU has launched the Action "EU-Central Asia Global Gateway: Support to the development of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor".

The main objectives of the programme:

The Overall Objective of this action is to advance the green development of seamless transport connections between Europe and Central Asia and within the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor.

The Specific Objectives of this action are to:

1. Improve soft connectivity and gender-responsive regulatory frameworks in Central Asia and along the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor, including regulatory approximation with EU and international technical standards and best practices in low carbon and resilient development.
2. Improve effectiveness of intra-regional cooperation and coordination in the field of transport, connectivity and trade with a focus on the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor.
3. Increase investments in green and climate-proofed key infrastructure of the Trans-Caspian Transport Corridor.

Specific Objective 1 will be implemented through the TCTC Capacity Development Programme by GIZ and EF (see above).

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