



International Water
Management Institute



Meeting of the Network of Academic Societies
29 Oct 2024, Tashkent

Challenges and opportunities for Academic mobility in Central Asia in hydrodiplomacy

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Innovative water solutions for sustainable development
Food · Climate · Growth

AGRICULTURE



LIVELYHOODS



ECOSYSTEMS



CLIMATE CHANGE



GREEN ENERGY



WATER FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF CENTRAL ASIA
(economic, environmental and social aspects)

WATER



DESERTIFICATION



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES



FLOODS



Water knowledge in Central Asia is vast...

Infrastructure

- dams
- irrigation systems
- qanats

Eco systems

- mountains
- desserts
- biodiversity
- Wetlands

Integrated Water Resource Management

- enabling environment
- water allocation
- basin approach

...but new challenges and opportunities emerge!

- Water and energy nexus (incl. Renewable energies, Hydrogen, Nuclear power)
- Urban water (incl. reuse of water)
- Groundwater management
- Nature based solutions
- Climate risks
- WASH

Solution lies in reestablishing the interlinkage between science & education

- Human capital as basis for innovation
- Global trends (Bolonia process: higher education policy & creation of common standards)
- Strengthening the interaction between higher education and research institutions and water industry sector.
- Enhance the specialized academic materials available in national languages
- Upgrade of university curricula



Way forward: Academic mobility

Goal of Academic mobility:

- Strengthening Education Quality:
- Collaboration and Research Opportunities
- Knowledge and Skills Development:
- Internationalization

Central Asian Higher Educational Area, Turkistan declarations 2021

- need for enhanced policy dialog!

Pilot: hydrodiplomacy?





Main Phase: May, 2025 –Sept., 2029

Project Overview

Central Asia, home to over 82 million people, faces significant challenges related to water scarcity and management. The Blue Peace Central Asia 2.0 project aims to enhance collaboration and effective management of water resources across the region. We seek to support sustainable development and stability for all communities.

Goal:

Blue Peace Central Asia 2.0 aims to create a future where water resources are shared fairly and managed effectively, benefiting everyone in the region.

Geographic Focus:



Inception phase
Sept 2024 – April 2025

Project launch

National consultations (Oct.2024)

Development of key studies

Validation workshop (Dec. 2024)

Development of ProDoc for Phase 1

Pilar 1 Dialogue and Cooperation:

We will facilitate discussions among countries on water management issues, including water quality and climate change while enhancing data collection and sharing.

Pilar 2 Technical Support:

The project will provide operational and technical assistance for local water management, including developing plans for cross-border rivers and implementing water-saving technologies.

Pilar 3 Education and Youth Engagement:

We will offer scholarships for master's programs in water resource management and create opportunities for academic exchanges. Additionally, we will engage youth in entrepreneurial initiatives and raise awareness about critical water issues.

Implementation of the vision: **JOINT DEGREE on HYDRODIPLOMACY in CA...**

Education component:

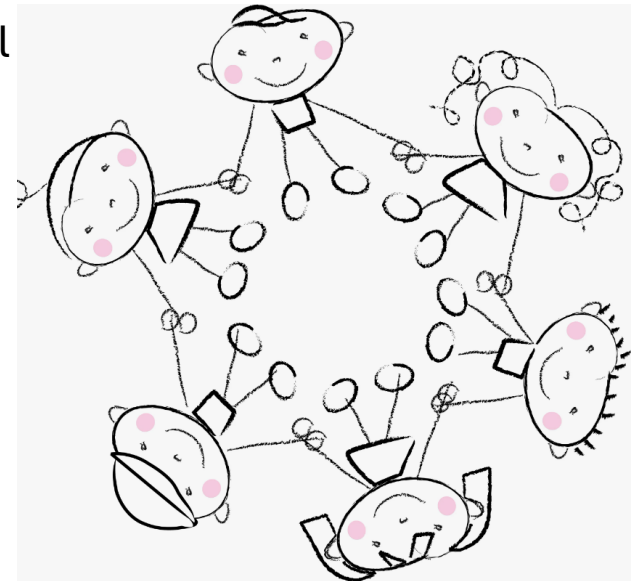
- Joint MA degrees between the national HEI on hydro diplomacy facilitated together by national HEI specializing on water and diplomacy
- MA content: water science/engineering and water governance diplomacy
- Curriculum to be developed jointly on regional level
- 5 (+1) countries of Central Asia
- International the expertise to be invited

Scientific component:

- common science space
- Research(ers) mobility

Policy Dialog

- With Ministries of Higher Education (5 CA)
- Output: mutual recognition of degrees
- Academic mobility in CA





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Thank you!



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