

The UK's European university

Internationalisation on your doorsteps: the importance of capacity-building in Uzbekistan's HE sector



GCRF COMPASS: comprehensive capacity-building in the eastern neighbourhood & Central Asia (ES/P010849/1)

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Global Britain in a competitive age: Government Integrated Review of Security & Defence Strategy

A GLOBAL LEADER IN DIPLOMACY AND DEVELOPMENT



4th largest diplomatic network: **281 posts** in **178 countries** and territories

One of the largest funders of the **WHO**, increasing funding by 30% over four years, and the largest funder of **Gavi**

One of the largest bilateral and multilateral donors to global education, committed to getting **40m more girls into school by 2025**

One of the largest donors and founding members of **COVAX**, which will supply 1bn vaccine doses in 2021, vaccinating up to 500m people in over 90 developing countries



UK Integrated Review of Security & Defence Strategy

UK ODA: increasing our impact as a force for good

- The UK is one of the world's leading development actors, committed to achieving the SDGs by 2030 and to maintaining the highest standards of evidence and transparency for all our investments.
- As one of the world's largest providers of ODA - well above Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) averages - we will focus our aid work on those areas which are important to a globally-focused UK and where we can have the greatest life-changing impact in the long term.
- Our strategy will build on our strategic priorities for ODA in 2021-22: climate and biodiversity; global health security; open societies and conflict resolution; girls' education; humanitarian preparedness and response, especially food security and famine prevention; S&T; and trade and economic development.
- Improving **global education**. By 2050, UK HE & Tech is likely to significantly improve access to and the quality of education globally.

UK's International Education Strategy: supporting recovery & driving growth

- The internationalisation of education is vital. It will support the recovery and growth of this sector as well as help realise the many economic benefits that education exports bring to the UK. The networks created help the UK forge lasting relationships with countries around the world and strengthen our Global Britain agenda.
- Tens of thousands of students will be able to undertake study and work placements across the world through the new Turing scheme. The scheme will be backed by over £100 million, providing funding for around 35,000 students in universities, colleges and schools to go on placements overseas, starting in September 2021, and we expect to see similar numbers of students coming to the UK in return.
- At the heart of this update, we are reaffirming our commitment to the ambitions of the 2019 strategy to increase the value of our education exports to £35 billion per year and the number of international students hosted in the UK to at least 600,000 per year.

What is COMPASS?

GCRF COMPASS project (ES/P010849/1, 2017-21, £4mIn) - Comprehensive Capacity-Building in Eastern Neighbourhood and Central Asia – belongs to the 1st generation of the GROW - a £1.5 billion initiative announced by the UK government in 2015, to support cutting-edge research that addresses the challenges faced by developing countries around the world.

*** <http://research.kent.ac.uk/gcrf-compass>***

37 projects (out of 500 initial applications) were successful in 2016, with **COMPASS** being the only one to prioritise the field of politics and international relations, with the focus on **Central Eurasia**: spanning Belarus in the west, Azerbaijan in south, and Tajikistan & Uzbekistan in the east, with the added dimension of their greater neighbours – the EU, Russia and China.

Capacity-building innovations under COMPASS

We seek to establish ‘**regional hubs of excellence**’ at the top HEIs in Azerbaijan, Belarus, Tajikistan and **Uzbekistan**, to enable them to become centres of excellence for knowledge-production & transfer for *research integration, policy impact and community engagement*.

Conceptually, we work with ‘resilience’ and ‘adaptive governance’, to ensure better understanding of the needs & resources of local communities when facing change.

In **capacity-building** terms, the project works along the following three pillars to achieve:

Research integration:

- Thematically-connected *signature* conferences & workshops in partner-institutions
- Early Career Training schools, Work-in-Progress seminars, & future leaders forums
- Joint publications & spin-off projects and funding initiatives

Policy impact:

- Study trips to the UK & EU institutions
- Policy Training workshops & COMPASS Policy Briefs (CPB)
- Top-level **Regional Policy Forums**: e.g. [Minsk Dialogue Policy Forum](#)

Sustainable communities:

- Focus Groups & nation-wide surveys on Identity, self-governance & models of more effective governance
- BIG Talk debates and citizen juries





We are a consortium of 25 academic and support staff from 6 international HEIs, & a network over 100 academics & policy-makers across UK, Europe and Asia

University of **Kent**