



UZBEKISTAN'S COOPERATION IN EDUCATION AND CULTURE: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS WITH TURKIYE AND TURKIC-SPEAKING STATES

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ABOUT ARTICLE

Key words: Uzbekistan; Turkiye; Turkic-speaking states; education; cultural diplomacy; integration; academic cooperation; comparative analysis.

Received: 28.08.25

Accepted: 10.08.25

Published: 14.08.25

Abstract: This article examines Uzbekistan's role in developing cooperation in the fields of education and culture with Turkiye and other Turkic-speaking states. The analysis highlights the historical roots of cultural and linguistic commonalities, the institutional basis of bilateral and multilateral cooperation, as well as the impact of such partnerships on the modernization of the national education system and cultural diplomacy. The study emphasizes Uzbekistan's efforts in strengthening academic exchange, expanding scholarship programs, promoting joint research projects, and supporting cultural initiatives that consolidate a common Turkic identity. Comparative analysis demonstrates that while Turkiye remains a leading partner in higher education and cultural diplomacy, cooperation with Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan reflects a broader framework of integration within the Turkic world. The article concludes that Uzbekistan's engagement in educational and cultural cooperation not only deepens ties with Turkic-speaking countries but also enhances its international standing.

O'ZBEKISTONNING TA'LIM VA MADANIYAT SOHASIDAGI HAMKORLIGI: TURKIYA VA TURKIY TILLI DAVLATLAR BILAN QIYOSIY TAHLIL

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MAQOLA HAQIDA

Kalit soʻzlar: Oʻzbekiston; Turkiya; turkiy tilli davlatlar; taʼlim; madaniy diplomatiya; integratsiya; akademik hamkorlik; solishtirma tahlil.

Annotatsiya: Ushbu maqolada Oʻzbekistonning Turkiya va boshqa turkiy tilli davlatlar bilan taʼlim va madaniyat sohaslarida hamkorlikni rivojlantirishdagi roli tahlil qilinadi. Tahlil madaniy va til jihatidan umumiy ildizlar, ikki va koʻp tomonlama hamkorlikning institutsional asoslari hamda bunday hamkorliklarning milliy taʼlim tizimini modernizatsiya qilish va madaniy diplomatiyaga taʼsiri haqida soʻz yuritadi. Tadqiqot Oʻzbekistonning akademik almashinuvlarni kuchaytirish, stipendiya dasturlarini kengaytirish, qoʻshma ilmiy tadqiqotlarni ragʻbatlantirish va umumiy turkiy identitetni mustahkamlovchi madaniy tashabbuslarni qoʻllab-quvvatlash boʻyicha saʼy-harakatlarini taʼkidlaydi. Solishtirma tahlil shuni koʻrsatadiki, Turkiya oliy taʼlim va madaniy diplomatiyada yetakchi hamkor boʻlib qolayotgan boʻlsa, Qozogʻiston, Qirgʻiziston, Ozarbayjon va Turkmaniston bilan hamkorlik turkiy dunyo doirasidagi kengroq integratsiya ramkasini aks ettiradi. Maqola yakunida Oʻzbekistonning taʼlim va madaniyat sohasidagi hamkorlikka jalb qilinishi nafaqat turkiy tilli davlatlar bilan aloqalarni chuqurlashtiradi, balki uning xalqaro mavqeini oshiradi.

**СОТРУДНИЧЕСТВО УЗБЕКИСТАНА В СФЕРЕ ОБРАЗОВАНИЯ И КУЛЬТУРЫ:
СРАВНИТЕЛЬНЫЙ АНАЛИЗ С ТУРЦИЕЙ И ТЮРКОЯЗЫЧНЫМИ
ГОСУДАРСТВАМИ**

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О СТАТЬЕ

Ключевые слова: Узбекистан; Турция; тюркоязычные государства; образование; культурная дипломатия; интеграция; академическое сотрудничество; сравнительный анализ.

Аннотация: В статье рассматривается роль Узбекистана в развитии сотрудничества в области образования и культуры с Турцией и другими тюркоязычными государствами. Анализ подчеркивает исторические корни культурного и языкового единства, институциональную основу двустороннего и многостороннего сотрудничества, а также влияние таких партнерств на модернизацию национальной системы образования и культурную дипломатию. В исследовании акцентируется внимание на усилиях Узбекистана по укреплению академического

обмена, расширению стипендиальных программ, продвижению совместных исследовательских проектов и поддержке культурных инициатив, которые способствуют укреплению общего тюркского идентичности. Сравнительный анализ показывает, что Турция остается ведущим партнером в сфере высшего образования и культурной дипломатии, в то время как сотрудничество с Казахстаном, Кыргызстаном, Азербайджаном и Туркменистаном отражает более широкий контекст интеграции в тюркском мире. В заключение статьи отмечается, что участие Узбекистана в образовательном и культурном сотрудничестве не только углубляет связи с тюркоязычными странами, но и повышает его международный статус.

Relevance of the Study

In the era of globalization, the role of education and culture in shaping international relations has significantly increased. For Uzbekistan, strengthening cooperation in these spheres with Turkiye and other Turkic-speaking states has become a strategic priority. This tendency is determined not only by geographical proximity and shared history but also by deep cultural, linguistic, and civilizational bonds that connect the peoples of the Turkic world.

Educational and cultural diplomacy serves as one of the most effective tools for enhancing mutual understanding, building trust, and developing sustainable long-term partnerships. In this context, Uzbekistan's active participation in joint educational programs, student mobility initiatives, academic exchange, and cultural projects demonstrates the country's aspiration to integrate into the global educational space while preserving and promoting its national identity.

Another important factor is the growing influence of organizations such as the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), which institutionalizes cooperation among member countries in education, science, and culture. This creates new opportunities for Uzbekistan to expand its international presence, strengthen its intellectual potential, and contribute to the formation of a unified cultural and educational agenda within the Turkic world.

Therefore, the study of Uzbekistan's cooperation with Turkiye and other Turkic-speaking states in the fields of education and culture is highly relevant. It allows us to evaluate not only the current state of partnerships but also their future prospects in the broader context of regional integration and global development.

Main Analysis

Uzbekistan and Türkiye share centuries-old historical, linguistic, and cultural ties, which today serve as the foundation for a dynamic partnership in education and cultural diplomacy. Since the early years of Uzbekistan's independence, Türkiye has been among the first countries to provide substantial support for the modernization of the Uzbek education system and to encourage deeper academic exchange.

One of the most significant forms of cooperation is the establishment of joint educational institutions. Turkish lyceums and universities in Uzbekistan have played a crucial role in training highly qualified specialists in various fields. These institutions introduced new teaching methodologies, curricula aligned with international standards, and modern approaches to foreign language learning. Although the presence of Turkish schools has gone through different stages, their overall contribution to Uzbekistan's educational modernization remains noteworthy.

Higher education represents another key dimension of bilateral cooperation. Dozens of agreements have been signed between Uzbek and Turkish universities, covering areas such as joint degree programs, faculty mobility, and research collaboration. Uzbekistan has also become one of the main beneficiaries of the "Türkiye Scholarships" program, which allows Uzbek students to pursue higher education in leading Turkish universities. Many of these graduates now serve in academia, public administration, and business, further strengthening the human capital ties between the two countries.

In the cultural sphere, cooperation is equally intensive. Turkish cultural centers in Uzbekistan actively promote the Turkish language and culture, while Uzbek cultural delegations regularly participate in art festivals, exhibitions, and academic conferences hosted in Türkiye. Joint projects, such as historical exhibitions and archaeological research, underscore the shared heritage of the two nations.

Furthermore, cultural diplomacy between Uzbekistan and Türkiye is facilitated by the active involvement of both governments in the activities of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS). Within this framework, Uzbekistan and Türkiye jointly promote initiatives aimed at preserving Turkic heritage, popularizing traditional arts, and creating platforms for intercultural dialogue among Turkic-speaking peoples.

Overall, Uzbekistan–Türkiye cooperation in education and culture illustrates how shared identity and mutual interests can drive integration, while also contributing to the modernization of educational practices and the strengthening of cultural diplomacy.

Alongside its dynamic partnership with Türkiye, Uzbekistan has also prioritized strengthening educational and cultural cooperation with other Turkic-speaking states, particularly Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan. These relations are driven by a shared Turkic identity,

linguistic similarities, and common historical experiences, which provide fertile ground for collaboration in education and cultural diplomacy.

Kazakhstan is one of Uzbekistan's closest partners in the educational sphere. The two countries actively exchange students and scholars, while universities from both sides frequently organize joint conferences, workshops, and research projects. Bilateral agreements on mutual recognition of academic degrees have facilitated academic mobility, contributing to the creation of a common higher education space within Central Asia. Cultural cooperation is also notable, with regular participation in literary festivals, film screenings, and cultural exhibitions that highlight the shared heritage of the two nations.

Kyrgyzstan plays a similarly important role, particularly in student mobility and cultural projects. Uzbek and Kyrgyz universities have launched joint programs in pedagogy, linguistics, and technical sciences. Exchange initiatives allow students from border regions to study in each other's institutions, thus fostering people-to-people connectivity. Cultural collaboration includes folk music festivals, joint theatre productions, and commemorations of historical figures who represent the shared intellectual legacy of the two peoples.

Azerbaijan and Uzbekistan have also developed robust ties in education and culture. Cooperation agreements between universities in Tashkent and Baku promote dual degree programs, academic publications, and research collaboration in fields such as oriental studies, oil and gas engineering, and international relations. Cultural diplomacy is actively pursued through participation in the Turkic Culture and Heritage Foundation, where both states support initiatives aimed at preserving and promoting the legacy of Turkic civilizations. Joint literary projects, art exhibitions, and the celebration of Navruz further enhance the cultural dialogue between the two nations.

Turkmenistan shares deep-rooted cultural and linguistic ties with Uzbekistan, particularly in the border regions where communities have historically interacted. Cooperation in education focuses on vocational training, teacher exchange, and collaboration in historical and archaeological studies. Cultural exchange is promoted through theatre tours, traditional arts festivals, and heritage preservation projects, which emphasize the interconnectedness of Uzbek and Turkmen traditions.

All these bilateral efforts are further institutionalized through the activities of the Organization of Turkic States (OTS), which provides a multilateral platform for cooperation. Uzbekistan actively contributes to OTS initiatives in education and culture, including the development of common textbooks, student mobility programs, and the promotion of a shared Turkic identity through cultural diplomacy.

Thus, Uzbekistan's cooperation with other Turkic-speaking countries complements its partnership with Türkiye, creating a broader framework of integration that strengthens educational systems, fosters cultural exchange, and consolidates the unity of the Turkic world.

III. Comparative Analysis

A comparison of Uzbekistan's cooperation with Turkiye and with other Turkic-speaking states shows both similarities and differences in approaches, priorities, and outcomes.

Turkiye is the leading partner in higher education. The number of Uzbek students studying in Turkish universities is significantly higher than in other Turkic states. Turkiye also provides more scholarships, joint programs, and institutional support. In addition, Turkish cultural centers in Uzbekistan are very active, which makes Turkiye more visible in cultural diplomacy.

In contrast, cooperation with Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan is more regional in nature. It is often focused on border regions and people-to-people contacts. The main priority here is student and teacher exchange, as well as cooperation between universities in specific fields like pedagogy, agriculture, or engineering. While not as large-scale as Turkiye's initiatives, these programs are important for regional integration.

Azerbaijan's cooperation is mainly concentrated on scientific research and cultural heritage. Both countries pay attention to historical memory, literature, and art. Joint projects in archaeology and cultural heritage preservation are examples of this. Azerbaijan also supports Uzbekistan in multilateral platforms such as the Organization of Turkic States.

Turkmenistan's cooperation is less institutionalized but has strong cultural foundations. Traditional arts, theatre, and festivals play a central role. Educational collaboration is more limited compared to Turkiye or Kazakhstan, but cultural ties remain close because of shared traditions and language.

In general, Turkiye's cooperation with Uzbekistan is more comprehensive and covers a wide range of education and culture. Other Turkic-speaking states focus on specific areas, such as research, regional cooperation, or cultural events. Together, they create a balanced framework that strengthens Uzbekistan's position in the Turkic world.

Conclusion

Uzbekistan's cooperation in education and culture with Turkiye and other Turkic-speaking states plays a vital role in shaping the country's foreign policy and international image. These partnerships not only modernize the educational system but also strengthen cultural diplomacy, helping to consolidate a common Turkic identity.

The comparative analysis shows that Turkiye remains the leading partner due to the scale and diversity of its programs, while Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan, and Turkmenistan provide complementary cooperation in specific fields. Together, these relations create a multidimensional framework that deepens Uzbekistan's integration into the Turkic world and enhances its influence in the international arena.

Looking ahead, the continuation of joint programs, the expansion of student exchanges, and the strengthening of cultural initiatives will contribute to the sustainable development of Uzbekistan's educational and cultural landscape, while also promoting unity and solidarity among Turkic-speaking nations.

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