

## SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND GERMANY IN THE PRESERVATION AND PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE

<https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.19674174>

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### **Annotatsiya**

Мазкур мақолада Ўзбекистон ва Германия ўртасидаги илм-фан, таълим ва маданият соҳаларидаги икки томонлама ҳамкорлик ҳамда маданий дипломатиянинг ривожланиши таҳлил қилинган. Асосий эътибор мамлакат тараққиётида халқаро алоқалар, хусусан Германиянинг Ўзбекистон маданий меросини ўрганиш ва тарғиб этишидаги иштирокига қаратилган. Шунингдек, кўшма илмий-маданий лойиҳалар, музейлар ўртасидаги ҳамкорлик, тарихий меросни жамлаш ва нашр этиш ишлари ёритилган. Берлин ва бошқа шаҳарларда ўтказилган форумлар, кўргазмалар ҳамда шаҳарлар биродарлиги икки давлат ўртасидаги дўстона муносабатларни мустаҳкамлашга хизмат қилаётгани таъкидланган. Маданий дипломатия Ўзбекистон ва Германия ўртасидаги стратегик ҳамкорликни ривожлантиришда муҳим омил сифатида баҳоланган.

### **Kalit soʻzlar**

Ўзбекистон, Германия, маданий дипломатия, халқаро ҳамкорлик, таълим, илм-фан, маданий мерос, музейлар, биродар шаҳарлар, стратегия, форум, археология, Наврўз.

### **Abstract**

This article analyzes the bilateral cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany in the fields of science, education, and culture, as well as the development of cultural diplomacy. Special attention is given to the role of international relations in national development, particularly Germany's involvement in studying and promoting Uzbekistan's cultural heritage. The article also highlights joint scientific and cultural projects, cooperation between museums, and efforts to collect and publish historical heritage materials. Forums, exhibitions held in Berlin and other

cities, as well as sister-city partnerships, are shown as important factors strengthening friendly relations between the two countries. Cultural diplomacy is assessed as a key element in enhancing strategic cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany.

### **Keywords**

Uzbekistan, Germany, cultural diplomacy, international cooperation, education, science, cultural heritage, museums, sister cities, strategy, forums, archaeology, Navruz.

### **Аннотация**

В данной статье анализируется двустороннее сотрудничество между Узбекистаном и Германией в сферах науки, образования и культуры, а также развитие культурной дипломатии. Особое внимание уделяется роли международных связей в развитии страны, в частности участию Германии в изучении и популяризации культурного наследия Узбекистана. Также рассматриваются совместные научно-культурные проекты, сотрудничество музеев и работа по сбору и изданию исторического наследия. Форумы и выставки, проведённые в Берлине и других городах, а также побратимские связи между городами способствуют укреплению дружественных отношений между двумя странами. Культурная дипломатия определяется как важный фактор развития стратегического сотрудничества между Узбекистаном и Германией.

### **Ключевые слова**

Узбекистан, Германия, культурная дипломатия, международное сотрудничество, образование, наука, культурное наследие, музеи, города-побратимы, стратегия, форум, археология, Навруз.

It is considered that reforms in the fields of science, education, and culture, as well as well-established international relations, play an important role in the development of a country. If we look at the development path of the world's most advanced countries, we can see that they place primary emphasis on science and education, make use of foreign experience, and direct a significant portion of their financial resources to these sectors. In this regard, Uzbekistan is also striving to exchange experience with countries that have extensive expertise in education, to benefit from their achievements, and to adopt modern technologies.

In this direction, Germany-one of the leading countries in Europe-is considered one of Uzbekistan's closest partners. Reforms being implemented in the

country are always closely followed with great interest by German political, business, scientific, and cultural circles, as well as country experts[1]. They are eager to obtain more information about Uzbekistan. In this context, in January 2007, a presentation of the book titled "Uzbekistan - 15 Years of Independence" was held in Germany. The publication provides German readers with insights into the fundamental changes taking place in Uzbekistan, the achievements gained during the years of independent development, and the untapped potential for deepening cooperation in various fields.

In recent years, numerous practical efforts have been made to collect and publish Uzbekistan's material and spiritual heritage preserved in world museums. In particular, on May 14, 2017, an international scientific-cultural congress titled "The Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan - A Bridge Between Peoples and States" was held in Tashkent[2]. This, in turn, opens the way for scientific research and provides a significant opportunity to collect and promote the scattered pearls of Uzbek culture across the world. Another important aspect is that this congress was aimed at implementing the tasks defined in the Action Strategy for the five priority development directions of the Republic of Uzbekistan for 2017-2021, initiated by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev[3]. This strategic document emphasizes the importance of deeply studying and preserving the nation's rich history and cultural heritage, strengthening harmony among different nations and ethnic groups living in the country, and consolidating Uzbekistan's position in the international community. The Development Strategy for 2022-2026, adopted later, also includes specific objectives related to the study and promotion of cultural monuments[5].

More than 120 foreign and over 100 local experts specializing in Oriental studies, archaeology, history, numismatics, textile production, and ceramics participated in the event, including scientists and museum and research institute directors from Italy, the United Kingdom, Belgium, the Netherlands, France, Germany, the Czech Republic, Greece, and other countries[4].

One of the multi-volume publications prepared and issued by scholars and experts during 2017-2025 includes works based on collections of Uzbek cultural and spiritual heritage preserved in German museums and centers, such as "Uzbek Carpet Weaving: Traditions Preserved Through the Centuries" and "Collections of German Museums." It is also noteworthy that the book-album series "The Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in World Collections," particularly the volume on "Collections of the Federal Republic of Germany," includes a foreword written by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in which he stated: "Cooperation in the field of culture is multifaceted, and its potential is limitless[6]. I am confident that this

book-album will contribute to strengthening relations between our countries, developing intercultural dialogue, and bringing our nations and peoples closer together.”

On January 15, 2019, an international scientific-cultural forum titled “Heritage of the Great Silk Road – A Bridge Between Uzbekistan and Germany” was held in Berlin, the capital of Germany. Within the forum, an exhibition of book-albums from the “Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in World Collections” project was opened at the Embassy of Uzbekistan in Berlin. During the event, German leading scholars, experts, and art historians spoke about rich collections related to Uzbek art preserved in museums of Berlin, Dresden, Leipzig, and Stuttgart. Among them are the Bukhara Emirate collection in the Ethnological Museum of Berlin, artifacts from the Bayankuli Khan mausoleum in the Museum of Decorative Arts in Hamburg, manuscripts of Alisher Navoi preserved in the Berlin State Library, samples of Uzbek cultural-historical heritage from the Bumiller collection, as well as a rare collection in the Eastern Department of the Linden Museum in Stuttgart[7].

Outstanding examples of Uzbek art are preserved in museums in Berlin, Dresden, and Leipzig. For example, the Pergamon Museum in Germany, one of the most visited museums, holds world-famous artifacts such as ceramic items from the ancient city of Afrasiab, located at the center of the Great Silk Road[8]. The German National Library preserves rare manuscripts written by our great ancestors who made a significant contribution to world civilization. Therefore, together with our German colleagues, by combining our capacities, we created this book aimed at giving new momentum to the study of our cultural heritage both in Uzbekistan and in Europe,” said Firdavs Abdukhalikov, author and head of the “Cultural Heritage of Uzbekistan in World Collections” project.

Another important fact is that astronomical tables of Mirzo Ulugbek, preserved for more than 19 centuries in the Oriental Department of the Berlin State Library, contain information on 1018 stars belonging to 38 constellations, as well as data on the length of the sidereal year[9].

The twinning of Bukhara-one of the seven most noble cities of the East-with Bonn has played an important role in the consistent implementation of joint projects in science, education, culture, medicine, tourism, utilities, and urban development.

The participation of Bonn Mayor Bärbel Dieckmann in the Navruz national celebrations held in Bukhara from March 18–22, 2023, and the signing of a twinning agreement between Bukhara and Bonn during this visit gave a new impetus to

truly friendly bilateral cooperation over the past years. Indeed, for 25 years, the ties of friendship between the two cities have ensured the implementation of meaningful and relevant projects.

Cooperation in this field continues to expand year by year. This is evidenced by the opening in June 2024 in Samarkand of a non-governmental educational and scientific-methodological institution named “Uzbekistan–Germany Joint International Higher School of Medical Sciences named after Abu Ali ibn Sina and Heinrich Schipperes.” [10]. This higher school was established by the Center for Public Law Research of Uzbekistan in cooperation with the Ludwigsburg University of Applied Sciences in Germany and the Heimerer Vocational Academy. The main goal of the institution is to train highly qualified medical specialists and managerial personnel for the healthcare sector[11]. This specialized medical institution introduces advanced traditions, standards, and practices of Uzbek and German medical education. One of its key advantages is the international recognition of diplomas. Graduates of this institution will have the opportunity to work not only in Uzbekistan but also in Germany and other European Union countries, significantly expanding their professional prospects[12].

In conclusion, over the past years, cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany in cultural, scientific, and educational fields has reached a new strategic stage. Joint projects aimed at studying, preserving, and promoting cultural heritage at the international level have further strengthened relations between the two countries. The scientific analysis of rare exhibits related to Uzbekistan preserved in German museums and libraries has become one of the key areas of cooperation. New forms of cultural exchange, such as digitization and virtual exhibitions, have also been introduced. At the same time, city twinning relations, particularly between Bukhara and Bonn, have developed on the basis of practical projects. Scientific forums and international conferences serve as important platforms for mutual exchange of experience. In this process, cultural diplomacy has become one of the main driving forces of bilateral relations. Cooperation has contributed not only to the preservation of historical heritage but also to the support of modern scientific research. Relations between Uzbekistan and Germany are forming as a model of cooperation between Europe and Central Asia. Overall, this partnership will undoubtedly continue to contribute to sustainable development and cultural rapprochement in the future.

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