

Brief information about the project

Name of the project	«Risk management strategies and strengthening Kazakhstan's foreign policy in the context of geopolitical challenges and regional instability»
Relevance	The relevance of the project stems from the current geopolitics. President Tokayev, speaking at the National Kurultay in March 2024, highlighted that “Previous ideas about international issues and ways to resolve them, including current regional structures as a cure for solving economic and political problems, today appears idealistic in the context of the modern complex times. We need comprehensive analysis of events and their consequences for the national interests of Kazakhstan” [1]. Therefore project offers particular significance aimed at analyzing the efficiency of Kazakhstan’s foreign policy amid geopolitical uncertainty, with traditional decision-making tools becoming less efficient. The authors plan to identify and minimize the risks of Kazakhstan's involvement in regional conflicts; strengthen its positions and expand economic opportunities; apply new, adaptive methods of analysis taking into account the complex nature of current international relations. The project is interdisciplinary in nature, mixing international relations, world economy, and international law.
Purpose	Purpose of the project: based on a comprehensive analysis of Kazakhstan’s role in maintaining regional stability in the context of contemporary geopolitics of conflicts, identify opportunities for efficient risk management that may threaten the long-term sustainability of the state's foreign policy; develop specific recommendations for minimizing and alleviating these risks, as well as expanding Kazakhstan's capabilities in strengthening its independence and nationhood; in reinforcing its political and diplomatic standing in the international stage; in establishing terms for further economic development of the country in connection with the global geoeconomic changes.
Objectives	The following interconnected objectives are aimed at achieving the project tasks: - to develop theoretical and methodological approaches about the foreign policy of Kazakhstan. The results would emerge in the form of publishing in academic journals and making presentations at conferences; - to analyze geopolitical changes around Kazakhstan and Central Asia to assess the impact of regional and global conflicts on the foreign policy of Kazakhstan. The result will be evaluated by the number of studied conflicts, collected data, recommendations and scenarios for impacting foreign policy; - to determine geopolitical risks Kazakhstan faces in the context of regional and global conflicts and changes in international politics to minimize vulnerabilities in country’s foreign policy. Efficiency is estimated by the number of identified risks and assessment of the proposed solutions to counter those risks; - to analyze global changes for Kazakhstan, identify economic risks and opportunities for adaptation and economic development of the country in the new surrounding. The number and depth of the studied economic indicators (GDP, investment, trade, employment) including the quality of proposals for diversification and resilience of the economy can be proposed as evaluation of this task;

	- to elaborate recommendations for strengthening the economic independence of Kazakhstan, including attraction of foreign investments, technology; participation in infrastructure projects, international economic initiatives, diversification of the economy to reduce dependence upon energy exports. The measurement of this task involves the number of recommendations produced and their assessment by experts; - to study the policy of Kazakhstan to enhance security at the national, regional and international levels, by considering the involvement in international organizations and integrational structures. Measuring the efficiency of this policy is envisaged through quantitative and qualitative analysis of the results of the contribution to ensuring regional stability and security; - to analyze regional and global challenges and pinpoint Kazakhstan's capabilities to respond in order to develop recommendations for minimizing the negative consequences of external factors. Measurement is the number of proposed adaptation strategies, assessment of the current and projected resilience of Kazakhstan to external challenges and changes in policy; - to study efficiency of the foreign policy to identify certain geopolitical challenges, including regional conflicts, international and economic turbulences. Measurement is publishing in highly rated journals and their citation; attending international conferences; development of recommendations; - to study the activities of Kazakhstan in international and regional organizations to advance its interests and strengthen stability in the region. The measurement is number of recommendations, assessment of security treaties and agreements signed; - to develop recommendations to enhance international image of Kazakhstan as stable and independent actor. The measurement is the number of proposed strategies, assessment of their potential impact on the international image of the country in international organizations and among foreign partners; to create a mechanism for monitoring the international situation. The possibility of further application of the methodology proposed in the project and its results would become a measurement of the effectiveness and sustainability of the proposed measures.
Expected and achieved results	To develop a theoretical and methodological approach to the study of the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan in the context of the new geopolitical environment, an analysis of scientific literature was conducted, which made it possible to identify the main theoretical directions. The concept of risk perception focuses on various types of risks in the development of interstate relations, classifying them into threats, uncertainties, and opportunities, which in turn influence conflict resolution processes. Another important direction is the strategy of monitoring and management, which allows for risk reduction through the development of appropriate risk management mechanisms. To analyze geopolitical changes surrounding Kazakhstan and the Central Asian region as a whole in order to assess the impact of regional and global conflicts on the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan, a comprehensive analysis was carried out. It was revealed that Central Asia represents an unstructured security region influenced by both regional and

global dynamics, shaped on the one hand by Central Asian states themselves, and on the other by external actors such as Russia, China, the United States, the European Union, Turkey, and countries of the Islamic world. Important factors include the relative weakness of Central Asian states, the involvement of extra-regional powers in regional dynamics, and the activities of transnational and non-state actors. The weak regionalization of Central Asia constitutes a challenge to regional security. One of the priority tasks is to identify and implement optimal forms and methods of cooperation among Central Asian states that harmoniously combine the national interests of sovereign states with broader regional integration needs.

Writing chapters for an international collective monograph: members of the research group published four chapters in a foreign collective monograph on the project's topic — *The Logistics and Geo-Politics of Connectivity Diplomacy in Eurasia: the South-Corridor. IV* / Edited by **Kuralay Baizakova** and Pierre Chabal. EMS Editions, 2025. ISBN 978-2-38630-280-0: **Kuralay Baizakova** — *Central Asia as Link-territory* (pp. 54–60); **Fatima Kukeyeva** — *The Southern Corridor as a Factor in Geopolitics* (pp. 154–161); Zhulduz Baizakova — *Pipeline Geopolitics in Central Asia: Regional Perspectives* (pp. 98–104); **Saniya Nurdavletova** — *Development of Transport Corridors in Central Asia: New Regional Initiatives in Logistics and Transit Spheres* (pp. 105–113).

In 2026, three chapters were published in an international monograph with reference to the project IRN: Nurdavletova S. — *History of Diplomatic Relations and Political Cooperation between Kazakhstan and India // INDIA–KAZAKHSTAN. Partnership in a Changing Geopolitical Order.* – New Delhi, 2026. – pp. 107–118. ISBN 978-81-997728-4-7; **Baizakova K.** — *India and Kazakhstan's Approaches to Nuclear Non-Proliferation Issues // INDIA–KAZAKHSTAN. Partnership in a Changing Geopolitical Order.* – New Delhi, 2026. – pp. 187–200. ISBN 978-81-997728-4-7; **Baizakova K.** — *Opportunities for Cooperation between India and Kazakhstan in Combating International Terrorism // INDIA–KAZAKHSTAN. Partnership in a Changing Geopolitical Order.* – New Delhi, 2026. – pp. 201–220. ISBN 978-81-997728-4-7.

To identify geopolitical risks faced by Kazakhstan in the context of regional and global conflicts and transformations in international politics, with the aim of minimizing vulnerabilities in the country's foreign policy, the following risks were identified and measures to strengthen the resilience of Kazakhstan's foreign policy were proposed. First, the global and regional context of geopolitical risks was examined. Second, key geopolitical risks were identified, including sanctions pressure and the risk of secondary sanctions; logistical dependence on Russia; the growing influence of China and the risk of geo-economic asymmetry; regional instability in Central Asia; competition among major powers for influence in the region; the global energy transition and the declining role of fossil fuels; as well as information and cybersecurity threats. Third, an analysis of vulnerabilities in the foreign policy of the Republic of Kazakhstan was conducted. Fourth, key directions for minimizing geopolitical risks and strengthening foreign policy resilience were identified, including diversification of

	logistics and trade routes; strengthening of multi-vector diplomacy; ensuring sanctions compliance and protecting the financial system; strengthening regional cooperation; diversification of the economy and energy transition; and the development of cybersecurity and information sovereignty. To analyze global transformations affecting Kazakhstan, identify economic risks, and determine opportunities for adaptation and economic development under new conditions, the following economic risks were identified: geo-economic fragmentation and risks to the country's external trade position; the formation of competing geo-economic blocs accompanied by the strengthening of sanctions regimes and protectionism; the global energy transition as a long-term economic risk; the restructuring of logistics corridors and associated transit risks; dependence on raw materials and fiscal-exchange rate vulnerability; logistical and broader geo-economic risks; climate and carbon-related risks (including CBAM and the green agenda); institutional risks and the dominance of quasi-state actors; technological risks and the middle-income trap; as well as socio-demographic and regional risks as factors influencing economic development.
Research team members with their identifiers (Scopus Author ID, Researcher ID, ORCID, if available) and links to relevant profiles	Baizakova K., h-index (Scopus): 4, ResearcherID: N-4512-2014, ORCID ID https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3016-4113, Scopus author ID: 57224272716 Kukeyeva T., h-index (Scopus): 3 ResearcherID N-4317-2014 ORCID - https://orcid.org/0000-0003-4570-5680; Scopus author ID: 55858882700 Baizakova Zh., h-index (Scopus): 1. ORCID: https://orcid.org/0000-0001-7300-5425. Scopus Author ID: 57211502966 Nurdavletova S. h-index (Scopus): 2, ResearcherID: GZA-5631-2022, ORCID ID 0000-0003-1826-7398. Scopus author ID: 57203994578 Anuash Zh. Research ID: rid90444 anuash.zhiger Baisalbek O. ORCID number: 0009-0000-2365-219X
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Priority compared to real-world alternatives	Major difference of the project from existing studies: several key areas that specify major difference of the project from other works involve application of relevance and empirical significance based on the novelty of approaches and solutions to specific issues of Kazakhstan's foreign policy. The subject of the project contains innovative approach to analysing Kazakhstan's foreign policy in new geopolitical realities. The project would develop new methodology for studying the foreign policy of a strategically vulnerable state, situated at the crossroads of interests of leading global players. Unlike most local studies, the project's methodology can be replicated while scrutinising similar subjects, which indicates its scientific nature and validity. Based on this methodology, geopolitical and geoeconomics risks for Kazakhstan will be determined and analyzed. The main advantage of the project is its practical focus, expressed in the development of recommendations and risk management mechanisms that will take into account the

	current geopolitical realities around Kazakhstan and are aimed at increasing the sustainability of the state's foreign policy. An important aspect will be the adaptation of the proposed solutions to the local context, which is not always taken into account in foreign studies, and the number of domestic works is limited. The results of the project would have both scientific (limited relevant materials) and practical significance (creation of internal narrative and recommendations for foreign policy structures).
List of publications with links to them	Kukeyeva F., Baizakova K. etc. Prospect for regional development of Central Asia: economic and political aspects // Asian Journal of Political Science. – P.1-20, БД Скопус Q2/процентиль 64. https://doi.org/10.1080/02185377.2025.2494778; 2 статьи в журналах, рекомендуемых КОКШВО МНВО РК – Байзакова К., Усен М., Жанаштай Ф. Роль развивающихся стран в новом регионализме: сравнительный анализ моделей участия // Известия КазУМОМЯ. Серия: Международные отношения и регионоведение. - №3(61). – С. 318-331; Нурдаuletova C.M. (в соавторстве Нагышбеккызы А., Шабаль П. Двустороннее и многостороннее сотрудничество Казахстана со странами Юго-Восточной Азии: текущее состояние, тенденции развития и будущие направления // Известия КазУМОМЯ. Серия: Международные отношения и регионоведение. - №3(61). – С. 174-190. DOI: https://doi.org/10.48371/ISMO.2025.61.3.010; Prepared and published 2 collections of articles from the international conference: «ШОС в эпоху геополитической турбулентности». – Алматы, 2025. -184 с. «Западный вектор во внешней политике постсоветских государств». – Алматы: МИР, 2026. – 244 с. ISBN 978-601-7692-54-4
Patents	no