

**THE IMPACT OF MIGRATION POTENTIAL ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF  
MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONS BETWEEN UZBEKISTAN AND  
THE BENELUX COUNTRIES**

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**Abstract**

The article provides statistical data on the visits of Benelux residents to Uzbekistan during 2018–2022 and highlights the main areas of cooperation between the countries under consideration.

**Keywords:** migration potential, Benelux countries, cooperation between Benelux countries and Uzbekistan

**Аннотация**

В статье приводятся статистические данные о посещаемости жителями стран Бенилюкса Узбекистана в 2018-2022 годы, а также основные направления сотрудничества между рассматриваемыми странами.

**Ключевые слова:** миграционный потенциал, страны Бенилюкс, сотрудничество между странами Бенилюкс и Узбекистаном.

One of the fundamental aspects of human history is migration processes, which have undergone significant changes in recent decades. Geopolitical transformations, the development of the social sphere in developed and developing countries, the advent of new technologies and methods of production, communication tools, and various other socio-economic and political factors have spurred the growth of migration flows across the globe.

The historically established demographic map of the world, influenced by widespread and comprehensive globalization phenomena, has become the subject of unprecedented transformation.

Etymologically, the term "migration potential" refers to "hidden possibilities, power, and strength of relocation." A broader interpretation views it as a source of opportunities, resources, and reserves that can be activated to achieve relocation goals. It signifies the ability of individuals, societies, or states to migrate and adapt [1].

Thus, "migration potential" can be formulated as a state of readiness for relocation to optimize the use of one's capabilities. During the realization of migration potential,

participants not only utilize their existing abilities but also acquire new skills and strengths.

Analysis of Migration Indicators in Benelux Countries. According to the Ministry of Tourism and Cultural Heritage's statistics, there is a notable interest in Uzbekistan from Benelux residents, with trends indicating a return to pre-pandemic levels.

During 2018–2022, Uzbekistan was visited by: 6 309 citizens of Belgium (2152/3044/230/753/2067 annually), 484 residents of Luxembourg (161/168/15/44/96 annually), 11 240 residents of the Netherlands (2814/4504/400/1065/2457 annually) [2].

#### Key Areas of Cooperation.

To promote economic and cultural development, the EU annually provides financial assistance to Uzbekistan. Cooperation with the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development has notably increased since 2017. Until 2020, EU assistance focused on sustainable rural development through water resource management, irrigation, horticulture, livestock, vocational training, and local administrative reforms.

Uzbekistan became the ninth beneficiary of the EU's GSP+ preferential tariff system in April 2021. This arrangement offers Uzbekistan preferential tariffs on exports, fostering trade growth and investment.

For 2021–2027, the EU has outlined priority areas in line with European Commission goals:

1. Effective governance and digital transformation
2. Inclusive, digital, and green growth
3. Development of a sustainable, eco-friendly agri-food sector

The EU is also assisting Uzbekistan in its application for WTO membership. Currently, six joint bodies facilitate cooperation between Uzbekistan and the EU: Cooperation Council, Parliamentary Cooperation Committee, Cooperation Committee, Subcommittee on Trade and Investment, Subcommittee on Justice, Internal Affairs, and Human Rights, Subcommittee on Development Cooperation [3].

Uzbekistan benefits from EU thematic programs addressing human and social development, energy, environmental issues, migration and asylum, stability and peace, as well as democracy and human rights. Annual EU-Uzbekistan dialogues address a range of human rights topics, including penal reform, torture prevention, labor rights, civil society development, freedom of association and assembly, women's and children's rights, discrimination, and freedom of expression and belief [4].

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