

EN

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Answer given by Mr Sikela  
on behalf of the European Commission  
(28.8.2025)

The Kyrgyz Republic is a key partner for the EU in Central Asia, a region of growing geopolitical relevance.

Human development, including education, is one of the three priority areas of the EU's Multiannual Indicative Programme with Kyrgyzstan<sup>1</sup>. The current Budget support programme<sup>2</sup> on education underscores the EU's commitment to inclusive, quality education and the development of digital, media and green skills. At regional level, the EU fosters youth skills and employability through the DARYA project (Youth technical skills improvement: Dialogue and action for resourceful youth in Central Asia)<sup>3</sup>, while Erasmus+ provides learning mobilities for Kyrgyz students as well as capacity building opportunities for Kyrgyz universities.

Regarding the request to establish a 'European university', the Commission does not intend to pursue this initiative, as was already communicated to the Kyrgyz authorities. The Commission focuses on providing comprehensive support to the education sector as a whole rather than funding individual academic institutions, whose long-term sustainability may rely heavily on continued external financing. This systemic approach is considered more effective and impactful for strengthening the education sector overall. Moreover, the high costs associated with creating a new university would significantly limit the resources available for other key Global Gateway investment priorities<sup>4</sup> already identified in close coordination with the Kyrgyz authorities (transport, renewable energy, etc.).

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<sup>1</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-8987-kyrgyz-republic-annex\\_en.pdf](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-01/mip-2021-c2021-8987-kyrgyz-republic-annex_en.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/kyrgyzstan\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/countries/kyrgyzstan_en) (attachment under Annual Action Plan 2021 for Kyrgyzstan).

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/what-we-do/darya-dialogue-and-action-resourceful-youth-central-asia>.

<sup>4</sup> [https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-commissioner-sikela-reinforces-eu-central-asia-partnership-boost-prosperity-2025-03-20\\_en](https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/news-and-events/news/global-gateway-commissioner-sikela-reinforces-eu-central-asia-partnership-boost-prosperity-2025-03-20_en).