

Project Partner Search Form

- I offer my expertise to participate as a Partner in a Horizon Europe Project
- I am planning to coordinate a project and I am looking for Project Partners

TOPICS OF INTEREST

Horizon Europe Calls:

- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-02: Understanding the forms of local democracy in low-income and low-middle-income countries
- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-05: Research and Innovation Network for a Union of Equality
- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-08: Electoral integrity in the digital context
- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-10: Digital and media literacy as a driver of democratic and civic resilience

Our topics of interest include but are not limited to the following:

- Hybrid democracies and hybrid institutions in low-income and low-middle-income countries
- Social inclusion, cohesion and equity for resilient societies: engagement and participation of women, youth
- Violence against women and girls (VAWG) in low-income and low-middle-income countries
- Religious, ethnic identities and nation-building in hybrid democracies
- Digital governance tools and political participation in hybrid regimes
- Informal institutions and tradition in Central Asian contexts
- The role of digital media in shaping electoral trust
- AI-driven information ecosystems and democratic legitimacy

PARTNER INFORMATION

Almaty Humanitarian-Economic University (AHEU - <https://www.ageu.edu.kz>) is a higher education institution in Kazakhstan specializing in economics, public governance, social sciences, and digital transformation studies. The university conducts interdisciplinary research on economic development, governance, digital transformation, and societal change in Central Asia.

The university combines research and pedagogical expertise, integrating academic research with innovative teaching practices in economics, public administration, digital technologies, and social sciences. AHEU actively develops modern educational approaches, promotes academic mobility, and contributes to the training of specialists capable of addressing contemporary societal and technological challenges.

AHEU has experience in international academic cooperation with universities and research institutions in Europe and Asia, including participation in international educational and research initiatives, joint conferences, and collaborative projects. The university's research activities address issues related to digital transformation, governance, public policy, and the social and ethical implications of emerging technologies.

The research team contributes expertise relevant to Horizon Europe Cluster 2 topics, including:

- * *digital transformation and society*
- * *governance and public policy analysis*
- * *ethical and cultural aspects of artificial intelligence*
- * *societal impact of digital technologies*
- * *democratic participation and civic engagement in digital environments*
- * *higher education and capacity building in social sciences*

Located in Almaty, Kazakhstan (Central Asia), AHEU provides regional expertise and comparative perspectives on digital transformation, democracy, governance, identities and societal change in Global South.

Description of the Legal Entity

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Higher Education Administration	<input type="checkbox"/> Research Institution	<input type="checkbox"/> Public
<input type="checkbox"/> Industry /SME	<input type="checkbox"/> NGO	<input type="checkbox"/> Other: <i>Please specify</i>

Description of the (Research) Team

We provide comparative perspectives from Central Asia (with possible extension to other countries of the Global South such as India/South Asia), which are often underrepresented in European research projects but highly relevant for understanding global transformations, democratic institutions, digital transition, gender, equity and social cohesion, knowledge-based development.

We are experienced in international academic collaboration and networking, project coordination and management, project evaluation and expertise (including Horizon Europe), cross-disciplinary research combining philosophy, history, sociology (of religion), gender studies, digital humanities, etc.

Research Team

Dr. Laura Turarbekova (team leader)

<https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3416-0160> <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura-Turarbekova>

PhD (Philosophy), Jean Moulin University Lyon 3, France
Candidate of Philosophical Sciences (Kazakhstan)

Dr. Laura Turarbekova is a philosopher specialising in philosophy of technology, digital humanities and critical approaches to artificial intelligence. Her research focuses on the ethical, cultural and epistemological implications of digital transformation, with particular attention to non-Western intellectual traditions and postcolonial perspectives.

Her academic work combines philosophy of culture, postmodern theory and digital humanities, exploring how emerging technologies, including AI, reshape cultural interpretation, knowledge

production and social practices. She also works on the intersection of AI ethics and Kazakh ethical traditions, contributing to debates on cultural diversity in global technological development.

Dr. Turarbekova has significant experience in international academic collaboration and European project management. She coordinated the Jean Monnet Module “Digital Humanities in the Republic of Kazakhstan: Local Solutions for Global Problems” (2020–2023), which focused on the development of digital humanities research and education in Central Asia.

Her broader research interests include:

- philosophy of postmodernity and nomadism in anthropological philosophy
- critical digital humanities
- AI ethics and cultural epistemology
- digital governance and societal implications of emerging technologies
- political and social philosophy in the context of hybrid democracies.

She speaks French (fluent), English (professional), Russian and Kazakh (native).

Dr. Turarbekova contributes to Horizon Europe projects through conceptual and theoretical frameworks, ethical analysis of digital technologies, qualitative research and interdisciplinary SSH integration.

Prof., Dr. Laura Yerekesheva

<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-2610-0187> <https://kaznu.academia.edu/LauraYerekesheva>
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Laura_Yerekesheva

Areas of research interest and expertise: cultural and religious identity, social cohesion and nation-building, gender-based violence and peacebuilding, hybrid institutions, the “Other”, nationalism and post/decoloniality, cross-cultural and religious encounters, knowledge production and intellectual history, politics of heritage and symbolization. Geographical scope: Kazakhstan (Central Asia), India (South Asia)

Research experience: Principal investigator of 3 national research projects (on ethnic, religious identities, nation-building, religious, formal and informal institutions and dynamics in regional and South Asian contexts; 2022-2024, 2020-2021, 2015-2017); Project leader of UNESCO funded research report (on Youth and Peacebuilding in Central Asia, 2018-2019); International research projects’ participant (with Georgetown University-Qatar on Nation-building in Central Asia, 2018-2019; UNESCO projects on socio-cultural transformation (2013), migration in Central Asia (2005); participant of 3 Kazakhstan national research projects.

Languages: English (fluent), Russian (fluent), Kazakh (native), French (A), Turkish (A2), Hindi (basic)

Potential role in the project

Research

Training

Dissemination

Other: *Please specify*

Already experience as a	Coordinator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES (Jean Monnet Module)	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
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Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO
Expert Evaluator	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES	<input type="checkbox"/> NO

Our expertise:

Our Value for Horizon Europe research embrace:

- Comparative perspective beyond EU democratic models
- Specificity of democracies in low-income and low-middle-income countries
- Regional cross-country development in Central Asia
- Artificial Intelligence as a cross-disciplinary challenge
- Epistemology and cultural asymmetries in non-Western contexts

CONTACT DETAILS

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Date: 13 March 2026

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