

Conference on Energy transition, Sustainability and Inclusive Development in Central Asia

*Jointly organised by SPCE Hub, Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOIS),
German Association for East European Studies (DGO), Intersectoral School of Governance BW
(ISoG BW).*

Date: Tuesday, 20 June 2023, 14:00-17:00

Venue: Global Village Berlin, Am Sudhaus 2, 12053 Berlin

Conference language: English

Registration is requested. To register, please send an email with your name and institution to events@spce-hub.org.

Europe and Central Asia are linked by decades of commodity trade but also evolving climate cooperation. Nevertheless, Central Asia plays only a minor role in the German public debate on global climate protection and renewable energies. The global as well as the local energy transition pose major challenges for the region in view of a rapidly growing population, already existing energy shortages, heavy dependence on fossil fuels and climate change.

On two panels, we will discuss with experts - academics and practitioners - from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Germany the energy transition, sustainability, and inclusive development in these countries. The guiding questions are how the energy transition can succeed and to what extent it can also promote economic development and human well-being.

The conference concludes a ten-day study tour visiting different Living Lab projects related to the energy transition in Germany. Living Labs are an innovative and accepted research method in which scientists and practitioners develop solutions for energy transition, sustainability, and social inclusion. The trip was organized by the SPCE Hub and ISoG BW and funded by a grant from the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

Conference program

- 14:00 - 14:15 Registration
- 14:15 - 14:30 Introduction by Sebastian Schiek (SPCE Hub)
- Current political trends in Central Asia: Beate Eschment (ZOiS) in conversation with Aijan Sharshenova (OSCE Academy in Bishkek).
- 14:30 - 15:30 **Panel discussion I: Energy and energy transition in Central Asia**
- Speakers*
- Bahtiyor Eshchanov, Energy Economist, International Agriculture University, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
 - Alexey Kobzev, German-Kazakh University Almaty, Kazakhstan
 - Ainur Sospanova, Chairperson of the Board of QazaqGreen, Kazakhstan
 - Yana Zabanova, Research Institute for Sustainability (RIFS) Potsdam, Germany
- Chair*
Beril Ocaklı (ZOiS)
- 15:30 - 15:45 Coffee break
- 15:45 – 16:00 Gabriele Freitag (DGO) in conversation with Christina Wegelein, Head of the Unit for Climate Change Geopolitics, Climate and Security, Water Diplomacy, German Federal Foreign Office.
- 16:00 - 17:00 **Panel Discussion II: Sustainability, Inclusion and Participation**
- Speakers*
- Henryk Alff, Eberswalde University for Sustainable Development (HnEE), Germany
 - Kubatbek Muktarbek uulu, Technical University Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
 - Ainura Sagynova, Co-Founder and Director of TAZAR, Kyrgyzstan
 - Saida Yusupova, Founder of Green Business Uzbekistan and Tech4Impact, Uzbekistan
- Chair*
Sebastian Schiek (SPCE Hub)
- 17:00 **Reception**