



INTERCITY COOPERATION AND PEOPLE’S DIPLOMACY IN UZBEKISTAN–GERMANY RELATIONS

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Аннотация. *Мазкур мақолада Ўзбекистон ва Германия ўртасидаги маданий-гуманитар ҳамкорликнинг муҳим йўналишларидан бири сифатида шаҳарлараро алоқалар ҳамда маданият кунлари доирасидаги ҳамкорлик муносабатларининг ривожланиши таҳлил қилинган. Унда Тошкент ва Берлин шаҳарлари ўртасидаги ҳамкорлик, шунингдек Бухоро–Берлин ва Андижон–Саарбрюкен каби биродарлашган шаҳарлар доирасида амалга оширилган ташаббусларнинг икки халқ ўртасидаги ўзаро ишонч ва маданий яқинликни мустаҳкамлашдаги ўрни ёритиб берилган. Шунингдек, мақолада маданият кунлари, санъат кўرғазмалари, архив ва музей соҳасидаги қўшма лойиҳалар ҳамда илмий алмашувлар мисолида халқ дипломатиясининг амалий механизмлари таҳлил қилинган. Муаллиф мазкур ҳамкорлик шакллари давлатлараро муносабатларнинг барқарор ривожланишига хизмат қилаётган муҳим омил эканини асослашга ҳаракат қилган.*

Kalit soʻzlar. *Ўзбекистон, Германия, шаҳарлараро ҳамкорлик, халқ дипломатияси, маданий алмашув, маданият кунлари, музей ва архив лойиҳалари, гуманитар ҳамкорлик.*

Abstract. *This article analyzes the development of intercity relations and cooperation within the framework of cultural days as one of the important areas of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany. It highlights the role of cooperation between the cities of Tashkent and Berlin, as well as initiatives implemented within the partnerships of sister cities such as Bukhara–Berlin and Andijan–Saarbrücken, in strengthening mutual trust and cultural closeness between the two nations. In addition, the article examines the practical mechanisms of people-to-people diplomacy through examples of cultural days, art exhibitions, joint archival and museum projects, and academic exchanges. The author seeks to substantiate that these forms of cooperation constitute an important factor contributing to the sustainable development of interstate relations.*



Keywords. *Uzbekistan, Germany, intercity cooperation, people’s diplomacy, cultural exchange, culture days, museum and archival projects, humanitarian cooperation.*

Аннотация. *В данной статье анализируется развитие межгородских связей и сотрудничества в рамках дней культуры как одного из важных направлений культурно-гуманитарного взаимодействия между Узбекистаном и Германией. В ней раскрывается значение сотрудничества между городами Ташкент и Берлин, а также инициатив, реализованных в рамках партнерских отношений городов-побратимов Бухара – Берлин и Андижан – Саарбрюккен, в укреплении взаимного доверия и культурной близости между двумя народами. Кроме того, в статье на примере дней культуры, художественных выставок, совместных проектов в архивно-музейной сфере и научных обменов анализируются практически механизмы народной дипломатии. Автор обосновывает, что данные формы сотрудничества являются важным фактором, способствующим устойчивому развитию межгосударственных отношений.*

Ключевые слова: *Узбекистан, Германия, межгородское сотрудничество, народная дипломатия, культурный обмен, дни культуры, музейные и архивные проекты, гуманитарное сотрудничество.*

In the context of global globalization and profound transformation of the international relations system, cultural and humanitarian cooperation is increasingly emerging as one of the key instruments for ensuring mutual trust and sustainable cooperation between states. In particular, people-to-people diplomacy and intercity relations are becoming widely applied in international practice as effective complementary mechanisms to traditional political and economic instruments of interstate relations. Within these processes, culture, art, education, and academic exchanges play an important role in strengthening mutual understanding and spiritual closeness among peoples.

Relations between Uzbekistan and Germany have been consistently developing in this very direction, with cultural and humanitarian cooperation becoming one of the priority areas of bilateral interaction. In the development and institutionalization of people’s diplomacy, strong cooperation between the capital cities of Tashkent and Berlin has played a particularly significant role. At the same time, direct cooperation has been established between major cities and regions of the two countries, including partnerships between sister cities such as Bukhara–Berlin and Andijan–Saarbrücken. Such relations create opportunities to develop interstate cooperation at the level of local



administrative units, promote closer ties between peoples, and contribute to the advancement of cultural dialogue.

In addition, cultural events held within the framework of cultural days organized in both countries play an important role in further developing bilateral cultural relations [1]. One of the most significant events of this kind was held in Tashkent from September to December 1996. Within the framework of these cultural days, concerts by the German Youth Philharmonic, the Bavarian Chamber Music Ensemble named after Georg Glazl, the vocal ensemble "Singer Pur," the rock group "M. Walking on the Water," performances by the Ketturket plastic and puppet theatre, appearances by organist M. Schenheit, screenings of German cinema followed by meetings with its representatives, as well as seminars dedicated to German literature were organized. These events made a strong impression on Uzbek art enthusiasts, further increasing their interest in and respect for German culture and traditions [2]. In addition, exhibitions were held at the State Art Museum and the Alisher Navoi State Library, and meetings between Uzbek and German orientalists, ethnographers, and ecologists were organized, during which achievements and experiences in these fields were exchanged. These events were conducted not only in Tashkent but also in the country's major cultural centers—Samarkand, Bukhara, Fergana, and Nukus—where they were held in a festive atmosphere and received high recognition.

In recent years, interest in the history, art, and culture of Uzbekistan has been growing in Germany. A vivid example of this trend is the wide presentation of Uzbek music, fine arts, and theatre in major German cities such as Berlin, Potsdam, Dortmund, Bonn, Stuttgart, Hamburg, Munich, Hanover, and Wiesbaden within the framework of Uzbekistan Culture Days held between 2000 and 2026. Uzbek theatre and cinema professionals also actively participated in festivals held in Tübingen, Berlin, Cottbus, Mannheim, and Mülheim [3]. At the same time, Germany Culture Days were successfully organized in Uzbekistan, as confirmed by available sources.

On 11 June 2001, a large photo exhibition was held in the German city of Freiburg within the framework of "Uzbekistan Days" [4]. The exhibition presented Uzbekistan's rich history, prominent thinkers, architecture, and other elements of its cultural heritage to photography enthusiasts. At the opening ceremony, German scholars emphasized the country's contribution to the development of global science and culture and acknowledged its worthy place in human civilization.

From 28 to 30 March 2016, Uzbekistan Culture Days were held in the German cities of Freiburg, Heidelberg, and Offenburg [5]. Over the course of three days, the program included lectures and presentations by prominent



German scholars on Uzbekistan’s historical heritage, its modern development, and the distinctive features of the Navruz holiday. Hans-Werner Hunke, Rector of the Heidelberg University of Education, who participated in the event, noted that scientific and educational cooperation between the two countries was also developing intensively. According to him, academic exchanges between the institution he heads and Tashkent State Pedagogical University named after Nizami have been expanding. In addition to providing scholarships for students, these institutions are engaged in developing joint academic programs in the field of German Studies (“Germanistik”) in Uzbekistan.

As a continuation of art exhibitions, in 1996 exhibitions entitled “Wall Paintings along the Great Silk Road” and “Woodcut Prints by Albrecht Dürer,” introducing the activities of German museums, were organized at the State Art Museum of Uzbekistan. The consistent development of cooperation is also evidenced by the exhibition of graphic works from the collection of the Karakalpakstan State Museum, which were presented to German art enthusiasts at the Chemnitz Art Museum for one month in 1996.

As part of the continued Uzbek–German cultural cooperation, the exhibition “German Graphics of the 1970s,” organized on 1 January 1999, was opened [6]. The organization of exhibitions between the two countries has gradually become a tradition. This exhibition, covering various artistic directions, was presented by the Goethe-Institut’s representative office in Tashkent. The inclusion of works by Peter Reston, a new representative of German realism, further increased public interest in the exhibition.

From 29 September to 6 October 1998, representatives of the Alisher Navoi State Library of the Republic of Uzbekistan participated in the annual meeting of the German Library Association and the conference entitled “Libraries – the Gateway to Information,” held in Hamburg, Germany. During the event, they shared achievements attained in Uzbekistan and became closely acquainted with the experience of foreign specialists.

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Bilateral cultural relations are also entering a new stage through cooperation within the framework of “Archive and Museum Projects.” Research-oriented projects play an important role in this process. In particular, in 2022, digitization projects of archaeological exhibits were launched through cooperation between the Pergamon Museum of Germany and the Academy of



Sciences of Uzbekistan [7]. At the same time, German scholars are actively involved in the study and preservation of tangible cultural heritage sites in Samarkand and Bukhara.

The conducted analysis demonstrates that intercity relations and people's diplomacy occupy a strategically important place in the system of cultural and humanitarian cooperation between Uzbekistan and Germany, serving as effective instruments for strengthening mutual trust and friendly relations between the two countries. In particular, cooperation between Tashkent and Berlin, as well as initiatives implemented within the framework of sister-city partnerships such as Bukhara–Berlin and Andijan–Saarbrücken, have contributed to institutionalizing cultural exchanges.

Cultural days, art exhibitions, joint archival and museum projects, as well as educational and academic exchanges have deepened mutual understanding between the two peoples and expanded knowledge about national cultures. These processes have actively functioned as practical mechanisms of people's diplomacy, enriching the humanitarian dimension of interstate relations. At the same time, the growing interest in Uzbekistan's history, art, and cultural heritage in Germany can be regarded as one of the tangible outcomes of this cooperation. Through joint exhibitions, academic and educational events, and collaborative research projects, Uzbekistan's rich civilizational heritage is being widely promoted within the international academic and cultural space.

In conclusion, it should be emphasized that further development of intercity cooperation and people's diplomacy, along with the expansion of modern cultural platforms, digital museums, and joint educational programs, can elevate Uzbekistan–Germany relations to a new level. This, in turn, will contribute not only to the sustainable development of bilateral cultural and humanitarian relations but also to broader cultural dialogue between Europe and Central Asia.

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