

- 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-CL2-2026-01-DEMOCRACY-09 Citizenship education as part of lifelong learning](#)

Our research group aims to contribute to the research on the role of higher education in strengthening democratic participation and civic engagement. We aim to develop, test, and quantify approaches to continuous civic education, with a particular focus on digital and media literacy, as well as inclusive democratic participation.

PARTNER INFORMATION

Al-Farabi Kazakh National University (KazNU) <https://farabi.university/?lang=en> has extensive experience in socioeconomic research, financial and digital literacy, public policy analysis, and impact assessment <https://farabi.university/science/innovative-activity>. The university conducts applied and interdisciplinary research on social sustainability, education, democratic participation, and sustainable development.

The university has experience collaborating internationally in research and implementing evidence-based analytical models for policy and education system development. KazNU is the leading university in Central Asia, eligible to participate in Horizon Europe as an entity from an associated country. The university has successfully participated in EU-funded programmes (Erasmus+, Horizon 2020) and possesses the legal, financial, and research infrastructure to implement international projects:

- UNDP Kazakhstan "Financing for Sustainable Development" (2020-2023) – Research contractor. Analysis of fiscal policies and investment barriers for low-carbon development. <https://farabi.university/news/91379?lang=en>
- Erasmus+ "Green Finance and Sustainable Development in Central Asia" (2021-2024)
- Erasmus+ "Central Asian Network for Sustainable Development and Green Economy" (2020-2023)

Description of the Legal Entity

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

Description of the (Research) Team

The research group specializes in:

- development and measurement of composite indices;
- quantitative assessment of the impact of educational programs;
- econometric and sociological research;
- measurement of digital and media literacy;
- gender-sensitive data analysis.

The group includes researchers with experience in applied research and experimental design (classification according to the Frascati manual).

Expertise of the Team Leader

Elvira Ruzieva <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-9120-7776>, Scopus Author ID: <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=56070067800> is currently researching the impact of digital financial literacy on the well-being of the population of Kazakhstan, as well as the impact of women's digital financial inclusion on social sustainability. The projects include the launch of a mobile application for digital financial literacy of the population, testing of educational programs for women (IRN AP26196291 "The Potential of Digital Financial Literacy in Improving the Welfare of the Population" for 2025-2027). She took part in the projects "Multichannel Financing System and Mechanisms for Attracting Private Capital and Investments in the Development of Space Activities" included in the State Program "Development of Space Activities in the Republic of Kazakhstan for 2005-2007", under the leadership of Academician of the National Academy of Sciences of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Doctor of Economics, Professor U.B. Baimuratov, State Fund of the Republic of Kazakhstan IRN AP19679152 "Kazakhstan's Model of Demographic Transition and Possibilities of Sustainable Socio-Economic Development of the Country" 2023-2025.

As part of international projects, she participated in the working group of The International University for Peace, Rome <https://finanzasostenibile.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/ESG-Working-Group-section-I.pdf> and <https://finanzasostenibile.it/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Climate-Change-and-the-Environment-as-a-key-factor-of-Sustainability.pdf>. As part of a joint international study with IASE – International Association for Sustainable Economy, involving master's students, on the study of youth social resilience, <https://ersj.eu/journal/4304> was published. international research project "Development of a methodology for calculating the minimum allowable rates of export loans denominated in the national currencies of the EAEU countries (Russian ruble, Belarusian ruble, Kazakh tenge, Armenian dram and Kyrgyz som) taking into account the practice of state financial support (subsidies) for OECD export loans" of the Federal State Educational Budgetary Institution of Higher Education "Financial University under the Government of the Russian Federation"

Potential role in the project

- Research Training
- Dissemination Other: impact assessment, index development and digital literacy evaluation

Already experience as a Coordinator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Partner	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Expert Evaluator	<input type="checkbox"/> YES	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO

Our expertise:

We offer expertise in the following areas:

- 1) Developing a digital civic competence index;
- 2) Designing and implementing surveys;
- 3) Quantifying the impact of higher education programs on civic engagement;
- 4) Econometric modeling and analysis of educational interventions.

Through our research in higher education, we aim to contribute to the development and testing of civic education methodologies aligned with the Partnership's priorities for social sustainability, inclusive governance, and democratic participation.

We aim to evaluate the impact of higher education programs on digital civic competence and media literacy, based on survey data, and to ensure that educational interventions strengthen citizens' ability to navigate the democratic information ecosystem and meaningfully participate in democratic life.

Needed skills:

We are seeking partners with expertise in the following areas:

- 1) Higher education providers;
- 2) Political science and democracy studies;
- 3) NGOs working on democratic participation and inclusion;
- 4) Organizations specializing in digital and media literacy training.

CONTACT DETAILS

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Date: 2/19/2026

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